



The Right Place

The Right Sunday



DECEMBER 18, 2016

PRICE: E5.90 (VAT INCLUSIVE)

PULL OUT

Sunday Observer
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END OF YEAR ISSUE

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JOY WANTS EARLY RETIREMENT

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OUTSTANDING INCWALA MAIN DAY

- impressive attendance
- SADC tourists, diplomats dance Incwala

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The Ministry of ICT (Information, Communications and Technology)

COUNTDOWN to ANALOGUE TV SWITCH OFF ...NTJINTJA NYALO

13 DAYS TO GO

- SET TOP BOX

CLARIFICATION

INCWALA MAIN DAY

SWAZIS JUST LOVE INCWALA

STORIES BY NOXOLO NKABINDE

Swazis once again showed love for their culture as they gathered in their numbers at the Ludzidzini Royal Residence for the Incwala main day yesterday.

Hours before the first trumpet sounded, the royal residence was already abuzz with regiments who came in droves to participate in the national cultural ceremony. The first trumpet that is sounded on the main day usually notifies the regiments to get ready, and is blown moments before the trumpet that signifies the start of the event inside the cattle byre. The first trumpet was blown at 2pm while the second one sounded at 2.30pm.

By then, regiments were fully clad in their traditional gear ready to join Their Majesties and members of the royal residence in dancing the Incwala, an important cultural ceremony for Swazis. Incwala is known to be a



Her Majesty the Indlovukazi dancing during the main Incwala ceremony. (Pic: Simon Shabangu)

highly sacred ceremony.

Swazis usually use the phrase 'Incwala ayibukelwa' meaning Incwala has no spectators, which also proved to be true for the tourists who had to take part and dance to the song although most of them were participating for the first time.

Participants of the event includ-

ed dignitaries such as cabinet ministers, members of the diplomatic corps, tourists from SADC and other countries, to mention a few.

The regiments moved inside the cattle byre where they danced with His Majesty King Mswati III.

It was also noted that the mem-

bers of the regiments continued to grow each year which was a sign that more Swazis were showing interest in the ceremony. Chief Magudvulela, was one of the people that noted this, saying this was also a sign of approval from the heavens.

"Incwala is never the same as each year is different, but this year is a cut above the other years. It continues to grow and the increase in numbers of the regiment is highly applaudable.

More and more Swazis are taking pride in their culture and that is a beautiful thing," he said.

Senator Moi Moi Masilela also said it was commendable to note that Swazis were coming in their numbers, every passing year.

He highly encouraged people who have never attended the event to consider attending in the following years as he said it was each and every Swazi's identity.

Regiments, after preparing for the main day since the Little Incwala, danced to the songs with ease and sang along.



Members of Parliament, Bongani Mdluli, Mabulala Maseko, Sitezi Dlamini and Senator Ndumiso Mdluli. (Pics: Mloni Mpanza)



These young men said they learnt valuable lessons during national events and urged more to participate.



Umbutfo Shiyemabhele and Troika also did not miss the ceremony.

Incwala the best school – Judge Phesheya

Incwala Ceremony is the best place for the youth to learn life skills. This is according to Prince Senzangakhona Phesheya 'Mutsiwemakhosi' Dlamini who says the gathering of masses in their respective regiments was the best platform for people to share experiences with their peers, while the young got an opportunity to learn from the experienced.

"Culture is very important, especially for the youth who are still learning about grow-

ing up. It not only defines who you are as a Swazi but it is also the perfect platform for people to learn.

This is a mass gathering where Imbali, Ingatja and Lutsango, gathers with their peers and they get an opportunity to learn about life skills, also from sharing with others. The most important education is found *ebutweni*, it is the best school," he said.

Prince Senzangakhona, who is also a Judge of the Supreme Court, said he had

participated in the Incwala Ceremony numerous times after going through the initiation process (*kubutseka*) over 20 years ago where he got the name 'Mutsiwemakhosi'. He said Swaziland was lucky to have the visionary leadership of Their Majesties who still strongly believed in culture, which is important for a country.

He said it was also pleasing to see that *emabutfo* were increasing in their numbers every year.

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INCWALA MAIN DAY

'King's drought prophecy fulfilled'

When throngs of regiments gathered at the Ludzidzini Royal Residence in January this year, His Majesty King Mswati III pronounced an end to the drought situation that ravaged the country resulting in the death of livestock and destruction of crops.

Ingatja has noted that His Majesty's prophecy last year was fulfilled as the situation went on to improve from then, and also noted that the situation was returning to normal this ploughing season. It was at the end of last year's Incwala where His Majesty said the drought situation changed as soon as the water party (*bemanti*) was commissioned to fetch water in the Indian Ocean in Mozambique towards the end of the year last year.

"When the water party was commissioned (*kuphuma kwesigubhu*), the heavens responded and we saw rain coming down and things changed.

From there onwards, we saw a difference as rain began to fall and the valleys became green. We have our irrigation system coming straight from God.

We do not need drip irrigation because God has always shown. He has powers to bring us rain. We use drip irrigation just for the sake of it, otherwise God is the one who provides us with irrigation water," the King was quoted saying.



His Majesty King Mswati III joined by Lacwebetelako and Emazinyane on arrival for the Main Incwala ceremony.

Ingatja at this year's ceremony said this prophecy had been fulfilled to the fullest as they had since last year. "Incwala is known to be a mass gathering for Swazi citizens where we pray for the nation and anything that may be affecting.

Last year when we gathered we were highly affected by drought and the King proclaimed an end to the drought.

I would say Swazis prayer helped a lot," said a seasoned member of the regiment identified as Phalamende.

Umbutfo Phalamende was given

the name when he underwent the initiation process during the construction of the parliament.

Other members who were asked on their views over this year's ceremony also shared the same sentiments. Umbutfo Tsandzemajaha from Kudzeni also said they took pride in participating in the ceremony which gathers Swazis for national prayer. He also emphasised the importance of the young attending the ceremony as he said it was important for them to adapt the culture at an early age.

SADC tourists join King in dancing Incwala

BY NOXOLO NKABINDE AND MLONDI MPANZA

Tourists from some of the SADC countries yesterday joined His Majesty King Mswati III, members of the royal residence and the different regiments in dancing Incwala.

SADC is the acronym for Southern African Development Community and has 15 member states, with His Majesty King Mswati III currently holding the position of SADC Chairperson.

Tourists who participated at the Incwala came from countries including South Africa, Zambia, Botswana, Lesotho, and Malawi.

Among these different groups were farmers from Zambia who are initially in the country for a workshop sponsored by the World Bank Irrigation Programme which is held at Global Village, but they decided to make a stop at the royal residence to see the King. They are also learning from the Swaziland Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise (SWADE) on a community land trust project, as they are interested in doing a similar project. One of the facilitators of the workshop Daphine Hamatanga, who works for the ministry of agriculture in that country, said there were 47 of the farmers who came from three provinces in his country and they took interest in



Farmers from Zambia who are in the country for a workshop made a stop at the ceremony to witness first-hand what happens during Incwala.

watching the proceedings of the event.

"We are in the country for the workshop and will be leaving on December 28.

We are initially here for the agricultural project, the community hand trust workshop but the farmers decided to come by to see what happens here as they were fascinated by idea," he said.

The farmers were under the watch of Botswana based local, Njenje Dlamini, who took them to the ceremony to witness first-hand what actually happened on the day.

He said this was because, as a Swazi from outside the country he had

come across numerous reports, mostly based on assumptions, about the country hence he took this opportunity to take the group of farmers to the ceremony so they could understand what happened.

"Since they were in the country, we felt that it was important to give them a better view of what is happening in the national prayer to do away with the false reports by international media," he said. Tourists from the other countries were travelling in smaller groups, some who are in the country for the festive season also took the opportunity of witnessing the Incwala first hand.

*More on page 4,5,6,7 and 8.

Joy wants to retire

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Having spent nearly three years as the Director of the Swaziland National Library Services (SNLS), Joy Maziya has tendered a request for early retirement.

The former Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini's wife, recently tendered her request to retire from the post she was appointed into a few months after her relationship with the premier was revealed.

Confirming these latest developments, Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology Principal Secretary Sikelala Dlamini said the request was being considered by relevant ministries. He further referred questions to his counterpart at the Ministry of Public Service PS Evert Madlopha stating how he was not aware of the current stage of the request.

When called, Madlopha confirmed that his ministry was in receipt of the former premier's wife's request for early retirement.

He revealed that there were several processes which have to be completed before the request gets approved. "There are documents still being put together

before the request can be approved," he said.

Employees at the Mbabane Library stated how they were also aware of their director's wish to retire as they were privy to the letter that is in the two above stated ministries' possession.

The request to retire early comes fast on the heels of her divorce from the premier which was finalised at the beginning of November. The PM initiated divorce proceedings from Maziya less than two years after their wedding which took place in 2014. The two met while she worked at the Swaziland National Archives from whence their romance sparked.

The prolonged divorce proceedings saw the premier alleging how Maziya had violent tendencies and he further made certain demands towards their estate and Maziya at first resisting through her lawyers before the order was issued by the Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala.

Reports of their divorce surfaced in April, months after Maziya was noted to be conspicuously missing from the premier's side at several local and international events whereas they attended most ceremonies together during the peak of their marriage.



South Africa extends border hours

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

With the festive season in full sprint, South Africa has already released the extended border hours' schedule.

At the South African side of the

border, notices have been put up stating the new extended hours commencing this week which will see Lavumisa and Ngwenya Border Gates opening for 24 hours for several days whereas those which close at 8pm will now close at 10pm.



INCWALA MAIN DAY



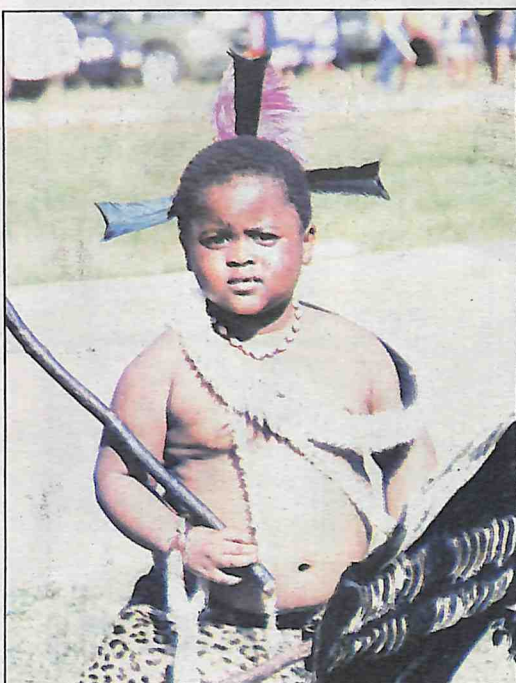
Ingwenyama pictured during the singing of the national anthem to mark the beginning of proceedings at the Main Day of the Incwala Ceremony At Ludzizdini Byre yesterday (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



Emakhosikati joined by Sigodlo as they danced to one of the Incwala songs on the main day.



Emazinyane arrival for the dancing of the Incwala on the main day where the nation g



UmbutfoMakhalelincwala Mahlalela could not miss out.



A section of the throngs of people who came through to join the King in dancing Incwala on



Senator Lindiwe Ngwenya, Deputy Labour Commissioner Stuckie Motsa and Samkelisiwe Dlamini could not miss out on the special day.



Umbutfo Superose Mncina with some of the tourists who came through to witness the Incwala Ceremony.

INCWALA MAIN DAY



Her Majesty the Indlovukazi dancing with Balondolozu during the main day of the Incwala Ceremony.



Lacwebetelako dancing up a storm during the ceremony which attracted scores of locals and internationals.



Emazinyane also came out to join the King and the nation in dancing the Incwala on the main day.



Even the youngest of Emazinyane could not miss out on the action.



Umbutto Svuvu Mabaso and Zambia University lecturer Priestry Chigalula joined by Imbali Snabo Zwane, Buyiswa Dlamini, Portia Shabangu, Bonakele Mabaso and Sindie Magagula also attended.



The youngest of Ingatja also came out to dance with the regiment.



Bambumbutto and Ncumbi Maziya dressed up in full Incwala regalia.

INCWALA MAIN DAY

THIS YEAR'S INCWALA IS DIFFERENT - DPM

STORIES BY MLONDI MPANZA

The Deputy Prime Minister, Paul Dlamini has said this year's Incwala ceremony was different from previous ones.

He said it was different in the sense that there had been increase in numbers as far as regiments are concerned as seen from the beginning of the little Incwala building up to the main day that was yesterday.

Dlamini said this when interviewed yesterday at Ludzidzini Royal Residence before the commencement of the day's activities where throngs of people both from in and out of the country had come to witness the ceremony dubbed as the kingdom's sacred prayer.

The DPM said such large numbers were impressive because one would have assumed that since the country was still recovering from the drought that lasted for the better part of last year people would not be able to participate in the ceremony.

"But, since the His Majesty King Mswati III prophesized that the dry spell was coming to an end during the conclusion of last year's Incwala, we are very much happy that we have seen changes taking place for the good and the spell is as good as gone," he said.

He went on to point at the rain pattern which he said was almost normal as per the expectation in farming on dry land where the focus is based on the frequency of the rain rather than how much it rains.

Dlamini also appreciated God for bringing about the changes to save the nation and said if the country continues to work



DPM Paul Dlamini clad in Incwala regalia.

as one more benefits would be reaped as evident in this particular subject.

He said, "It is important that the country sticks together in the fight over drought and we encourage the spirit of resilience displayed by the nation during such a bad period for the country."

In the quest to overcome the situation, he encouraged the public to continue using water responsibly and further encouraged

the spirit of diversification in farming and not just focus on one thing.

When asked on the period he has been attending the ceremony, he responded by stating that it's been over five decades since he started participating in the ceremony he refers to as an important ritual for the country.

This is because it is during this ceremony that the country can be able to pray and fight all enemies as a unit hence the need for more Swazis to take part in the sacred prayer.

He added that in order for the country to go forward, there was need for unity because in that way it would be easy to fight each and every challenge that may come.

Pronounced

Worth noting is that a year ago, the King pronounced an end to the drought situation that had wreaked havoc on the country resulting in the death of livestock and destruction of crops.

He was speaking during the end of the Incwala ceremony at a time when the country was heavily affected by the dry spell.

In his own words, he was reported to have said, "When the water party was commissioned (*kuphuma kwesigubhu*), the heavens responded and we saw rain coming down and things changed. From there onwards we saw a difference as rain began to fall and the valleys became green. We have our irrigation system coming straight from God. We do not need drip irrigation because God has always shown that he has powers to bring us rain. We use drip irrigation just for the sake of it, otherwise God is the one who provides us with irrigation water."

...When the king roars, we sing Bayethe! – Senator Mike Temple

When His Majesty King Mswati III issues an order to the nation, all we do is sing him praises and take that order," said Senator Mike Temple whose regiment name is 'Mkhanyakude.'

He was referring to the Incwala Ceremony which was on its main day yesterday as he spoke about the fact that the ceremony had been put up before Christmas this year yet over the past years it was after.

Mkhanyakude spoke about how the dates for the ceremony were moving in a cycle and pointed at the year 2010 where he said that the ceremony was last held around this same period.

Adding, he expressed his happiness to be part of this sacred event which he said he has been attending since 1992 during a period in which he has seen many changes taking place in the country.

"Some were very bad and some were very good, so this is basically a cycle," he said.

At the ceremony, the senator was found in the company of Chief Senzangakhona and a foreign friend whom they had taken for kubutseka together with his child.

Named Umbutfo Shiyemabhele, the friend said that he was enjoying being in the country as he is currently based in the

...This is the best place to learn how to be a responsible adult – Youth

On another note, the Incwala ceremony has been said to be one place where one gets to strengthen his cultural beliefs and values.

With Swazis being known for being respectful, this ceremony is said to be greatly contributing in this aspect as young boys who always participate in it are taught on how to handle themselves as young men, as well as respect.

This was said by a number of young boys that were interviewed yesterday during the main day of this year's ceremony who appreciated the fact that the country still held highly onto cultural values. "Not only during the ceremony but even after we get to interact with men of different ages who share with us what these values mean to us as Swazis and how we should always put them forward in order to create an environment conducive for every Swazi," said the boys. They went on to state that such tradi-

tions taught them about means of earning a living as they get to share the different ideas as men and further taught how to build their own homes when they eventually get to that stage in life.

Motivating

The boys said it was further motivating for them to take part in the ceremony with the King as they pray for the nation and since they are getting these values from elders they were also keen on spreading them to the next generation.

In addition, they encouraged more boys to take part in the ceremony if not all cultural activities which they said were of great significance and they could not afford missing them.

"For us, we do not struggle with learning about the country's national events at school because we have already experienced them first hand so that's another benefit of fully participating in these events," they concluded.

kingdom and appreciated the warmth he has been getting from Swazis, as well as

his close friends, Temple and Chief Senzangakhona.



Her Majesty Indlovukazi during the Incwala main day yesterday at Ludzidzini Royal residence.



Photographers doing their job.



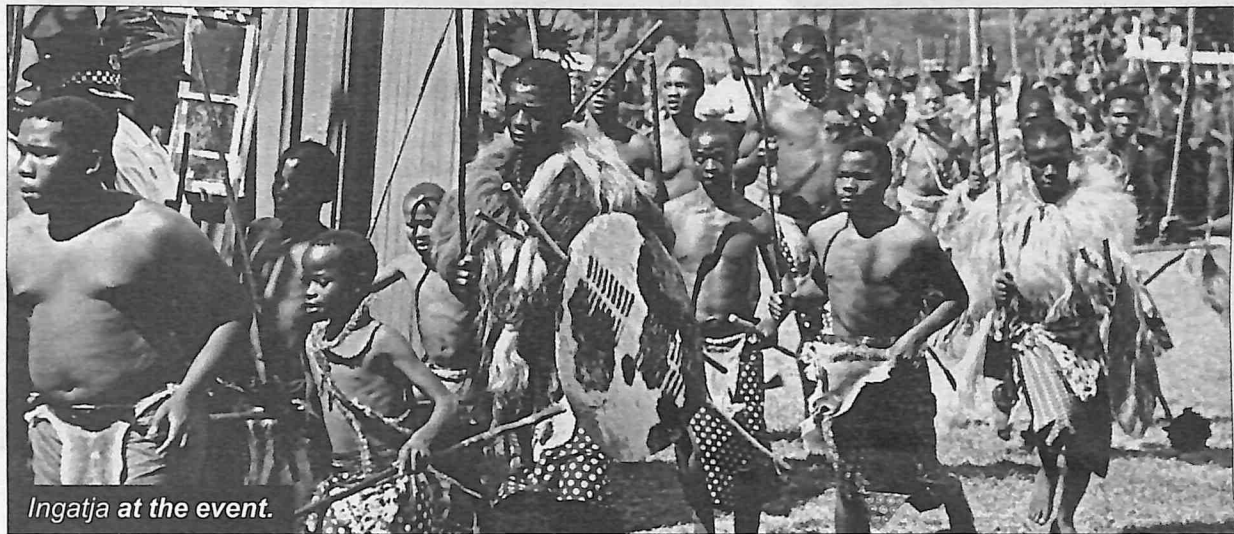
Some of the tourists who attended the annual event.



Umbutfo Mutsiwemakhosi, and Mkhanyakudze pose for a picture at the event. (Pic: Mloni Mpanza)



His Majesty about to enter the kraal.



Ingatja at the event.



Royal Swaziland Police recruits in full swing.



Seven Days Tsabedze chatting with tourists.

Police announce reshuffles, promotions

BY STARKY MKHONTA

The National Commissioner of Police Isaac Magagula has announced a reshuffle affecting senior police officers.

The two affected officers were based in regional offices and the latest move has seen one transferred and promoted while others have only been transferred. Of note is that the second officer was promoted in the last major reshuffle which happened a few months ago.

According to insiders, the changes, which came as a surprise, were announced on Thursday, and the promoted senior officer is Wendy Hleta who once served as the police mouthpiece.

Transferred

Wendy Hleta has been elevated to be the Regional Commissioner (Assistant Commissioner) and she was transferred to the Shiselweni region. Impeccable sources revealed that an internal message was communicated about the transfer of the officers as it was sent to all regional police headquarters as well as police stations in the country.

She was previously the Deputy Regional Commissioner in the



Shiselweni Regional Administrator Themba Masuku

Lubombo region. In the Shiselweni region, Hleta is replacing newly promoted Regional Commissioner Musa Magic Zwane who is hardly two months in the region and was posted after his elevation announced few months back.

'Magic' as Zwane is popularly known will replace Joseph Ndlovu who is now based at the police headquarters in Mbabane.

Meanwhile, those who were taken aback by the sudden transfer of Zwane included the busi-

ness community had thought they were already getting used to him and the approach which they noticed from him that he was the kind of a person who was cooperative and seemingly already having good plans to work hand in hand with them.

Shiselweni Regional Administrator Themba Masuku was saddened to learn about the transfer of Zwane saying he had built a good working rapport with him and had fast adapted to the number of initiatives the region has. He said he had not heard anything but if it was true that Zwane was now transferred, then he was wishing him well at his new workstation. The RA said the short stint Zwane spent in the region, it was like he has been there for years.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba confirmed the sudden transfers of the top brass in the police force. "It is true that there have been postings and transfers where the new RC for Shiselweni is Wendy Hleta. Zwane has been transferred to Lubombo to the same position. He is taking over from Ndlovu (Joseph) who is now stationed at the headquarters in Mbabane," said Supt Mamba.



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

NOTICE ON THE INTERIM INCREASE OF MEALIE-MEAL IMPORTATION VOLUMES FOR HOUSEHOLD USE

1. Pursuant to the passing of motion 13/2016 by Parliament, as well as Press Release by Ministry of Agriculture of 14th September 2016 on mealie meal importation, the Ministry announces the review of the limit of mealie meal to be imported by each household for consumption from 50kg to 100kg per month.
2. This is a temporary relief to the drought stricken areas whilst continuing to explore better ways to address the situation. It came into effect from 05th December 2016 and will remain until 28th February 2017, where it will be reviewed again.
3. Stakeholders shall continue to assess the situation within affected communities over this period to the end of February 2017, after which a decision will be communicated for the benefit of the public.
4. The Ministry remains sensitive to the drought situation and the effects it has on local communities hence it re-emphasizes its commitment to working with all stakeholders towards alleviating the plight of affected communities.
5. Meanwhile His Majesty's Government takes this opportunity to thank all millers who have continued supporting the communities with mealie meal at competitive prices during this period. We have further been informed that millers have committed themselves to continuously deliver mealie meal to all drought stricken areas at competitive prices during this period.
6. We hope this interim measure will bring the desired relief to the affected communities around the country until the situation normalizes.

CEO - NAMBOARD

INCWALA MAIN DAY



His Majesty King Mswati III inspecting the guard of honour during the main Incwala ceremony at Ludzidzini Royal Residence yesterday. (Pics: Lucky Simeane)



Ludzidzini Council member Masende Zwane with Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala.



Imbongi Sandile 'Msandi kababa' Nxumalo doing a giva dance.



Umbutto Chatsalenyama among the regiment.

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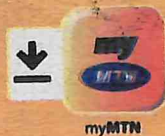
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EX-ACTING DIRECTOR ACCUSED OF TAKING CLIENT'S E16 000

STORIES BY MLONDI MPANZA

The questionable dismissal of employees at Hospice at Home has opened a can of worms for the former acting Director, Mefika Zwane.

This has seen people coming out with various allegations of misconduct and misappropriation against him; but these have not been proven or substantiated.

The former director, although having held the fort on interim basis, was alleged to have taken a client's money amounting to E16 000 two years ago under the pretext he would be investing it in a business venture he had persuaded the client to get into with him. However, this was before he was given the responsibilities to be the acting director after Thuli Msane.

These allegations have been made by sources who spoke to this newspaper following the publication of reports that three employees had been fired from the organisation over the past months under questionable circumstances.

The sources wondered why these employees were being fired for unclear reasons when there was one employee who still had his job yet he had allegedly robbed a client, much against the institution's code of conduct.

When asked how the two met, it was said they met at the hospital in

2014 when the woman, whose name is known to this newspaper, was looking after her daughter and mother who had been admitted at the facility.

It is alleged the woman had just got back from school overseas and whilst looking after her mother and daughter, she told Zwane she had money she wanted to invest in order to build herself a home as she had reached maturity.

"Upon hearing that she had money, Zwane persuaded her to buy into a joint venture retailer business that would serve as an investment for her so she could be able to make more money to build her home," alleged the sources.

These allegations were further confirmed by the woman during a telephonic conversation where she explained that the then nurse pounced on her at a time when she was vulnerable and looking to make money quickly. She alleged that upon hearing his proposal, it sounded like it was legit hence she bought into it and put in money towards it. It was expected that the venture would be for supplying local motor spare shops with parts they would purchase from some supplier in South Africa.

"As we were in the process of finalising the deal, he took me to some shop where he showed me the parts

'That has nothing to with Hospice matters'

Responding to the allegations of allegedly taking a client's money amounting to E16 000 under false pretences, Zwane said their agreement had nothing to do with Hospice at Home.

"I am currently repaying back the money and can show you receipts to prove that but the agreement we made with the client has nothing to do with the organisation," he said, in a telephonic interview this past week.

that he said we would supply locally and they would make us quick money," alleged the woman.

The investment by the woman was allegedly made in instalments and these amounted to E16 000 which never brought back any returns despite Zwane allegedly making promises to that effect.

Amongst the many reasons he allegedly forwarded when it was time to bring forward the gains, he blamed the customers for not paying them on time.

He is alleged to have also brought receipts in efforts to justify the non-payments which the woman claims were questionable.

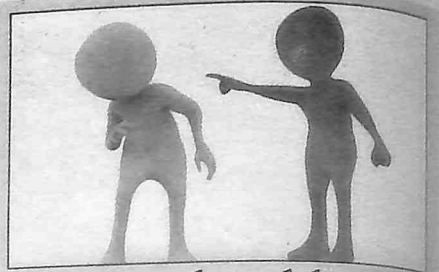
Seeing as she was unable to get her money back, the aggrieved woman then roped in the services of a lawyer who was tasked with the responsibility to request Zwane to pay back the money.

It is alleged, "He did not cause any troubles when approached by the lawyers as he admitted he had done

wrong and revealed he had used the money to settle certain debts that were troubling him."

Thereafter, an arrangement was made to pay back the money in instalments of E1 500 monthly and he has been doing so for the past few months. But he is alleged to have last paid around August and has not been forthcoming since then. "The debtor shall pay the total sum of E16 000 together with costs at six per cent in the following manner; the debtor shall pay instalments of E1 500 on or before the end of each month until the whole amount has been settled," reads part of the agreement in possession of this newspaper made by the two parties.

When asked how much was left from the debt now, the woman alleged she is still owed around E12 000, which is yet to be paid back by the former acting director.



'Client should report matter to the police'

The Swaziland Democratic Nurses Union (SWADNU) Secretary General, Sibusiso Lushaba, advised the complainant to do the right thing and report the matter to the police, if it did happen.

This was after he had been asked on the code of conduct of nurses in as far as addressing such cases was concerned which he labelled a criminal act that deserved to be reported.

"If such a transaction had been made between the nurse and patient, it would have been professional malpractice and a criminal act by the nurse but if it was between the nurse and a relative of the patient then it's only a criminal act that needs to be reported," said Lushaba.

The secretary general said the law was supposed to take its course and get into the details of the matter to find the alleged robber guilty or not guilty.

He was responding to allegations that have been made against Zwane, who is alleged to have swindled a patient's relative an amount of E16 000 under the pretext they were going into a business venture that never happened.

It is worth noting though that Zwane allegedly admitted his wrongdoings after the complainant sought the services of a lawyer and an arrangement to pay back the money was made.

E73M MALKERNS CANAL NOW COMPLETE

BY MLONDI MPANZA

The rehabilitation of the 45km Malkerns canal infrastructure has been completed after 18 months since the commencement of the project.

Worth 73million of Emalangeni, the project was funded by the European Union (EU) two years ago and was aimed at refurbishing the water canal that benefits mostly sugar farmers around Malkerns.

At the time of signing the agreement between the EU and the government, it was said the project would focus on replacing weakened flumes and gates, alterations to the canal intake and construction of metered farm off takes. Addressing the gathering during the signing, the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development Bertram Stewart, reportedly said the signing ceremony marked the culmination of an extended process of preparation from 2008 when a detailed structural survey of the Malkerns main canal was undertaken. When some of the workers found working on the project at Mhlabubovu were interviewed, they said they were working on finalising the project that started two years ago.

"Tomorrow is our last day working and right now we are busy with the touch-ups before leaving the site as the project is complete," said the workers, when speaking on Wednesday in the past week.

Nonetheless, when a survey was done



Part of the sugar cane fields at Malkerns that are irrigated from the canal with water sourced from the Great Usuthu River.

on the canal, it was noted that there was a serious risk of collapse of the system which would have resulted in the loss of irrigated water and pose a serious threat to the livelihood of the Malkerns populace too.

The canal, also known as Mdlwayiza, has served its beneficiaries for over 60 years and the rehabilitation was meant to maintain and improve it to ensure it continues working properly.

With the refurbishment, this would make sure the canal continues to deliver and increase the capacity of the water for agricultural, domestic, industrial and commercial use. It was noted that the ongoing National Adaptation Strategy (NAS) for sugar in which the EU contributed over E1.8 billion (€120 million) would support the development of smallholder cane growers.

It was also anticipated that the project would also improve transport infrastructure and strengthening the provision of social services in the sugar belt and the technical assistance.

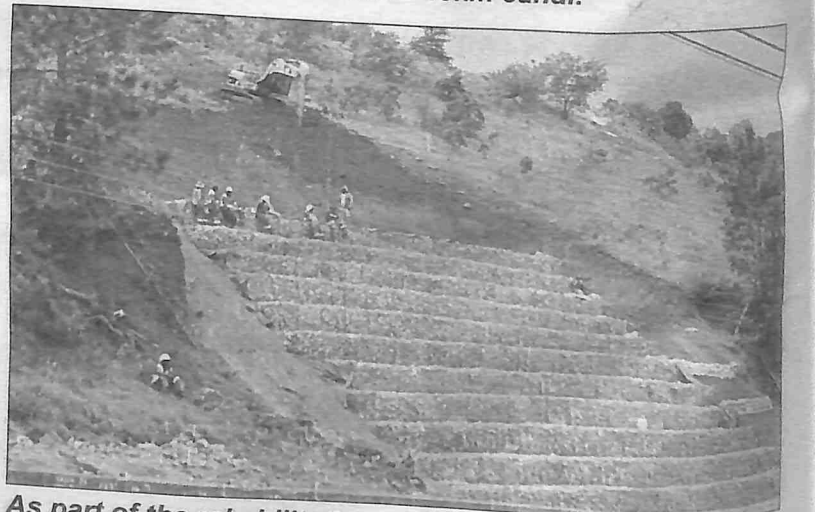
This was because the government, through the PS, said NAS resources were used for the development of the Malkerns project and would continue to be used for the supervision of the rehabilitation work on the canal.

On the other hand, the EU said it was committed to the promotion of agriculture, adding the improvement of water availability helps in sustaining food security and the development of economic growth.

He said the programmes the EU would engage in the future would be for the development of agricultural infrastructure in the country.



Part of the newly refurbished 45km canal.



As part of the rehabilitation of the Malkerns canal, the contractors had to first fix this donga that was about to cut on the road heading to areas such as Bhunya and Mankayane. Works are also nearing completion.

'EAST 3 ROUTE MoU BEING REVIEWED'

BY NOXOLO NKABINDE

As initial principals who launched the East 3 Route have since vacated office, uncertainty clouds the initiative which has been held for the past five years.

The initiative was conceptualised in 2011 when Swaziland, Mozambique and South Africa's Kwazulu Natal Province came together to establish a route which was meant to be a cross-border development that would ensure economic growth and job creation. The East3Route is an initiative which seeks to promote tourism as a collective at regional level.

When East 3 Route was launched in 2011, the country principals who were in office were former Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Macford Sibandze who was later fired,

former Mozambique Minister of Tourism Fernando Sumbana, and former Kwazulu Natal Province MEC of the Economic Development and Tourism Michael Mabuyakhulu. The latter was also sacked from this position and later reportedly handed in his resignation from the South African parliament. Minister Sibandze on the other hand was succeeded by Minister Jabulani Mabuza who was also actively involved in the initiative, although he has since been moved to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade.

The Route was conceptualised taking into account the needs of each region and the opportunities for product development that would impact positively on, as well as leave a lasting legacy for the communities through which the expedition passed. Since its inception in 2011, delegates from the

three countries have been taking part in the initiative yearly without fail. The delegation however last travelled to the route last year and it has not taken place in 2016, as the year comes to an end.

Information gathered by this publication is that while most things were on track for this year's route, there were delays on the South African side following the evacuation of Mabuyakhulu in office. Well placed sources in the province revealed that it was expected that his successor Sihle Zikalala would sign off on this year's initiative to allow it to take place. The initiative is usually held in October, with delegates travelling through the three countries.

When reached for comment, Swaziland Tourism Authority (STA) Chief Executive Officer Eric Maseko said

they had been in communication with their South African counterparts early this year and they were informed that they were waiting for direction from the new MEC.

"That was the last communication we had where they were still waiting for directive," he said. However, this publication also learnt that during this period while they waited for the go ahead, there were arrangements that were being made for a meeting with the country principals to meet for a review of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that was signed between the three countries.

East 3 Route managed to increase widespread coverage by local and international media in the three countries as South Africa's major media print, radio and television networks as well as international networks such as

French TV have participated in the expedition and provided coverage. This promoted tourism for South Africa (KZN), Swaziland, and Mozambique while there were also talks of Mpumalanga province joining the initiative. Participants took pride in knowing that Tourism and community projects along the route received significant exposure and preliminary stakeholder engagements with partners in the three countries and with product developers and owners along the route suggest that this will continue to grow. Meanwhile, the new Minister of the initiative Tourism and Environmental Affairs Christopher Gamedze said he was yet to follow up on the matter seeing as he is still settling in office. He was also out of the country last week. It is understood however that before Minister Mabuza left office he had also engaged the new KZN MEC on the initiative although discussions were never finalised.

HIGH LIGHTNING INCIDENCES INCREASE DEMAND FOR FRIZZLE

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

...the chicken with odd feathers is revered and believed to be a lightning conductor

With the country experiencing increased lightning strikes which claim lives, a lowly chicken has found itself in high demand.

"When there is such a chicken in a homestead, lightning does not strike that home," Sebentile Mohale, a vendor who was found at her makeshift stall in Mbadlane, said.

She explained how a lot of people stopped at their stall whenever they saw the chicken and bought it outright without negotiating the price.

At E200 for a bird weighing less than two kilograms, she said the odd looking bird's demand increased with the weekly reports of deaths caused by lightning. "A home which has the frizzle is never affected by lightning. Lightning curves the homestead," she said. This belief seemed to be shared by several members of the community who revealed how the chicken with ruffled feathers was revered in most rural areas as people believed in its supernatural powers.

Expanding, Mohale revealed how the frizzle was said to also have special powers which assisted in absorbing demonic spirits.

"When there are evil spirits abound, the chicken is endowed with certain powers which are able to absorb those

spirits and nothing happens to the family to which the curse was intended," she said. Several children, when asked about the frizzle, revealed how their families also bought the bird and celebrated its existence in the coop whenever one was born. "The problem with the newly hatched chicks looking like the frizzle, is that the ruffles could be caused by a virus which can kill them. However, if the chick has ruffled feathers and is lively, we then celebrate its existence," Mohale said. She explained how with the frizzle being a hard to find breed, they had to go to several households between Hhelehhele and as far as Lonhlupheko in order to purchase it for resale.

Supporting claims on its use in healing and protection, President of the Swaziland Traditional Healers Association Nhlavana Maseko however disputed that the chicken, on its own, could avert lightning strikes.

"Yes, the chicken is used for muti purposes which are intended to heal and protect," he said during a telephonic interview yesterday.

He said the muti was bestowed in the odd looking bird by an inyanga hence its supernatural powers.

He however said lightning could only

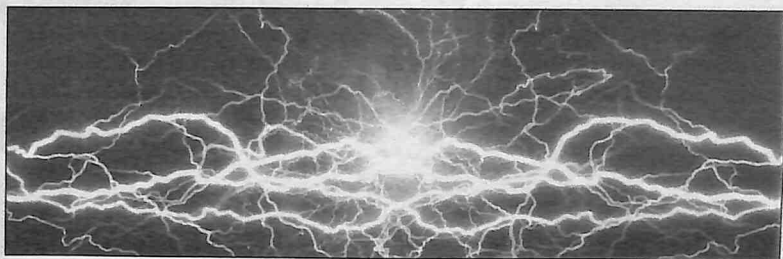
be averted after certain rituals were done to a home as the frizzle didn't have any powers to deter this force of nature. The traditional healer said even the way it was eaten indicated its peculiarity as there were certain things to observe when cooking and serving it. "You know that it is not served as it? is eaten from the pot it is cooked in," he informed. On the other hand, Jericho Church Leader Bishop Bhekibandla Vilakati said he was not aware of the chicken's supposed supernatural powers.

"All I know is how it is supposed to be eaten. I am not aware of its powers. Does it have any," he asked.

He added how he was only aware that the chicken was not supposed to be cut nor served as people were supposed to eat it without invitation. Echoing surprise to the chickens supposed powers, Ministry of Agriculture Director of Veterinary Dr Xolani Dlamini laughed off questions about its powers saying, "It is just a chicken. If you give it to me, I will put it in a pot, cook and eat it," he said further assuring that it was healthy and that it's feathers were genetically inclined to stand out.



The frizzle is on demand following the belief that it has supernatural powers to avert lightning from homesteads. (Pic: Thembeke Dlamini)



Juliet Dlamini carrying her new cell phone after purchasing a new sim card. (Pic: Thembeke Dlamini)

GOGO GETS A NEW PHONE FOR CHRISTMAS

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

This the season to be jolly and gifts are abound. This past week saw an elderly woman receive one of her most prized possessions from her son.

"I want a starter pack for my phone," she was overheard saying in one of the shops in Mbabane.

Juliet Dlamini (74) of Lundzi in Mpuluzi said she was given a brand new cellular phone by her son who bought it for her last Monday in Manzini.

"I can't wait to get back on air so that I can call my friends and children and wish them a happy Christmas," she said about her newest acquisition.

She said she was happy about the way her children took care of her as they saw her need and bought

her the phone.

"I lost my Nokia when the children I stay with stole it under the pretext of going to play games on it and it was never returned and no one is owning up to having taken it," she said.

She revealed how she valued her new phone and had crocheted a pouch for it in order to keep it safe. "It will stay right here all the time," she said as she pointed at her chest adding how she would hide it under her clothes.

"They will never get this new one because I have struggled these last few days as I was unable to call my friends and family members who do not stay in the area," she said adding how she had to keep tabs on her belongings as her grandchildren had a habit on capitalising on her forgetfulness caused

by age. She said she wished to retain her old number and was shocked to realise how her new starter pack had a different number to that which she had taken time to memorise.

After enquiring about the process of getting her old number revived, she said it would be tedious for her to look for a dealer who would do a sim swap for her as she was already tired and had a long shopping spree to do before heading back home.

"My children take good care of me and have ensured that I will enjoy this Christmas," she beamed further commending how her daughter had bought her the one which she lost. She further blessed children who took care of their elderly parents and wished them prosperity.

CARS FOR SALE

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Gospel artist Nothando Hlophe laughing at one of Tall A\$\$ Mo's jokes. (Pics: Lungelo Nkambule)

BY LUNGELU NKAMBULE

South African comedian Tall A\$\$ Mo proved why he is amongst the funniest comedians of Mzansi.

The super tall comedian, who is fresh from his South Africa's Got a talent gig kept the over hundred people in attendance in stitches the whole time he was on stage as he told the audience about his upbringing.

The comedian, who was brought up in a proper African setting, made fun of his upbringing and childhood experiences.

Sharing his experiences Mo said his grandfather had two wives and each wife had five children and the children also had their own children so it was an extended family.

Story

"So one of the grandchildren was born light and he got an English name, Wiseman and then I was the darkest and guess what, I got a darkie name. Wiseman had so many privileges because of his skin colour, like he could open the fridge and I couldn't if I dared to do it my granny would just ask yeyi wena wenzani?" he narrated.

FREE EVANGELICAL ASSEMBLIES **Presents** **NATIONAL YOUTH CONVENTION 2016** **CELEBRATING 30TH ANNIVERSARY**

THEME: EBENEZER 1 SAMUEL 7 **GUEST ARTIST**

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DATE 23-26 DECEMBER 2016

SPEAKERS

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Controversial former Mr Swaziland Mphumuti Nkambule in white Tshirt was also at the show.

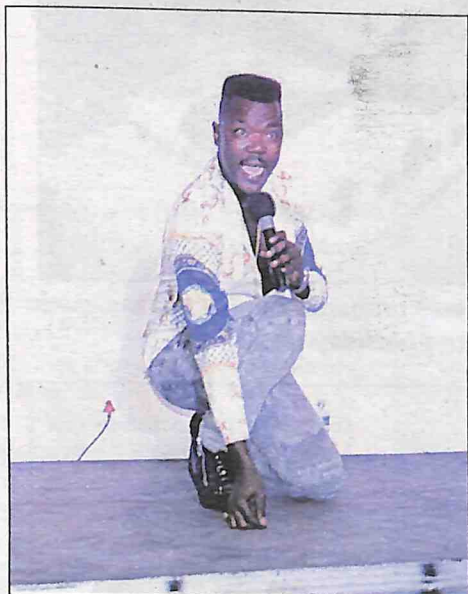
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Malaria Elimination We can do it!

WHO

FUNNY BONE CRACKER



Tall Ass Mo making a joke on stage.



Isibaya's Solly making a point at the comedy show Tall Ass Mo making a joke on stage.



Standard Bank CEO Mvuselelo Fakudze with his better half Fanele listening attentively to the Maura the comedian

As Tall Ass Mo narrated his story many members of the crowd laughed hard because many could relate to some of the things he spoke about. Also at the event was Isibaya actor Bheki Mkhwana who plays the role of Ndlovu in the drama series. He also took the stage, to motivate aspiring actors and tell them about the politics of the industry. The actor who has been in theatre for 35 years said the industry he was in wasn't all glitz and glam instead, it was

constant hardwork and fighting for survival and relevancy within it. "There is too much politics in this industry and there are people behind the scenes who pretend to be friends of the industry yet they are the ones killing it," he said.

Mkhwana said because of the politics people who wanted to join the industry should really be passionate about it. "I joined this industry after 35 years in theatre, so I know what I am doing now," he said.



An aerial view of the audience

Gaw'zela
Cross Over
Umlilo Music

Guest:
The Hon. Dr. Sibusiso Dlamini

Co-Hosts
**TSHWANE
GOSPEL
CHOIR**

Trans... Siphumelele... Rebecca Malope... iGaw'zela

Police Gospel Messengers | Maculuve | Gcina Masuku
Dr Mjerico | Come to Jesus | Police Male Voice
IaZwide | Nonhle | Friday Sotho | Mthobisi |
Khanyo | Yonela | Eleck | Shiba |

Ncwandweni... Phuzekhemisi... PD & Family

Date: 31 December 2016 Time: 6:00 p.m - 6:00 a.m.
VENUE: MAVUSO TRADE CENTRE -MANZINI
Tickets: E40.00 General | E200.00 VIP
Tickets available at: Mgavuzza, VOC, Nandos, Gaw zela's shop, Tikhetsela, Save More

TIBIYO TAKA NGWANE
A NATION IN PROGRESS

Merry Christmas!

We would like to inform the public and our business associates that our offices will be closed from 16 December 2016 to 04 January 2017.

However, Tibiyo Taka Ngwane Luzidzini office will be open during this period

The Main Committee, Management and staff of Tibiyo TakaNgwane would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

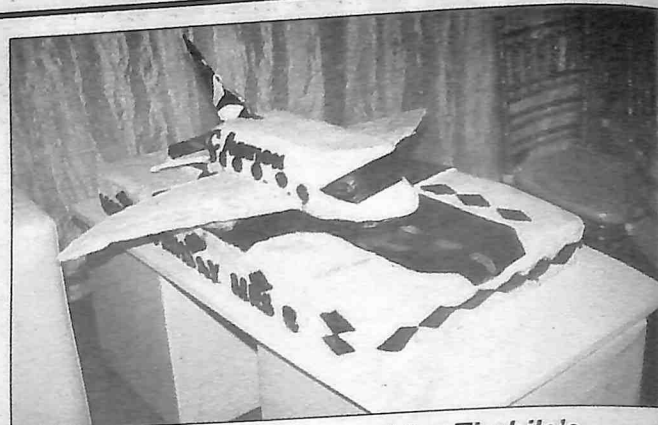
**&
a Prosperous New Year**



Thabile's close family including her parents at the event.
(Pics: Noxolo Nkabinde)



Thabile Mavuso Beidako making a speech at her 40th birthday at a party that was held at Manzini Club on Friday.



The cake that was prepared for Thabile's thanksgiving and birthday.

SKY IS NO LIMIT FOR THABILE BEDIAKO

BY NOXOLO NKABINDE

Over two years after Thabile Dlamini-Bediako made history as the first female pilot to land at the King Mswati III International Airport, there is no stopping her.

While she celebrated her 40th birthday with close friends and family on Friday evening, she is still determined to achieve more of her big dreams. Bediako just registered a new company, TC Aviation Services, and bought a new small aircraft for the company which she leases for charter flights and for a training academy.

Dlamini originally hails from Hlatikulu and obtained a commercial licence to fly aircrafts in 2014,

and landed at the international airport for her graduation. The airport was fairly new when she landed the plane at the airport where she was welcomed by other student pilots. She later flew out from KMI to Matsapha Airport where she was welcomed by friends and family. Following her obtaining that licence she went on to neighbouring South Africa where she is now based. Speaking at her party, she narrated how the industry was white and male dominated, and how they had to work extra hard in order for them prove their worth.

"It has not always been easy in the industry but we survive. At some point in my career things were so difficult that I did not want to hear anything about aviation and I almost

gave up. I have managed to stay though because aviation is my passion and I am more determined more than ever to make it," she said.

She celebrated her new achievements in the party that also served as a thanksgiving ceremony. Her family also spoke highly of Bediako and applauded her for her determination and hard work. Her mother, who was a bit skeptical in a previous interview about her daughter's chosen career, said at the event that her daughter had made her so proud.

"We are proud parents; never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be a mother to a pilot. I am very proud of her because she has worked hard." She further thanked her son-in-law, Daniel, who she said had been a pillar of strength for her daughter



Thabile sharing a light moment with her husband Daniel.

and supporting her achieve her dreams. Her mother had initially relayed fears that she would have to pray for her daughter for each landing as she had seen that this was something she liked from the bottom of her heart.

She said her daughter had not shown any interest in other courses because her heart was always set on aviation. Meanwhile, the husband also thanked Thabile for being a great wife and

mother to their children although she was a determined person in her career. Thabile joined the aviation industry with the support of her husband although it took him five years to agree to the idea as he was also skeptical at first. Although she always knew that she wanted to be a pilot, this seemed like a far fetched dream as she grew up in the rural areas where she never spotted any aircrafts.

Deaf community lament universities for sidelining them

BY MLONDI MPANZA

Completing high school as a member of the deaf community simply means that your academic life has come to an end, you cannot go any further than that."

These were the words of Mzamo Mamba from Siteki during an interview with the Sunday Observer when found participating during the Brothers Reach Out (BRO) Club's annual camp held at St. Marks High School.

He was reacting to the career fair that had been organised as part of the camp where different professionals and tertiary institutions had come to share their knowledge about their different fields of expertise.

Mamba said at times they found themselves stuck at home after the completion of studies at high school because they were not accommodated in most institutions and that meant the end of their education have hearing impairments.

In fact, he said there are only four members of the deaf community that have completed high school in Swaziland and its only one of these that managed to go to tertiary and in South Africa for that matter.

Mzamo said as much as they were keeping tabs on His Majesty's vision of having reached first world status by the year 2022, but in as far as their matters were concerned they were left behind and were not accepted in the society in Swaziland.



Limkokwing University's staff posing with members of the deaf community during the career fair as part of the camp for Boys Reach Out (BRO) held at St. Marks High School.
(Pics: Mloni Mpanza)

He further revealed of his wish to have sign language recognised as an official language in the country as the population of people with such a disability was increasing, with Mvuzo Mamba, a sign language interpreter adding that the country has over 20 000 people who have hearing impairments.

Adding, Mvuzo said they were concerned members of the deaf community were left behind in a number of issues, one of which was not being accepted in the society, as well as not being accommodated in local universities.

"We would like to request the country's institutions to make a special provision for us because at present there is no equality in terms of getting the

same treatment at university level with the rest of the students," said Majaha Maseko who's also a member of the community.

He said the least they could ask for was the provision of interpreters at these institutions to enable them to gel easily because a number of them were dropping out from as early as Form three and can't even get decent jobs.

Mfundo Dlamini said they would be happy to be given a fair opportunity at these institutions and thanked His Majesty King Mswati and the government for all he was doing for them.

"Much thanks goes to Non-governmental organisations (NGO's) for seeing the need to include us in such activities at this camp and we would



A representative from the Swaziland Christian University with prospective students.

like for others to do likewise as well," he added.

Meanwhile, in response to the cries by the deaf community, Limkokwing Public Relations Officer, Lucky Mathonsi said they had plans in place to accommodate the community.

He was responding to sign language interpreter, Mvuzo Mamba who said Limkokwing, as a relatively new institution of innovation in the country they expected it to come with change in as far as the issue of the deaf community is concerned.

"As the university of innovation and transformation, we always look to explore all areas to make sure that we cover everyone in the society and we have actually looked at this issue before so we are working towards accommodating the deaf community at Limkokwing," said Mathonsi.

He said since the university strived

to instil a creative mindset in students as evident in a group that invented the Braille menu which will be useful for the community.

Of course, he said this cannot happen overnight but there was progress looking at the Braille concept as he encouraged students to accommodate the deaf community both within and outside the institution.

Mathonsi concurred with Mamba and said the number of people living with this disability was growing by the day hence the need to consider them in all plans made by the university.

He also said that another positive was the infrastructure they had at Limkokwing which was friendly to people living with disabilities as they had special walkways for the physically impaired in the corridors and that on its own was something towards the right direction.

RICE BRINGS SMILES TO MAPHUNGWANE FOLK

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

This rice will help me take my antiretroviral tablets in comfort."

Bettina Matsenjwa said she was excited about receiving the needed food as she didn't know what she would eat with her children.

She was found waiting in line at Maphungwane where Caritas Swaziland was distributing food coordinated by the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) this past week.

She, together with 713 other people, got the rice which was recently donated to government by the Embassy of the Republic of China on Taiwan. Matsenjwa said she lived openly with her HIV status and wanted donors to know how the food would assist her.

"I really value this donation as I do others since they help when we have to take medication. It is hard taking medication on a stomach which is not well lined," she said, adding how she can't hide her status as this might help



Philisiwe Maziya, Ntombifuthi Maziya, Bettina Matsenjwa and her child, Londiwe said they were grateful for the much needed food items.

her to get assistance.

She said the food came at the right time as they had greens aplenty with the recent rains and this would mitigate their shortage of starch as they failed to harvest any maize. On the other hand, a grateful Rose Matsebula said it was her third time receiving food aid. "We never used to get any

food in the area in times past but the drought has reduced us to beggars," she said. Echoing words of gratitude, Mangena Myeni, who was in the presence of her grandson Njabulo Ndwandwe, said she was excited because she would get to eat rice, which is her favourite carbohydrate. "I don't always get to eat it due to being impoverished

so now I will be like my neighbours and be able to eat rice whenever I want," she said.

Revealing how they had eaten green peas 'borrowed' from a neighbour the previous day, Anna Ndzabandzaba stated how her seven grandchildren would benefit.

"Most of my children died, leaving me with orphans to take care of and the only way we live is by asking neighbours to give us food in exchange for a favour later. Yesterday we ate *tijujile* (peas) alone which we asked from a neighbour and today we will have something to enhance the food," she said. Ndzabandzaba said she was praying that the rains replenish her fields as she feared going on without a harvest. "For the better part of the year, I have had to wholly rely on God and if I fail to harvest anything, I will be doomed," she said.

According to the NDMA Coordinator Victor Dube, the donation was sans beans as the need was great and they couldn't wait for beans while people

were hungry. "As you can see, there are no beans to go with the rice because we have a shortage of beans which we had hoped would go with the rice and cooking oil," he said. Responding to the concern about the lack of beans, the elderly women, who were receiving the food, said they were not disappointed as there was plenty of greens (*umbhidvo*). "Our concern has been maize which we received a few weeks back. The rice has been a welcome extra," they said.

Decrying the level of need in the community, caregiver Thabitha Matsenjwa said their job was difficult as the need was enormous.

"There are many grannies who stay with grandchildren and they find themselves having to feed the many mouths despite having no source of income. It is very difficult as there are also children who stay on their own after being orphaned," she said, adding how the donation alleviated the need the community faced.

Carrying her bag of cooking oil, Malingose Tsakasile Maziya said she was grateful for the rice she had received. "This is for my grandchildren," she said, as she leaned heavily on the mop handle she used as her walking stick. Through eyes lightened by cataracts, she said she couldn't remember her age but she would feed the children who were her responsibility.



Lomathemba Matsenjwa and Sibongile Sigwane said they were gathering their strength before taking their prized food stuffs home.

Although blinded by cataracts, Malingose Maziya could not miss out on getting her rations as she was seen leaving the receiving point with her granddaughter Nozwelo Matsebula and they had to alternate the packages in order to make them bearable.



NDMA Coordinator Victor Dube spent the day ensuring that over 700 people of Maphungwane received their rations which were sponsored to government by the Embassy of the Republic of China on Taiwan. (Pics: Thembeke Dlamini)



Robert Matsebula said he was grateful for the rations and further asked to be given money for other amenities.

Mangena Myeni said her grandson Njabulo would have to push the wheelbarrow home because she didn't have the strength anymore.



With seven grandchildren relying on her, Anna Ndzabukele wako had reason to smile after getting her rations.



Good news as mealie-meal importation increased

BY MLONDI MPANZA

As people gear towards Christmas, a holiday celebrated in most parts of the country, locals will be pleased to know that the limit of mealie-meal importation per household has been increased.

It has been increased from 50kg per household to 100kg, however, on interim basis only until the festive season.

This has been communicated to the public through a press release that has been put up in the local newspapers by the National Agricultural Marketing Board (NAMBoard) to

consumers.

"Pursuant to the passing of motion 13/2016 by parliament, as well as the Press Release by the ministry of agriculture on September, 14, 2016 on mealie-meal importation, the ministry announces the review of the limit of mealie-meal to be imported by each household from consumption from 50kg to 100kg per month," reads the statement.

Although this should come as good news for the nation, but it was clearly stated that this was a temporary relief to drought stricken areas whilst continuing to explore improved ways to address the situation.

The increase came to effect as of

December 5, and will remain until February 28, 2017 where it will be reviewed again. This is not the first time the government has reviewed the limit as previously it was increased from 20kg to 50kg.

At the time of the review, the minister of agriculture said this change was meant to apply for the next three months with effect from September to December 2016, wherein the next review would be considered to fully assist and support the affected communities. He added this was an interim measure that would only be applicable to individuals representing households and requires them to apply for a permit from NAMBoard. These

permits were said to be obtainable from strategic border posts.

Nonetheless, the current information by NAMBoard is to the extent that the relevant stakeholders shall continue to assess the situation within affected communities over this period to the end of February after which a decision will be communicated for the benefit of the public.

Also, the ministry remains sensitive to the drought situation and its effects it has on local communities hence it re-emphasises its commitment to working with all stakeholders towards alleviating the plight of affected communities.

The assertion further extends to all millers who are appreciated for their continued support of the communities with mealie-meal at compet-

itive prices during this period and millers have been said to be committed to continuously deliver mealie-meal to all drought stricken areas at competitive prices.

Of note, this subject has previously been criticised by the public because the limit was said to be very low and the people's parliament that took place a couple of months ago was used as the platform to express the dissatisfaction.

Moreover, the ministry of agriculture's production outlook 2016 held that maize yields were estimated to drop to 33 460 metric tonnes for the cropping season, resulting in a deficit of about 96 540 metric tonnes and this reflects a supply squeeze going forward until at least the next harvesting season.



NEDBANK

Siyakhula Kanye Kanye.



*Kubhanga nekukhokha imali kuMahhala

iClub Savings Account yindlela lekahle futsi
lephephile yekubhanga imali nilicembu

Tsatsa sinyatselo namuhla uvule iClub Savings Account

Market vendors save E400 000 in 7 months through Nedbank Club Savings Account

Nedbank Club Savings Account holders are reaping the benefits of their savings, as one family revealed that they recently bought a vehicle from their annual dividends and another group saved a total of E400 000 in a period of seven months.

These are women vendors from Manzini and Matsapha.

The Nedbank Club Savings Account holders disclosed these exciting news during the Club Savings Cocktail at Esibayeni Lodge on Wednesday.

The bank had invited existing and potential customers of the Club Savings Account as a way of appreciation for their business to the bank and to explain the inherent benefits of the product.

"We would like to thank Nedbank for listening to us as clients when we complain about high bank charges. I can attest that this Club Savings Account really works and there are no charges incurred by us a group. We are market vendors and we were able to save, and from our dividends we bought a small truck with my daughter. Thank you Nedbank!" one of the clients said. Managing Director Ms. Fikile Nkosi thanked the clients for their support over the years.

She briefly spoke about the benefits of the Club Savings Account and highlighted some of the requirement, which have been made easier for the clients.

"We really appreciate your support as our customers. We know that 2016 has not been such a good year, even in terms of economic growth of the country. The bank also faced certain challenges but we promise

that as we go into 2017, we will look at more products that will benefit our clients more. We want you to understand that we are Nedbank because of you, our clients, and we are grateful to you for the support and for sticking with us," she said.

Professional Sales Consultant Kevin Reid explained that the product was established following concerns from clients about high bank charges.

"The bank listened to your concerns as our clients and we came up with the Club Savings Account. This account has zero charges and you get a nominal interest for your savings per month. We want you to understand that every Lilangeni is important to us as Nedbank because we can only lend what we have. Therefore, your savings are valuable to the bank, no matter how little. We then lend to others who will pay interest for those loans - and that's how we balance things up," he explained. Reid further encouraged the clients to start saving as early as possible.

"As a bank, we encourage the culture of saving. The earlier you take the trouble to invest, it becomes a culture and that is when you benefit more," he said.

The first cocktail was held at Sibane Hotel on Tuesday, the second at Esibayeni Lodge on Wednesday and the last one at Simunye Country Club on Thursday.

Area Manager Sindy Motsa explains the Club Savings Account:

"We want our clients to understand and appreciate the good of the Club

Savings Account product. Please engage with us on this products, especially on the requirements. I can assure you that for groups, this is the best product ever! required.

ABOUT THE CLUB SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

BENEFITS

Cash and cheque deposits are free
No Service fee charged
No maintenance fee charged
Two free withdrawals per month. Third and subsequent withdrawals will be charged E30 each

- Earn interest at competitive rates monthly
- Get immediate access to your savings over the counter
- Opening and minimum balance is E1 000

USES

- Works as a saving mechanism
- Can be used by clubs and/or group of people to save money

REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCOUNT OPENING

- To open a Club Savings Account, a minimum group of three (3) people are required
- Identity Documents (For Signatories)
- Proof of Income
- Proof of Residence (For Signatories)
- Constitution for the Club or Group (but the bank assists in this regard)
- Resolution Letter
- Minutes of the last meeting

For more information on the Nedbank Club Savings Account, visit any Nedbank branch or call our Help Desk 2408 1251.

...no cash and cheque deposit fee
...no service fee charged
...no maintenance fee charged
...two free withdrawals per month
...earn interest at competitive rates monthly

ESIBAYENI LODGE COCKTAIL PICTURES



SIBANE HOTEL COCKTAIL PICTURES



Questions and Answers

Q: Would there be any complications if we dissolved our club in December and resumed saving in January in this account?

A: There would be no complications at all, just as long as you leave the E1 000 opening/minimum balance in the account. We would not prevent you from taking out every cent but would advise you, as our client, to avoid closing and resuming because it would save you the trouble of having to bring the necessary documentation when opening the account again in a month's time.

Q: Is it mandatory for us to deposit money into the Club Savings Account on a monthly basis?

A: No, it is not mandatory. However, we encourage account holders across all the different products we have as a bank, to keep the account active by crediting it or depositing regularly. The minimum balance of E1 000 is a once-off amount that is paid at the beginning when the group is opening the account and the monthly deposits will then depend on the group.

Q: Can I open this account with my two children, as you said we must be a minimum of three people?

A: Yes you can. However, this account requires that there be three signatories, which means that the children will both have to be over 16 years of age.

Q: Who, among the group, can bring the money collected to the bank?

A: Nedbank does not set the rules on how clients can deposit money into this account. It is incumbent upon the members, of course guided by their constitution, how they will deposit, withdraw or for what purpose they will be saving. The bank can give a statement at the normal charge, but we can also link you to our Internet Banking and give you only viewing rights in order to make your reconciliation easier. However, you do not necessarily have to carry cash around as we can assist make stop orders for members' monthly contributions and also help distribute through electronic transfers.

Q: Who gets to be the holders of the ATM card with this account?

A: There is no ATM card issued with the Club Savings Account. This is because it is not an individual's account but for a group and it helps avoid situations where a member can take the card and withdraw money without consent from other members. If they want to deposit cash or withdraw, the signatories have to come to the bank.

ONE ON ONE WITH STAN MOTSA

HOW STAN MOTSA MADE THE MINISTRY OF ICT TICK

...He played an instrumental role in setting up the ministry's first ever communications department where he developed a number of important policies and further contributed to the set-up of SCCOM

BY MLONDI MPANZA

Looking at Former Acting Chief Executive Officer and Communications Director, Stan Motsa's achievements in the country's communications sector, one could be forgiven for concluding that he made the ministry of Information, communications and technology (ICT) tick.

This is because he boasts over three decades of experience in this industry, having served in three different managerial positions where he made valuable contribution that went on to benefit the rest of the country.

Motsa has been central in the establishment of a number of policies and projects within the ministry in his span of at least five years as the communications director before he was seconded to position of acting CEO of the country's first ever electronic communications regulator, Swaziland Communications Commission (SCCOM), which was set-up with him as the anchorman.

Previously, he had been with the Swaziland Broadcasting Information Services known as SBIS where he spent 28 years firstly as a cadet engineer, later on as Swaziland's first transmission engineer before taking after Tass Makama as the Director.

Although he has spent most of his professional life at the SBIS where he made an impact but he further played an important role in the ministry which came into life in 2008.

He told the Sunday Observer during an interview with him at his home in Mhlabubovu this past week that he is one person who has on many occasions found himself having to come up with something out of nothing.

This is because after leaving SBIS, he was promoted to the position of Director of Communications and worked at the ministry of commerce at the time until



The now retired former director Stan Motsa on his tractor at his home.

the ministry of ICT was introduced.

Motsa said at this period they had nothing to work on and he had to develop a number of communication policies that would be used by the new ministry, as well as draft a plan on how they would go about working in the ministry.

"We were transferred together with the legal advisor to the newly formed ministry of ICT and had the responsibility to develop the department of communications whose responsibility has been advising the government on communications issues and policies," he stated.

The National Information and Communications Infrastructure policy implementation plan is another responsibility he carried through and eventually saw it adopted by the government in November 2012.

He was further responsible for the development of important communications policies such as the regulatory frameworks that brought about the establishment of the Swaziland Communications Commission together with the Swaziland Electronic Communications Commission Act.

Amongst his responsibilities at the

ministry was also advising both the minister and PS on communications policy, licensing and regulatory issues in regard to broadcasting, the internet, the postal and telecommunications sector together with guidance on the need for national communications policies designed to support the economic and social wellbeing of the country. He also worked on the drafting of both the Swaziland Communications Bill and Swaziland Electronic Communications Bill which on instruction of the minister he presented to both cabinet and parliament to pass it into law. Both bills came into law in July, 2013.

Apart from his work at the ministry, he was also the first Chief Executive Officer of SCCOM, although on acting basis when it was formed in July 2013 subsequent to the passage of the law that allowed for its formation.

At SCCOM, he came up with the organizational structure and played a role in plans of how the commission will work and, "I believe I worked well even though I was never made permanent a situation that still stands even today, the commission has no substantive CEO."

...The bitter-sweet journey as SBIS Director

Contrary to the assumption by the normal person on the street that being a manager is all about the huge salary and benefits, such a task comes with lots of challenges amongst which is making unpopular decisions for the good of that particular organisation.

And Stan Motsa is no stranger to such opposition as he found himself taking shots fired at him by both the Parliament and members of his staff at the Swaziland Broadcasting and Information Services (SBIS) where he served as the Director and this was for trying to introduce changes that were unpopular with the majority.

During the interview this past week, he revealed how he was called all sorts of names by members of the parliament as he singled out one instance where he was allegedly called a 'dictator' for doing his job.

His said only sin was trying to bring about changes at the national broadcaster where he had taken over from Tass Makama in September of 2001.

Amongst these changes was that he wanted the daily news to be presented in a different manner than it was at the time, but because the parliamentarians opposed such innovation, he stated that even today those changes were never implemented and the news is still packaged in the same way it was over a decade ago.

One of the few changes he managed to implement was the introduction of the news programme 'Letishisako' which he said was exactly how he wanted to package the news but because that was not allowed the least he could do was come up with the programme instead. "People within the organisation were defiant to the changes I was trying to bring about and all that earned me was a brutal name calling by MPs who said all they wanted to say about me in the media and what surprised

me was that all these articles were one-sided there was never a time when journalists bothered to hear my side as I was butchered by all who cared to," recalls Motsa who held reigns for seven years at SBIS before leaving to be the Director of Communications at Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) in 2008.

At first, he explained that he shared the plans to implement a number of changes at the station where he had been since 1980 when he came in as a Cadet Engineer, but the staff rejected these and he allowed them to do things in their own way until he decided to stomp the foot down and implement those changes as the manager. But, the employees ran to parliament and he was called to explain on the issues that could have been dealt with internally but ended up expanding and turned everything into chaos. Reports from parliament are said to have been to the extent that he was not qualified for the position and that he was also troublesome hence action needed to be taken against him despite that he was one of the most learned and experienced people at the SBIS, he shared.

Changes

"Life wasn't easy," he admitted during the interview at his home in Mhlabubovu and further revealed that his wife would call him every day and tell him how life was with all the negative reports about him as he left for Rhodes University in South Africa in the midst of the troubles. At the time, the broadcasting station was under House Assembly Speaker, Themba Msibi who was a minister and Motsa shared that all the changes he sought to implement were fully supported by Msibi but politics were playing a major role in the matter in that he wasn't just the only one he needed on his side, but so was the Principal Secretary, who however was not for the idea.

...How his fortunes changed

At the height of all the negative reports and troubles faced by the SBIS, Motsa left for the neighbouring South Africa to do his Post Graduate Diploma in Media Management and it was during his stay in the foreign country that he is fortunes changed.

This is thanks to one reporter from the country he met at the

university with whom he had a discussion about the forthcoming at the national broadcaster.

Understood

He revealed that from their discussion and presentation of what he was trying to do at the station, this reporter understood where he was coming for and as a result he wrote an article for the Times of Swaziland.

It was through this article that he said they managed to change how people viewed him and the changes he was trying to introduce for the good of the station.

Issue

"I explained to him about how the whole hullabaloo had started and how I ended up on every newspaper on the land being portrayed as the bad person without anyone bothering to hear my side of the whole issue," he explained.

After this article, Motsa stated that the storm started to calm down and they did another one where he wrote about the changes and explained them in detail and it is at this point that things began to change for the better with one member of parliament going to the extent of coming to him to apologise about all they had said to him before.

He stated that this particular MP told him they were not aware of

his frustrations and relied on the media for information and admitted they had been at fault on how they handled the whole debacle.

Allegations

The MP is further said to have sympathised with Motsa and stated that it was unfortunate he had not been given the right to respond to all the allegations levelled against him in concern to the changes he wanted to implement at the station.

...Role in digital migration

Stan Motsa is one of the country's most experienced, boasting of over three decades in the country's communication structures and one of the projects he has worked on from scratch is the migration of Television from analogue to digital.

During the interview, he shared that he literally worked on this project with nothing and had to assemble the different teams he needed to work with on the project and further drafted the policy and specifications of how this would be carried out.

This was after he had done a research on the internet where he saw how a similar project had been done in Ghana which he used to benchmark the one he was working on for the country.

"Thereafter, I made a plan of how we would roll-out the project and the timeframes and then I was seconded to be the acting Chief Executive Officer of the Swaziland Communications Commission (SCCOM)," he explained.

But, at the time he left, he claims all was in place and the project was ready to be rolled out, although it is yet to be with him having left for SCCOM in July 2013.

In fact, his CV states that he personally sought for expert assistance and obtained it in 2010 from the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) to establish a national roadmap

for the migration of television from analogue to digital.

Whilst doing this, he participated in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) study teams to establish the most appropriate standard that could be used for digital migration, as well as personally led the development and launch in 2012 of the Swaziland Television Digital Migration Policy. Later in December of 2013, Motsa led the development and completion of the tender documents that included technical specifications for the project.

Meanwhile, Digital Broadcasting Migration is a process in which broadcasting services offered on the traditional analogue technology are replaced with digital based networks over a specific period.

The transition or switch from analogue television to digital television is referred to as Digital Migration. On two occasions, the country has failed to execute the transformation with recent reports that the country was ready to make its third attempt on the process.

Part of the reasons for previous failures have been said to be only a few Swazis were ready for the transformation as many had not yet purchased the set-top boxes.

Initially, the set deadline by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) was June,



Motsa posing with his wife and children.

...Takes a break from professional life

Having retired from the civil service, Motsa has decided to take a backseat from the busy professional life and have time to himself and his family.

This he said during the interview in the past week as he said after all the years he had been working there was no better time for him to take a break than now. However, he pointed out that maybe after the break he would consider taking up anything if an opportunity availed itself, said the man who worked in the communications indus-

try for over three decades.

When asked how he managed with the transformation from his busy life to being laid back, he said he was doing just fine as he has recently taken up farming full-time, something which he never had time for before.

He said that he now had the time and energy to drive his tractor and plough his fields as means to keep himself healthy and busy. He is also working on supporting his daughter and artist known as 'Amanda Mo.'

...On his training at the BBC

The former director also shared about his brief span at the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) where he was trained to be a fully-fledged engineer.

This at the time when he was an incoming engineer at the SBIS and he was sent to the United Kingdom to train with the BBC's incoming engineers where he was the only engineer from Swaziland and one of two from Africa. The BBC is a British public service broadcaster and headquartered at Broadcasting House in London. It is the world's oldest national broadcasting organisation and the largest broadcaster in the world by number of employees, with over 20,950 staff in total.

Whilst in the UK, he did Part I and II of the course on the engineering of transmitters where

he said he learnt with mostly Englishmen and a lot of the training was focused on transmitters; how to repair and maintain them, basically the basics, he shared.

When he came back to the country, Motsa became the first engineer in transmitters, whilst one Ambrose Dlamini became the second in Studio engineering.

"Although, I had done the engineering of transmitters at school but I only had the theory part hence the SBIS saw it fit that they send me to BBC where I was taken through the practical part of this kind of engineering," shared Motsa.

He has also been to the United States of America and Germany for a similar course in order to be a fully-fledged engineer.

"I have learnt my lesson and would like to return to school"

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

At nineteen years of age, she knows hardship.

She has a 17-month-old son with a man who promised her the world but deserted her the minute she told him she was pregnant.

She knows the situation at home calls for her to find whatever job that might come her way, even if it means leaving home at 3am on a daily basis in order to plant sugar cane.

Precious Manana* (not her real name) lives in Mambane, the hills located east of the country which rise above the Lusutfu River.

The scenic area which overlooks both Mozambique and South Africa is marred by the abject poverty of some of the people and the high incidence of teenage pregnancies which result in school drop outs.

The young woman carried a hoe as she walked wearily along the dusty road carrying a backpack presumably with warm clothes as well as remnants of food.

"I am from the sugar cane fields in Big Bend," she said as she shielded her eyes from the scorching heat after curiosity about her demeanour sparked a conversation.

According to the Swaziland Meteorological Services, maximum temperatures for Big Bend on Tuesday were at 34 degrees Celsius, yet she wore a long sleeve vest as well as leggings under her simple makeshift skirt and top.

"I have to work in order to help at home and provide for my son," she said when asked for reasons behind carrying a hoe from the fields at such a young age.

She explained how she was dressed in this manner in order to protect her skin from the sun as well as the thorny bushes through which they travel to and from work.

She said she usually left her home at 3am and walked with her brother through the thick bushes, down to the valley where lies Big Bend's sprawling sugar cane fields. She was found returning home after 3pm and she revealed how she earned E50 per day from her labour.

"It takes us over two hours of brisk walking to get there since we start planting at 5:30am.

I leave the house while it is still dark and some other co-workers join us along the way," she said explaining how she carried the hoe because there was a shortage at the farm she worked.

"I carry the hoe so I don't have to haggle for the few as we are many and the work has to be done quickly in order for one to return home while there is still light," she said,

She stated how she needed the job because she was at her wit's end trying to find means to fend for herself.

"The situation at home is bad and right now I need clothes for my son and I," she said.

Elaborating, she said she was the third



*Precious revealed her wish to return to school during an interview in Mambane after returning from working the fields in Big Bend this past week. (Pic Thembeke Dlamini)

born of nine children living with her mother after their father passed away a few years ago.

Only the eldest is employed working a menial job and living away from home whereas the second born is still trying to find a job.

"Both of them failed to complete school after flunking different grades

several times and I was the hope of the family seeing as I was quite determined to become a doctor on completing," she said as she looked at the handle of her hoe nostalgically.

She stated how her life changed last year when she fell in love with an older man.

"That was my mistake, falling for a man who was older than I am," she said angrily adding how that killed off all her dreams.

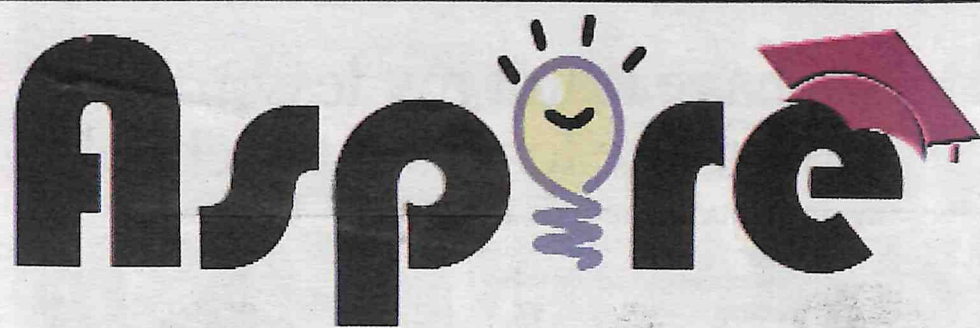
"I was planning to become a doctor and I now work in the fields."

She said the relationship lasted for six months before discovering she was pregnant.

"I know about condom usage and I tried to ask him to use a condom but after initially using it, he said it would be ok to not use it and we stopped," she said shyly.

After reporting she was pregnant, she said her boyfriend disappeared from her life and she had to leave school.

"I stopped attending school on my own accord after confirming I was pregnant as I didn't want to be embarrassed," she said of the discovery which shattered her dreams of leaving her home area to return as someone with a qualification to reckon.



A Youth Section On Youth Issues By The Youth



WRITER'S NOTE...

Surprise, surprise! Didn't we have you your favourite youth section just last week?

The answer is yes you did, and because this issue you are reading is the very last one issue of the year, we decided to give you a bonus. We are in a giving mood – it's the festive season!

This week, I got to learn that there are some people who wholeheartedly love Swaziland. Seriously! Our cover boy today Lihle 'Lo' Dlamini is one of those people. He went to study music in the United States, took an accelerated course, if I would mention, and then came back home because he wants to change the music industry in the country.

As promised to you last week, we have our sit-down with the king of the game – 80 Script. He talks to us about the year as a whole – the hallmarks and the industry as a whole.

On 'ISTAYELA SYALAHLELA' we zoom into the entertainment industry and get to discuss the music they give to us.

On the last page, we have the Sunday Podium and today I tackle the issue of prostitution in the country.

Have a good read, a merry Christmas and let's meet at the end of year events or let's converse at

sbusisodlaminitheg@gmail.com.

Cheers.

By Sibusiso Dlamini

'YOU DON'T NEED DRUGS TO BE CREATIVE'

This guy is the new President of Swazi Jive Records. Wait, hold on for a minute, and let me finish.

Sakhile Nkambule is STILL the founder and Director of Swazi Jive, just that the entity recently got split to different sections and this gentleman Lihle 'Lo' Dlamini will head the recording department. Now today, I will introduce to you the passionate young man who will be manning things down at the Swazi Jive studio at Checkers, Mbabane.

Lihle Dlamini did his primary school level at Sifundzani and then went on to Waterford for his high school.

"Growing up, I really never got hard into music until I reached Form Two at Waterford. At that time, that's when I started being inquisitive around everything and when I got to Forms Three and Four – I took music as a subject. I was trying to figure out how everything works in the industry and I found myself falling in love with it and it is at that point in my life when I knew I didn't want to do anything else but music," he says.



He even reminisces on a moment when his music teacher found him working on his music all alone, and he was astounded.

"One of my music teachers found me alone working on my music, and that's when he decided on mentoring me because apparently it was the same way he started out too."

At such a young age, the youngster had already decided on joining the dog-eat-dot industry and ASPIRE enquires on his parents' reaction to his dangerous career choice.

"My parents were not happy at all with my decision, just like any other Swazi parent would be though. When I told them for the first time, they thought I was just being a silly kid who didn't know what he was talking about."

They only started taking me seriously when I had raised this issue once more after doing my IB. That's when

I made it crystal clear to them I love music and I was going to pursue it as a career."

After that he left for tertiary at the United States – to study at Full Sail University. And guess what he was studying? – Music, the technical aspect of it.

"When I left for the United States, I wanted to learn what makes music tick. I had already started making music, but I wanted to know why mine wasn't as good as the international one I was listening too. I got to research about the school and course extensively before applying and I found out it was exactly what I needed. It even extended to music as a business."

When he left he was already buzzing in the country as he had a track with South African hip hop sensation Kwesta, and that's why he took an accelerated course – to make sure that

he would acquire all the knowledge needed and come back home as quickly as possible. The accelerated course was 22 months, no holidays, and no breaks – just 22 months of hard work.

"The course wasn't easy, and the fact that it was accelerated wasn't helping either. They structure the studies in a way that would resemble a real life situation as there are times where I would be in the studio 24 hours. I would have class anytime of the day. But passion kept me through because I've known that all I want to do is to make music."

He then graduated this year, and came back soon and was named as Swazi Jive records President. Hence, I ask him what plans he has for the entity.

"We want to make sure that we don't have limitations to our dream. We don't want to just be the best locally, but in the region as well. We will do whatever it takes to be the best, and will see where that takes us."

There is so much talent in this country and it's about time we show it off to the world. There's a lot of interest in Swazi music too. When I came back I found some life than when I left. 'Sandz' (Sandziso Matsebulala) is currently running things and his album is doing so well. Basically, people now have time to give an ear to local music, something that wasn't seen before."

'Lu' further reveals that they will be bringing more artists under their wing.

"We will be definitely bringing in more artists to the stable. We are currently watching. Even if your video had 35 views on Youtube, we are watching. Just know that."

If you want to submit your material, you are still free to do so, because next year will be our year. It's work time.

By Sibusiso Dlamini

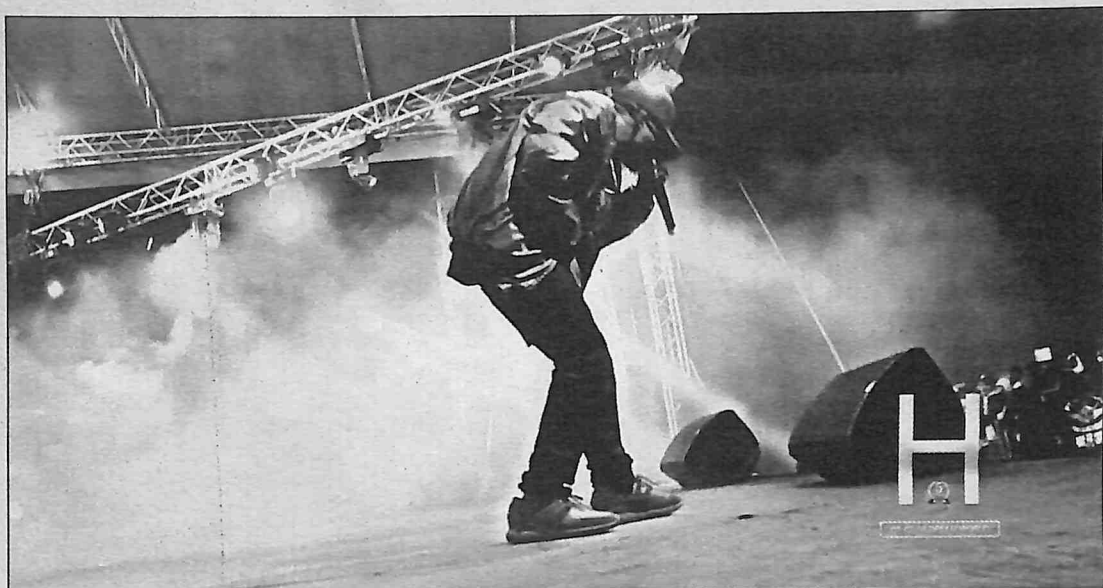
ADVICE TO THE YOUTH

On drugs – Whoever tells you that drugs will help with your creativity is lying. You would be so shocked to learn that the people I work with don't even touch alcohol. There's nothing like that.

On being from a poor background – I know someone would come through and maybe say because they don't have the resources to go to an expensive school such as Waterford, then they are doomed. But, you will be shocked to learn that I did not get to Full Sail with my IB marks, rather it was my IGCSE marks. After that, I got a partial scholarship because of my love for music. So, it's all about researching and working up to your career. Be inquisitive! Learn from other people and during holidays, get a job that has to do with your career. Do things on your own.



SIT-DOWN WITH THE KING OF THE GAME



The industry is wobbly. We don't have a proper industry yet. We are all trying to build one but we don't have an industry. For instance, artists should receive some form of royalties from radio for playing their music, but instead we have our music played for free and receive nothing.

As I promised last week, this week, ASPIRE shall give you readers your Christmas present. In last week's edition, we had our sit-down with the queen – Originelle and this week we have the king of the game – 80 Script.

Describing the last 11 months as great for this young man would be an understatement. He grew from being the talented hard-working rapper to being a full blown artist who undoubtedly owns the local crown.

He performed at the Hipnotik main stage, dazzled in his own show, The Soiree – which is definitely history deeply in-scripted in our entertainment scenes history books, he brought the house down with a thrilling performance at House on Fire when headlining one of the Friday Night Live series shows, he won two awards at the controversial inaugural Swazi Hip Hop Awards, was featured on a CNN special for CNN Inside Africa – and the list goes on and on.

He has been taking major strides. He said something during this interview when quizzed on the long wait of the album.

This was his answer – “I was going to drop the album in 2016 but as I got busier with all my shows and the business side of my brand, I found myself in a position where I was going to succumb to the pressure and make my album under pressure so I decided to hold it off a little longer, mainly



because I already invested so much into 2016 and there was no need to force the drop just for the sake of dropping” Ladies and gentleman let me digress no further and present to you the sit-down with the king of the game.

ASPIRE – You have been doing a lot this year, but what can you specifically say has been your major highlight of the year 2016?

80 – It's hard for me to pinpoint a major highlight because for me the year itself has been a major highlight. To me, this has been my most successful year as a performing artist and it's only been three years now. I got to do so many amazing things this year.

I was one of the headliners at the Hipnotik Festival and it was my second time on the stage. I saw one of my icons J Cole, performing Live in Johannesburg.

I was the first headliner for the first Hankey Bannister Royal Nights hosted by King Terry and we recorded a full house that day. I headlined at House on Fire for the Sibebe Friday Night Live series and did numbers on

the day. I hosted my first event as an artist called The Soiree which is an annual event and became the first ever artist to host a show at The Convention Centre. I was rated number 1 MC on a list compiled by MTV Base. I won two awards at the first ever Swaziland Hip Hop Awards. I featured on a CNN special for CNN - Inside Africa - which will hit the screens and internet early January. I have yet another event in partnership with The Scientists. So it truly has been a year of success and 2017 is poised to be a year of even more success because I am not taking my foot off the pedal.

ASPIRE – How would you describe your show - The Soiree?

80 – The Soiree to me was a success. I always hear the same story of how this could have been better, that could have been better, but in the words on Sean Carter “People will try to tell you how to do it yet they never did”. My dream came true.

I've always wanted to start my own event franchise because I believe in these tough economical times, we need more than just artists, we need artists who have an entrepreneurial culture about them. The Soiree is an annual event and 2016 was about planting the seeds of this idea and vision. Next year is about growth. It's about hosting a bigger and more loaded show than I did this year. This is an upscale dress up event and people came out to my show looking amazing and happy to be given the platform to come out and dress to the nines. So it's important for me to keep bringing the show and with the vision behind it, it will be the biggest dress up event in Swaziland come 2018/19. Next year, we host the second installment.

ASPIRE – You've always made it clear that your dream has always been to perform at the Bushfire main stage, how's the road to making that dream a reality so far?

80 – I always say that the only thing left for me to do in Swaziland is perform on the Bushfire main stage. I got a step closer to realising that dream when I performed at the Sibebe Friday Night Live Season 6 show that took place on the 25th of

November this year. I had a full live band, aptly called The Juggernauts, and we hammered it. If popular opinion is anything to go by, then I should make it to the next phase and I have a feeling I'll probably go all the way because I believe if you really want something, the universal energies will adjust to make it happen for you and there's no doubt as to how much I want it.

ASPIRE – What do you think of the current standard of the industry – what are the positives we can take and where can we improve?

80 – The industry is wobbly. We don't have a proper industry yet. We are all trying to build one but we don't have an industry. For instance, artists should receive some form of royalties from radio for playing their music, but instead we have our music played for free and receive nothing. Promoters drag their feet when it comes to paying artists, or merely putting down the deposit and we are told the same story about ‘budget’ yet they are able to pay internationals exorbitant fees. Data is all expensive and this stifles a lot of artists' growth because everything nowadays happens online.

That's the one place where the world can connect with you but it's hard to keep it going. The industry is still crawling and it will be a while before it gets on its feet and starts walking, less of all running.

ASPIRE – When are you dropping that LONG AWAITED album? Yes, that sizzling project With the ‘Yaya’ hit track!

80 – I was going to drop the album in 2016 but as I got busier with all my shows and the business side of my brand, I found myself in a position where I was going to succumb to the pressure and make my album under pressure so I decided to hold it off a little longer, mainly because I already invested so much into 2016 and there was no need to force the drop just for the sake of dropping. I wanted to get done with the year I've had and save my album drop for 2017. I'm not going to overhype the album. When it's ready, I'll just drop it. The strategy we have in place is to make it go viral and I plan on dropping it in South Africa since I want to explore a broader market. So with the album, I'm tuning it. But it won't be long. Simply because, I myself just can't wait to drop it.

ASPIRE – What are you looking forward to in the year 2017? And where should your fans hang out at this festive season to see you in action?

80 – The only thing I'm looking forward to in 2017 is blowing up. Simple and straight-forward!

My brand is at a point where, if I play my cards right, I'm taking off. So everything is meticulous and calculated. Even the delay of the album release, I didn't want to just to drop. I want to drop a project that I will watch change my life altogether. My fans can find me at the Grande Mansion Party on the 31st hosted by Tendanees.

Good day readers. Welcome to **ISTAYELA SYALAHLELA** and you know very well that it's about that time of the week where we take a closer look at the entertainment industry.

Firstly, thank you very much to all those who took their time to get back to me for comments on last week's column, we will never have the same perspective on issues but I'm happy some people got the message.

1. Getting back to today's issue – as you've read the title, Adriene Foo is "Dangerous." Not in a bad way, in a good way. After watching the songstress's new music video titled "Dangerous" – a single taken from her Imagine project. Albeit the fact that it's the only thing I've heard from her, I think she is very good. We've known for a while that she's part of Swazi Jive but she was still working on the low. Now, this video – which was shot after the Hipnotik Festival, she has surely proven that she is definitely one of the best talents in the country.

I even saw Scoop on the video!

But, all in all, the young lady is great talent. We need to hear more from her come 2017.

Check it out if you haven't seen it yet, and tell me if you think Swazis aren't ready for the international stage.

2. The North God - Da L.E.S has welcomed us to the festive season with an album titled 'Diamond in Africa'.

I've always said it's never a bad thing to be born with a silver spoon. Now, Da Les bears testimony to that and one thing I really admire about him is that he has never been one to be shy nor ashamed to talk about it.

He even has a line on a track called Mood - which is an outro track in the album where he also has Tumi and Sphum. He says – "By age 16; I was skating on my tennis court." Ouch!

Now, his job is to make sure that he adds on and has more guap than just the family money.

Anyways, getting back to the music, as you know the North God never really makes the award winning type of music or the bar-filled type of projects, but instead he makes the "Feel good stuff."

His last project - 'Mandela Money' was an extremely under-marketed yet was quite a well-received project by the hip hop community. This time around with 'Diamond in Africa', L.E.S unlocks his inner Fresh Prince with the festive celebration of his decade long career.

He even changed the management team because of its poor marketing methods which shows he wants to give us a true reflection of his popularity and influence. Well, he kick-starts the album's seal with a soulful jam – 'Keys To The City', which takes us on a ride of L.E.S's Northern suburbs. The story he pens is flamboyant and high-spirited – both hallmarks of his career.

We all know him as the happy music guy. Freshles is also host of the coolest show in South Africa – The prestigious all white parties where you only enter through invitation. Every after giving out invites, the North God says - "If you didn't get a card, it means you haven't grinded enough. Work harder next year and we will take notice."

Locally, I think only Swazi Jive does that with their Grande Mansion crossover party. Fancy we should have more of those kinds of shows locally?

Back to L.E.S's album, the first tracks in the album are stuffed with features, which can be a bit too much if you ask

me, but again it shows the love Da L.E.S has from other artists in the game. Each different artist featured brings their own different energy and vibe to the whole mix. Just like the flashy nigga he is the - North God raps about Sandton, the northern lifestyle and his Bryanston mansion. The lion's share of production has been handled by V.A.M and he really understood him (Da L.E.S) by making groovy and up-tempo kind of beats.

The album also has those jams that are so easy you would sing along to them after one session, such as the one with Cashtime Life's Ma-E and Nomuzi on 6am. The simplicity of the track makes it easy to catch on and a basically, a good track for a turn-up.

For me, Real stuff and Money over Bi**** featuring AKA and Maggz are the best tracks to happen to this album. The collaborations between the trio are always legendary. Hall of fame things! Oh, and let me not forget the track titled 'Mood', the one I mentioned earlier, where the North God has Tumi and Sphum. They rap on a Jigga man sample and Stogie T bring the fire bars that he always brings out, just that they are now on steroids.

In conclusion, I think that the album simply gives us a picture

of where Da L.E.S is with his career - a comfortable space and still the ultimate baller. He is having the time of his life to be precise.

3. Amanda Black's album goes platinum in three weeks! Yes, we learnt of that this week and were so proud.

Do you guys still remember that talented young girl who lost on Idols season 10? OK, you

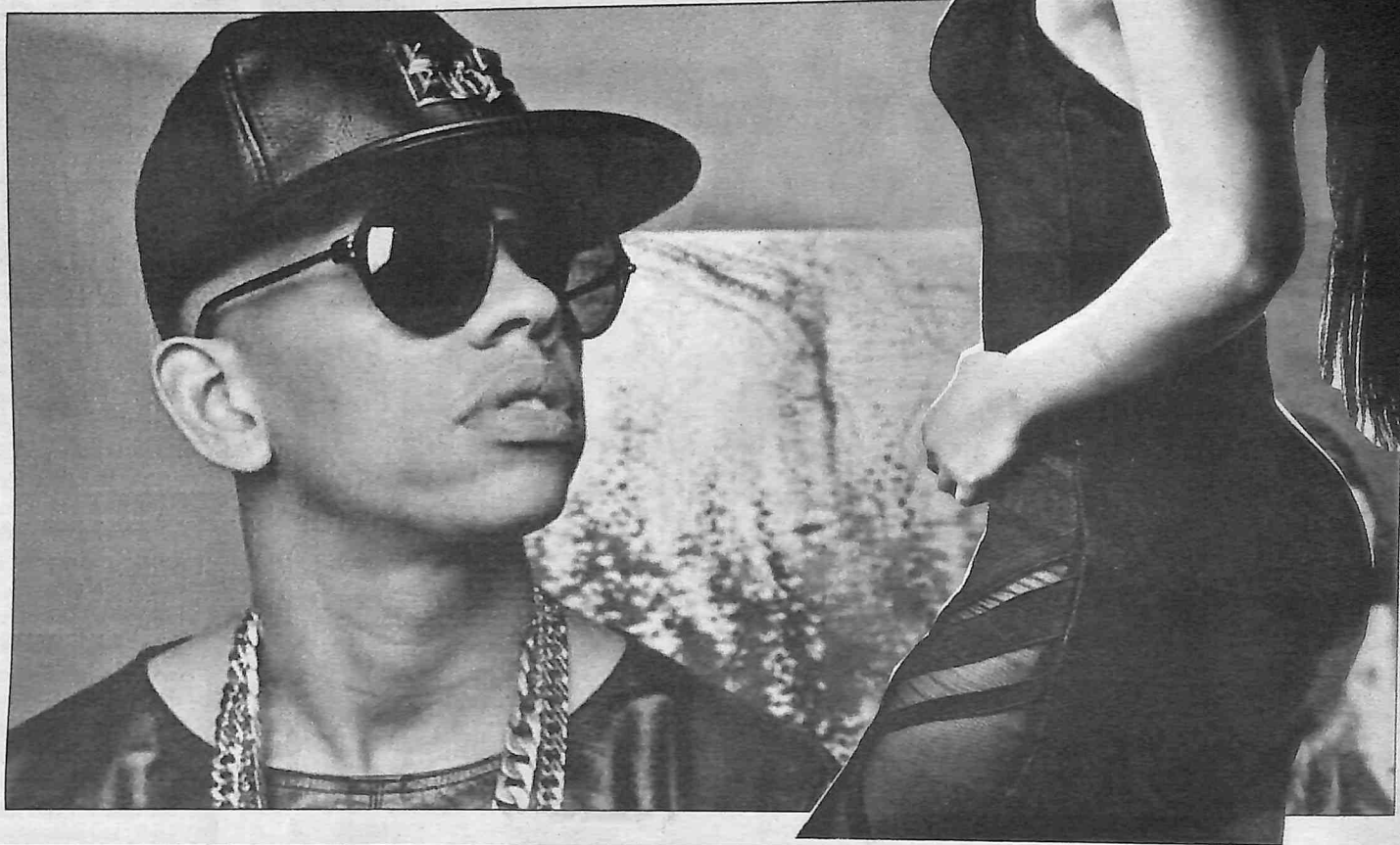
probably don't but I'm so excited for the Eastern Cape born young lady.

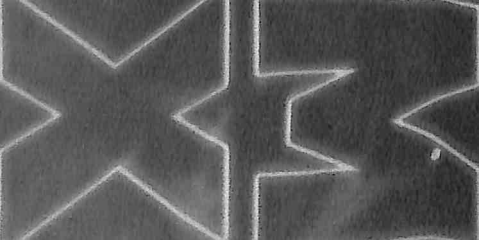
Yes, Amanda Black is finally winning. After signing with THE record label at the moment - Ambitioz Entertainment, the young singer's album went platinum in just 21 days. The singer has an angelic and melodic voice that would make even the hardest of hearts melt.

This surely makes it clear to any naysayers of Ambitioz that they have a way of making their artists tick. Last year during this time, the buzz was around Emtee and Fifi Cooper and their albums sold very well. Following that, we were introduced to A-Reece, Sjava, Saudi and now Amanda Black. Ayy, they can do their thing, hope our own labels are learning and taking notes.

ADRIENE Foo


FOO IS DANGEROUS!





SundayObserver Scene

#END OF YEAR ISSUE



MERRY
XMAS

WRITER'S NOTE:

We are almost done. We are at the very end of the year and this is the very last issue of the year. This is the last working Sunday of the year (if there is anything like that) simply because the next two Sundays are holidays. Deciding on what our issue for the week should be was a mammoth task because of the above reason. So we decided to do what we could have done if the last Sunday wasn't a holiday. An idea of who or where you should crossover. This year promises to close off in style. On one hand we have the Big Five Event, which the SCENE team fully supports because it is 100% Swazi. It is high time that we support our own, this for me is more about loyalty more than anything. Choosing your own and standing by it regardless of the situation. I realise choosing the Big Five 24 hour party will be hard because of the Insane Umdabula line-up but think deep and think loyalty.

The umdabula Fest line-up is crazy, it will definitely be buck at the 48 hour event and SCENE can't help but wonder how insane this party will be. In a conversation with event founder Mbekezeli Zulu he said amazing will be redefined in that 48 hours and invited SCENE to come witness the shift because the entertainment industry in the country would never be the same after this event.

We also named people that we would like to see more of in 2017. The list was quite debated in the newsroom but eventually these are the ones we decided to go with.

With that out of the way we would like to thank you our dear readers for remaining loyal all year round and for the feedback. We hope that next year will be an even better year for all of us. As we enjoy all the festivities can we keep it in mind that January is an even longer month.

Till next year. Peace be upon you.

2016 has been a great year. Lessons were learnt, new talent unveiled and new faces took over the entertainment SCENE.

This year alone we were exposed to tonnes of amazing people, young and old. These people left a mark and as SCENE we would like to see more of them and their work moving forward.

This year we learnt that anything you set your sights on is possible just as long as you work insanely hard to achieve it. Just this year a local artist, Sands released an album and sold over 5000 copies in just five days.

This is history; this is a new record and a challenge for all other artists in the country.

This is proof that whatever you want and gracefully work hard for you can get. This being our last issue it is paramount that we not only throw back but we also acknowledge people that we the SCENE team think are amazing. Today we name them, we raise them and we hope we will see more of their work in 2017.

1. Lindelo Dlamini - This young woman is living proof that dynamites do come small in packages. The first time she walked into our offices we were all shocked at her petite posture simply because we had conversed with her before over the phone and when she speaks you would swear a big person is on the other end of the line.

Dlamini, has big dreams and she is a doer. We attended the inception of the 'Power Clique' event that she hosted and it was amazing. We look forward to the second one and we hope that she will not just wait until August to do something.

We hope that she will do more shows that look to inspire women. We raise you up high Lindelo and we hope that next year you will do bigger and greater things.

2. Farai Chabatha - Chabatha is what the bible refers to as the good Samaritan. Every time he makes news he is going out of his way to make someone's life better. This year he spent a day with children from Ekwetsembeni Special School.

He refuses to do interviews with the media, his argument is the Foundation that is named after him is not about him but it is about the people it benefits. Our hope is that the foundation does more work in the country and that it gets assistance from anyone touched by their work like we are.

3. Zandile Simelane - She is a Swazi based in South Africa and is an HIV/Aids advocate.

Simelane is the girl that has been on radio, TV, newspapers and magazines speaking about the deadly virus. Simelane was diagnosed with the virus and has not been shy about that. She is phenomenal, she speaks the truth to fact, she speaks power, she speaks acceptance and there is no denying that she is great.

Next year we hope to see more of her, we pray that the country realises the beast that is this young girl and utilises her in the fight against new HIV/Aids infections. We love her and we salute her.

4. King Terry - This young man is changing the face of entertainment in the country.

PEOPLE WE WANT TO SEE MORE OF IN 2017...



Without fail, every other weekend he brought loyalists at the Pub n Grill top class Royal Nights. Royal Nights were the event to attend for Ezulwini folk and we hope next year can only get better. We hope that more entertainers will support this beautiful vision and work together to make it a even a bigger success story.

5. Illa Penboy - say what you like but Illa is the life of the entertainment industry in this country. He has a beautiful spirit, big dreams and is full of life.

Illu is the type of person who doesn't let anything get to him and he has an idea of what he wants from his career.

We want to hear more from him and we hope that eventually he will get the support needed to change the face of entertainment in the country.

6. Sharon Maziya - Maziya has accepted that she is not just GM of a company but a brand.

Maziya is a motivational speaker, a role model and a mentor to many young women. When that woman speaks, you have no choice but to listen. Her voice is soothing

and what she says makes a lot of sense. We have seen her mainly at graduation parties; in 2017 we want to see her speak to bigger crowds because she has the capacity to change lives.

7. Dr Mike Matsebula - The recently retired Swaziland Sugar Association CEO is all sorts of amazing. When Matsebula opens his mouth wisdom is imparted to those that are listening. We feel Matsebula still has a lot to offer and we hope he will not let retirement keep him from inspiring and motivating young people. We hope next year will be the year when he

speaks more to us young people.

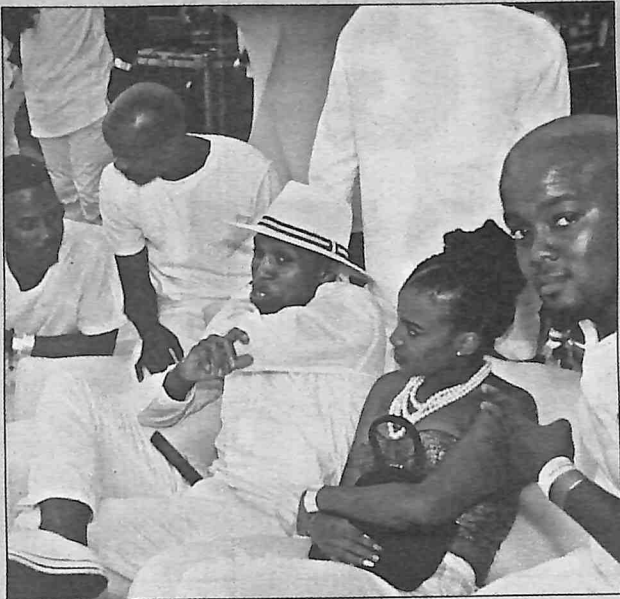


Party like OG at the Grande Mansion party....

If you are all about exclusivity and you want to crossover in style and class then this is definitely the party for you. The second annual Grande Mansion will be at the House in Heaven, down the valley. The show which saw the who's who of the entertainment industry and society.

The all exclusive party is a must experience at least once in this lifetime because it is amazeballs. The show is hosted by the fantabulous DJ Tenderness and he has promised a night to remember.

The show will be at the new 'IT' spot, House in Heaven. The exclusive, upscale party is a 12 hour jol starting at 6pm on the 31st till 6am the fol-



lowing morning. To emphasise the exclusivity there will be only a hundred tickets sold to the public, before the day

of the party. The 100 people who will be at the party will be invited by the host, so in all there will be 200 people at this



crossover party.

Since, this is an upscale party, fun lovers who want to attend must stick to the theme which

is strictly white and gold. We all know that white and gold is for Kings!! Pre-sale tickets are available at all Spur outlets in

the country and the line-up will be announced in due course. SCENE is definitely making a stop at this party.

"It will be a buck night, fun lovers must be prepared for the night of their lives,"

LET'S DABULA ALL THE WAY TO 2017

The Umdabula Festival promises to be a memorable event.

The show which many didn't buy into at first because it seemed too good to be true is definitely going down. The 48hour event slated for Tums Water World is one for the books; the line-up is insane and the set up is crazy. Fun lovers who are all about mad fun, will definitely have the time of their lives here. The organisers of the event released the final line-up a week ago and it is jam packed. We have heard from the grapevine that more artists will be added to the line-up. This week SCENE spoke to the event founder Mbekezele

Zulu who promised us that the show will be off the hook. "It will be a buck night, fun lovers must be prepared for a night of their lives," he said.

Zulu further said the VIP on the night will be worthy of being called one and the treatment will be top notch.

"You have never seen a VIP area like that in the country," he said. Zulu even invited SCENE to pay the VIP area on the day a visit.

Fun lovers across the Kingdom have vowed to attend the show and one cannot fault them because the line-up is amazing:

THE LINE-UP

December, 31

- Cassper
- Babes Wodumo
- Big Nuz
- Shola
- Bongz
- Fistaz Mixwell
- Andy X
- Lady Cream
- Mix Mash
- Benny
- Mfundo
- Mr P
- Chester
- Ducks

January, 1

- Nasty C and other Mabala Noise crew
- Black Coffee
- Sands
- Tira
- Sox
- Chynaman
- Peace
- DD Cool
- Deep motion
- Freestyle
- The Scientist
- Zolani



PROFILING THE BIG-5'S ARTISTS

#Khwesha

KARLY - B DJ PROFILE

Real name Khulekani Baphelele Mamba, DJ KARLY B has over the years, become one of Swaziland's celebrated household names in the entertainment circles.

His ability to fuse proficiency, edification as well as experience in his approach has somehow rendered him distinctive in presenting his toil.

He has somehow managed to strike a balance in both matured and youthful entertainment by widening his music scope, thereby bridging the generation gap presented by age & preference in entertainment.

The stage name "Karly-B" emanates from a high school nickname, which came to life at the debut of the clothing brand "Karl Kani" whose articulation sounds pretty close to the name Khulekani. The "B" springs from the first initial of his middle name, Baphelele.

His deejaying career came to life in 2007, while he served as a sound technician for shows organised by the then giants of the industry, Sandla Entertainment.

He drew his inspiration from the company's director and

former Southern African Sprite DJ Champion, DJ Wicked Hands, whose talent and passion was impossible to ignore.

"I never really dreamt of being a DJ, I just never pictured myself as one until I saw this guy in action...he made me fall in love with the decks" declares Karly B. It was not long before he started experimenting a couple of tricks he procured from the master at work and slowly mastered the art.

"Most of what I know was self-taught but credit is due to yet another friend and mentor, Vusi Nkambule, who helped me understand the equipment involved and sacrificed a lot just to see me become a better DJ. I guess he is the influence behind my old school music taste and preference".

It wasn't long before Karly B joined yet another celebrated stable, Swaziboy Entertainment, both as a sound engineer and DJ. This is where his experience broadened and passion for the game increased.

"I started collecting music,

practising and getting better and better by the day.

In the early days of 2008, he started working at Tinkers and became the resident DJ.

This is where he teamed up with a couple of friends to see the birth of entertainment stable, Big Fun Entertainment, renowned for identifying, nurturing & developing a multitude of local entertainers.

Since then, there has been no stopping for him as he has been instrumental in facilitating a multitude of events that have headlined a host of local and international acts.



ZAMA "MISTOSOUL" NTSHALINTSHALI

Msali boy, raised by religious and musical family, hence his soulful influence in his musical selection.

His love for house music dates back to his high school days, where he started perfecting his craft on deejaying in house parties around his hood Ngwane Park.

It was in 2006 when he started djaying in the club scene (City By Night, Twins Pub, Gum Tree, Club Executive) along his childhood friend Dj Rekorder.

He has also ventured into music production and has produced a Traxsource (Digital Music Shop) top 30 remix song by Nomzamo Dlamini -Lobola

(M i s t o s
Drumkeepers
Edit). Has
played at parties
in Swaziland and
in South Africa,
the Cafe
M o g a m b o
24hr X-over
party, Spring Bash,
48hr Final
Countdown, Swazi
Party (UJ & Vaal),
Dj Rekorder &
Mistosoul Birthday
Party, House Afrika

...a true Bremer



10 years Anniversary CD. He has shared stage with Swaziland's legendary DJs Crooks, Wicked, Ntombz, Xtra Luv and also with world's greatest DJs Christos, Vinny Da Vinci, Black Coffee, QB Smith, Rocco, Ralf Gum, Kanunu, Mushroom Boyz. He has co-hosted a Deep House radio show (Late Nite Deep 'LND') on Swaziland national radio SBIS 2.

Companies and Music Houses working with: +268 Records, Swaziboy Ent., Late Nite Deep Events, Late Nite

Deep Radio Show, Antidote Music, RythmLab Project, Que n' Play, The Lounge Music Studios, Music Baptism Ent. His work and involvement with established brands speak volumes about the passion he has about the art. Currently made residency at Deja Vu, blazing soulful sets that will lift your spirits and put you on cloud 9, you can't afford to miss his set at The Big Five 24 Hour Party Esibayeni lodge 31 December 2016...in soul we believe!

DJ YUGO

Crowned Swaziland best DJ 2011 under Big Fun Entertainment. A Soulful house mixer and selector from classics to future house classics.

A veteran who has perfected his craft through the use of his knowledge and experience in reading any crowd has made him a true Swazi Ambassador of dance floors everywhere he performs.

Has performed alongside many big acts, both locally and internationally such as Dj Christos, Dj Black Coffee, Ralf Gum, Cubique, Vinny Da

Vinci, Dj China, Dj Crooks, Dj Master P just To Name A Few. He has been a constant feature since the inception of The S.T.O.R.M. festival and had the honour of playing at most of the biggest and popular spots in the country and outside the country.

He has also been featured at the local radio station countless times, airing his live mixing of house music sessions, which attracted a lot of house music lovers. Meet him at THE BIG FIVE 24 HOUR PARTY killing it on THE INTO DEEP SESSIONS floor.

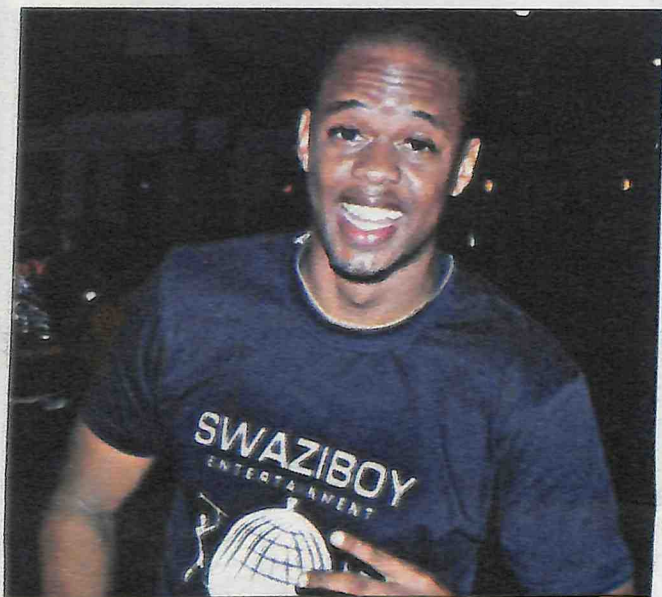


ILLA PENBOY

Needs no introduction, Swazi born and raised artist, Illa Penboy is a talented musician who practices the skill of rhyming in vernacular rap. SHHH VOOM RAP. SHHH VOOM RAP encompasses various elements from various musical backgrounds.

It involves street-talk and highly influential messages in Siswati and English, yet largely comprehended lingo. Illa Penboy brings a different flavour and sound, not only to this type of music but also to the Hip-Hop scene. One of his objectives is to encourage and inspire an international appeal into Swazi music. Illa Penboy worked with some of the hottest rappers in the game. He worked with the likes of: KRTC, Qibho, Kangaroo, 80 Script and Subjamz The Producer, Carrency, Lyrical Busta.

His two singles; Phola Mshana featuring 80 Script and Skorokoro featuring KRTC, Kangaroo & Qibho dominated the airwaves in the previous year and this year. Illa Penboy – is fast becoming one of Swaziland's hip-hop elite – from getting more bookings to massive radio play, performing locally and internationally. He recently won the song of the year award - Umcimbi. And just dropped his new album titled "Brawam"



DJ TEMPT

Real name Xoli Malinga popular Dj who goes by the name of Dj Tempt specialises in relevant current to yester house tunes. Born and bred in Manzini, popular among the country's youth and he plays in SD's outing hot spots.

Most of you may wonder why the name TEMPT, well his surname is Malinga and that said "linga" an expression derived from the surname in English means "tempting" and that's where the name came from...

Get ready to be mesmerized and tempted on The Big Five 24 Hour Party Wololo Dance Floor @ Cafe Mogambo, Esibayeni Lodge December 31 2016



Movie Review

Why Him? is an upcoming American romantic comedy film directed by John Hamburg and co-written with Ian Helfer.

The film stars James Franco, Bryan Cranston, Zoey Deutch, Megan Mullally, Griffin Gluck and Keegan-Michael Key. The film will be released on December 23, 2016 by 20th Century Fox.

Plot

While visiting their eldest daughter Stephanie (Zoey Deutch), Ned Fleming (Bryan Cranston) and his wife Barb (Megan Mullally), along with their 15-year old son Scott (Griffin Gluck), are introduced to Stephanie's wealthy and famous boyfriend, Laird Mayhew (James Franco). Laird's vulgar, gregarious, and blunt personality is slightly overwhelming for Barb and Scott, but causes Ned to downright despise him. However, Stephanie insists that he's a nice person, and that he makes her happy. But when Laird reveals he plans to propose to Stephanie in only five days, the race to prove himself worthy of her love so Ned can give them his blessing begins. Laird goes out of his way to win over Barb and Scott, while Ned schemes to make sure Laird goes down in flames.

Cast

James Franco as Laird Mayhew, Stephanie's boyfriend

- Bryan Cranston as Ned Fleming, Stephanie's father and Barb's husband
- Zoey Deutch as Stephanie Fleming, Laird's girlfriend and Ned and Barb's daughter and Scott's older sister
- Megan Mullally as Barb Fleming, Ned's wife and Stephanie's mother
- Griffin Gluck as Scotty Fleming,

WHY HIM?



Stephanie's 15-year old younger brother and Ned and Barb's son

● Keegan-Michael Key as Gustav, the billionaire's European-hailing estate manager

● Cedric the Entertainer as Lou Dunne, Ned's friend

● Kaley Cuoco as the voice of Justine, Laird's in-home artificial intelligence

- Zack Pearlman
- Steve Aoki as himself
- Casey Wilson
- Andrew Rannells
- Adam DeVine

Production

On November 18, 2014, it was revealed that John Hamburg was co-writing a comedy film Why Him? with Ian Helfer for 20th Century Fox. On February

27, 2015, James Franco was in talks to join the film to play a young billionaire. Shawn Levy's 21 Laps Entertainment and Ben Stiller's Red Hour Productions would be producing the film, about a Midwestern father who travels with his family to visit a daughter at college and finds himself in a battle with her new billionaire boyfriend. On August 25, 2015, Bryan Cranston joined the film to play the father.

In August 2015, the film was selected by the California Film Commission to receive \$5.4 million in tax credits. On January 12, 2016, Griffin Gluck was added to the cast of the film to play Scotty Fleming, the son of Cranston's character. On January 13, 2016, Megan Mullally joined the film to play Barb Fleming, the wife of Ned (played by Cranston).

Passengers

Passengers is an upcoming romantic science fiction thriller film directed by Morten Tyldum and written by Jon Spaihts.

It stars Jennifer Lawrence and Chris Pratt as two people who wake up 90 years too soon from an induced hibernation on board a spaceship bound for a new planet. The film is set to be released in the United States on December 21, 2016 by Columbia Pictures

Plot

The spaceship Starship Avalon, on its 120-year voyage to a distant colony planet known as "Homestead II" and transporting 5 259 people, has a malfunction in two of its sleep chambers. As a result, two hibernation pods open prematurely and the two people that awake are stranded on the spaceship, still 90 years from their destination. Aurora Dunn (Jennifer Lawrence) is a journalist from New York City who is interested in cosmic travel. Jim Preston

(Chris Pratt) is a mechanical engineer from Denver who wants to leave Earth and bought the ticket for the journey. The two soon discover that the malfunction that caused them to be awakened prematurely is not the only problem afflicting the huge spaceship, and as they try to find a way out, they soon find themselves falling in love.

Cast

- Jennifer Lawrence as Aurora Dunn, a writer
- Chris Pratt as Jim Preston, a mechanical engineer
- Michael Sheen as Arthur, a robot bartender
- Laurence Fishburne as Chief Gus Mancuso
- Andy García as Adm. Norris
- Aurora Perrineau as Celeste

Production

Yes, it was a popular script. It's one of those stories that really grabs you and you fall in love with it. It's very smart and funny and clever and such a page turner I couldn't put it down. Every 10 pages, something new happens! At the same time it's a very

intimate movie while taking place on this epic scale. For me, it's a story about what's important to live a full life. What are the things we need as humans? It's not afraid to entertain but at the same time it asks big questions about what does it mean to really feel happy. Every generation has its love story. I feel like this is it. I had to do it.

The original script for Passengers was written by Jon Spaihts in 2007 and had been in development hell for years. At one point the film was set to star Keanu Reeves and Emily Blunt, and was to be produced for the relatively low cost of \$35 million. Brian Kirk was originally scheduled to make his feature directorial debut with the film with Reeves in the lead. On December 5, 2014, it was announced that Sony Pictures Entertainment had won the auction to take the rights to the film. In early 2015, Morten Tyldum was chosen to helm the film.

Tyldum had always wanted to do a massive sci-fi action movie but also stressed on the importance of a character-driven film rather than a cold and distant sci-fi film.

CELEBRITY NEWS

SFISO'S FRIEND SUFFERS HEART ATTACK!

SIBUSISO Mabheba survived his long-time friend Sfiso Ncwane's funeral in Durban.

But on Sunday evening, the 31-year-old collapsed while watching a tribute to the gospel star on TV. He regained consciousness in hospital, where he was told he had suffered a heart attack. Sibusiso from Tweefontein, near KwaMhlanga in Mpumalanga, is still recovering in hospital. He said when he saw his friend's coffin being lowered into the ground on TV, he suddenly realised he would never see Sfiso again.

"I was very emotional after I returned from the funeral in Durban. Watching the tribute on TV was the last straw."

Zakes Bantwini opens up about being a new dad

Cape Town - Zakes Bantwini is trying to be a better man. Musician Zakes Bantwini and his wife, Nandi Madida, welcomed their baby boy in November and have chosen to keep their newborn clear of the spotlight.

Speaking to V-Entertainment Zakes - who is not a first-time father - said, "But this time around it's special because I'm married now, getting a chance of really just raising my son."

He explained that people will probably not see pictures of the baby for at least a month or two because that's how they do things in the Zulu culture. "That's why you wouldn't see my child on Instagram or any other social media at least after a certain time."

He went on to say he just wants to be a better man.

Soulja Boy arrested for illegally possessing a gun

Los Angeles - Soulja Boy, the rapper who started a viral dance craze while still a teenager with Crank That, was arrested

Thursday for illegally possessing a gun, police said. Officers entered his Los Angeles home early in the morning and took him into custody after discovering the firearm, a police spokesman said.

Although the United States has lenient gun laws, Soulja Boy is banned from owning a firearm as part of his probation following an earlier arrest.

The rapper was detained in 2014 for carrying a loaded gun after police pulled over the driver of his car on suspicion of ignoring a stop sign. The 26-year-old rapper, whose real name is DeAndre Cortez Way, was behind one of the previous decade's biggest dance memes with his debut single Crank.

BLACK COFFEE AND ENHLE MAKE IT OFFICIAL!

International DJ Black Coffee and his wife Enhle Mbali Mlotswa are set to finally have their much anticipated white wedding early next year. The pair got engaged in 2010 and later got married in a traditional wedding in Soweto and were blessed with two children. The couple waited nearly 6 years for their white wedding day.

DJ Fresh revealed on his show that he has been invited to the couple's wedding which will be held on the 1st Sunday of 2017 at an undisclosed location. The guest list

is said to be including only close friends and family.

JUSTIN BIEBER IS COMING TO MZANSI!

On Thursday, Big Concerts announced global superstar Justin Bieber will be coming to Mzansi in 2017 as part of his 'Purpose World Tour', presented by Discovery.

With worldwide album sales in excess of 100 million units, Bieber has dominated pop culture and social media.

With 3.1 million sales worldwide for his latest album 'Purpose' Justin Bieber's current global tour has smashed box office records. Hit singles include 'What Do You Mean', 'Sorry', 'Love Yourself' which all peaked at number one on the Billboard Top 200 making Bieber the first male artist in almost a decade to have three number ones from an album, and now, Justin Bieber brings his Purpose World Tour to

South Africa with two stadium shows.

DETAILS:

Johannesburg: 14th May at FNB Stadium
Cape Town: 17th May at Cape Town Stadium
With 947, KFM and M-Net and Channel 24. Another Big Concerts Experience.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets go on sale 15th December at 9am. Go to www.bigconcerts.co.za for all the information.
Discovery Pre-Sale: Discovery cardholders get exclusive access to tickets from 13th December. Go to www.discovery.co.za for more information.

ALL THE HIP-HOP AWARD WINNERS!



THE SA Hip-Hop Awards celebrate the biggest and best contribution to the development of the country's hip-hop music.

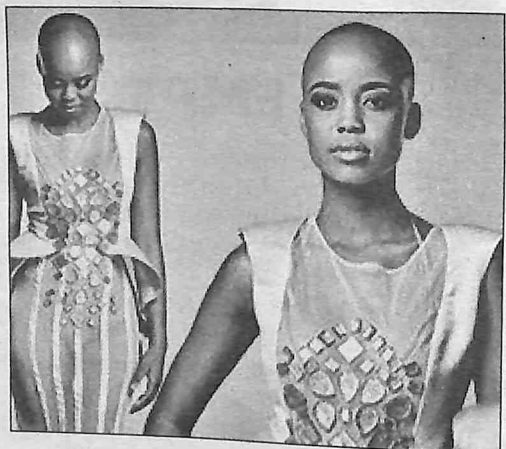
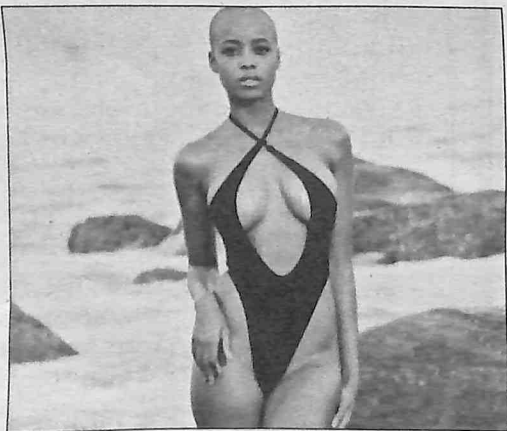
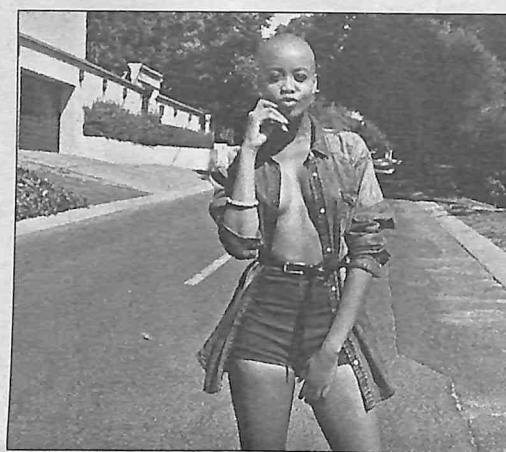
Cassper cleaned up at this year's award ceremony held Wednesday at the Lyric Theatre, Gold Reef City, Joburg. He walked away with five awards.



Full list of winners:

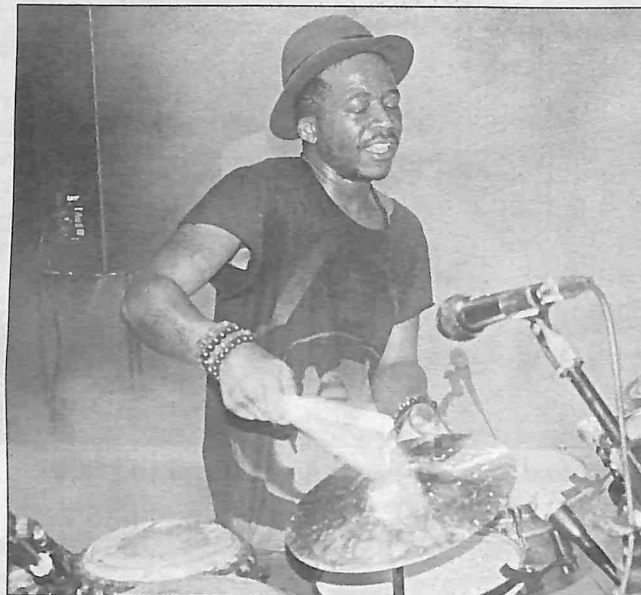
HONORARY AWARD Goddessa	SPRITE PRESENTS BEST FRESHMAN Fifi Cooper	BEST FEMALE Fifi Cooper
MOST VALUABLE Cassper Nyovest	MIXTAPE OF THE YEAR Gigi Lamayne- Groudzero	BEST MALE Emtee
BEST LOCAL BRAND Butan	HUSTLER OF THE YEAR Cassper Nyovest	BEST HIP HOP RADIO SHOW Namba Bamba - Ukhozi FM
BEST INTERNATIONAL BRAND Power Play	LYRICIST OF THE YEAR A-Reece	BEST VIDEO Miss Pru - Ameni
BEST DANCE CREW Supreme I Crew	BEST GRAFFITI Riot	SONG OF THE YEAR Kwesi ft Cassper N'gudu
PROMOTER OF THE YEAR Pop Bottles	PRODUCER OF THE YEAR Tweezy	BEST DIGITAL SALES Cassper Nyovest
DJ OF THE YEAR Dj Speedsta	BEST COLLABO Miss Pru-Ameni	MILESTONE Cassper Nyovest
ALBUM OF THE YEAR Emtee - Avery	BEST COLLABO Miss Pru-Ameni	BEST REMIX Emtee ft AKA & Wizkid Roll Up
		KING OF NORTHERN CAPE King Kyla
		KING OF EASTERN CAPE Trusenz Nzama
		KING OF KWAZULU NATAL Junior de Rocka
		KING OF FREE STATE BA2CADA
		KING OF MPUMALANGA Fortune Ntekat
		KING OF NORTH WEST Lunch Boy
		KING OF WESTERN CAPE EMILE X'Y
		KING OF LIMPOPO Hip hop Lives SA
		KING OF GAUTENG Major League

Ntando Duma's hottest looks



NEWS . GOSSIP . ENTERTAINMENT

TITBITS



J. CREW LAUNCH REVIEW

New kids on the block last week launched themselves in style at the Woodlands arena.

The launch party which was almost spoiled by rains and loadshedding is one to always remember.

Much as the show failed to attract throngs of people it was a show worthy of attending. Yes, it started off late, at 10.20pm to be precise but the spirit of the organisers must be commended for not allowing the rains and the loadshedding to stop the fun.

The Performance: Insane

In a telephonic interview with this publication, BlackMotion through their management promised a mind-blowing performance for the J.Crew launch and they lived up to their word on Friday.

The duo well known for their electrifying performances on Friday gave an out of this world performance characterised by the mannequin move and dancing on the turntables. The duo who took to stage at 1am last Saturday serenaded the crowd with their hit tracks like 'rejoice' 'imali' 'fortune teller' 'rainbow' amongst many. From the beginning of their set the deejay and the drummer drove the crowd wild and the crowd danced the whole two hours the pair played.

Speaking after their performance Dj Mudah said it was always an honour to perform in the country and they wished they could be interviewed even more.

He said they were still exploring the idea of coming to Swaziland for their album tour. "The love we got



tonight was insane and we would like to come back here, but we will work on it," he said.

Rains, Loadshedding Almost Spoil Show...

Twice the organisers of the show had to start over setting up due to the heavy rains experienced on the night.

The event which was scheduled to begin at 6pm on Friday ended up

taking off at 10pm due to the heavy rains and loadshedding experienced on the night.

The first rains which started ouring at around 5.30pm brought down the stage that was mounted behind the Woodlands Conference Centre wetting the deejaying equipment in the process. DJ 711 had to rush home to get substitutes of the now wet equipment.

Just when they were done setting

up for the second time the rains started all over again, this time wetting what was meant to be the VIP lounge couches.

The organisers of the show were still trying to figure out where their VIP guests would sit because of the wet couches and then there was an electricity blackout.

The blackout lasted for an hour and it was only after the hour that the show officially kicked off with



deejay Yugo and NYD on the decks. The two DJs played for an hour and they did well to start off the party as people were seen moving towards the dance floor at this point. They were followed by Uniswa duo known as the Drummer Boyz who gave a killer performance, they even had the blackmotion duo that was already at the venue dancing. DrummerBoyz were followed by Hiphop deejay; Stitch who played all the latest hip hop tracks. Stitch was then followed by Blackmotion.

Ur Gal Zee who was MC of the night also did well and kept the crowd entertained in between DJs. Signing out Ur Gal Zee thanked everyone for making the J.Crew official launch a success and pointed out that in the end charity was the winner as all proceeds from the show would go towards charity.



Behind the Scene

WHEN CHORAL MUSIC LOVERS HIT JOBURG FOR NCF FINALS....

BY SIMON SHABANGU
SPONSORED BY OLD MUTUAL



Old Mutual Sales Manager Alec Mzileni and CEO Muzi Bell enjoying the on the day.



Sihle, Jozana, Bheki, Sikelela and Mathokoza Sibiya in a conversation.

Sbusiso Dlamini in song.



Sox, Londiwe, Banothile and Fanele could not miss out.



Ncobile madesure she got a copy of Pretty Yende cd which ensured it was autographed.



Royal Swazi Spa Choir during the rendition of the indigenous piece.



Some of the attendees.



Local choral music legend Sam Sikelela Msibi with a panel of adjudicators.



Bongile Mavuso, Nozipho Dlamini and Bavumile Dlamini.

When the sensational Pretty Yende mesmerised the audience with her classy performance.



SUNDAY PODIUM

PROSTITUTION RIFE IN SWAZILAND

Have you ever driven late from the capital to the Hub of our beautiful Kingdom during the hours just before midnight?

You will most probably, no let me say most definitely find half naked women stopping you and flashing what is supposed to be their private parts.

Now, it occurred to me that every day we read the local newspapers and learn of stories whereby marijuana dealers have been busted or drink-driving masters beseeching magistrates for a lenient judgement or fraud thugs being arrested and some acquitted (Pun Intended), but we never hear anything about the ladies of the night being arrested, nothing. Or is it now legal maybe overlooked because we (society) understand the situations that lead to its practise?

A couple of months into the year 2016, the whole region was hit with the blessers phenomenon. Suddenly, girls and young women were proud to flaunt their older sex-buddies who reward quite heftily for the act.

Even high school girls were in it too!

Due to the materialistic-centred society we have now turned to be whereby the impenitent love of 'things' now exceeds morality and indeed basic common sense.

To me, this thing (blessers's thingamajig) has always been happening, just that now; it's made to appear as 'cool'. Whatever cool is to those?

It's also now been brought to the public medium by the new-school forums such as social media.

If you don't believe me, then why do we have corporate prostitution? Yeah, you know the sophisticated kind of sex workers, who clandestinely sell their bodies for sexual satisfaction in a different way from the renowned 'ladies of the night'.

That's why they are often overlooked as prostitutes because we are now used to them. Some, don't even know it themselves that they are in the trade because it's a way of living for them.

In every area around the country, there are those average unemployed young women or an average employee in Swaziland earning about E3 000 to E5 000 a month and has the nicest clothes, the fanciest cars, the pricey jewellery, is out partying every night and lives in an expensive apartment.

Please get me clearly, I'm not saying that successful women are prostitutes;

I'm just merely trying to make a point here. We have now openly turned a blind eye; if not secretly accepted seeing this.

That's why we will now get into this pandemonium where young girls choose the easy way over hard work. Parents are also to blame as they gleefully accept 'goodies' knowing very well that their children are



● *To me, this thing is very easy. Girls start doing their erroneous acts from as early as high school, if not University. Simply because they have gotten used to their costly lifestyle, they can't settle for less and as a result, they continue and do it corporately. The ones we see being actual 'ladies of the night' are the more on-the-breadline type. Those are desperate to make ends meet such that they don't mind openly selling their bodies.*

unemployed. Some are even breadwinners for their families!

To me, this thing is very easy. Girls start doing their erroneous acts from as early as high school, if not University. Simply because they have gotten used to their costly lifestyle, they can't settle for less and as a result, they continue and do it corporately.

The ones we see being actual 'ladies of the night' are the more on-the-breadline type.

Those are desperate to make ends

meet such that they don't mind openly selling their bodies.

What boggles the mind to me is why the police aren't doing something, or rather anything at all?

That's really something that should be up for discussion in the public sphere because maybe we can find out that Swazis actually would have no problem with accepting it. Or maybe they would ask for more stringent action to be taken to those practising it.

Who knows?

In the case of prostitution being accepted, I think it would be much safer for them (Prostitution). It would mean they would be able to have rules and that would help us alleviate the HIV/AIDS phenomenon.

Then this brings me to the biggest question – so many men are into this, why?

If they didn't get support, then we wouldn't be seeing them every day in the night. It means business is booming. It means they are able to

make a living.

From whom and for what reason is the interesting part? Is it married men suffering from marriage problems, or is it from the young men looking to have casual sex. The truth is I can't find the answer but what I do know is we as a society are perpetrating prostitution by turning a blind eye or simply rolling them, forgetting that your own child, wife or even parent might be putting food on the table because of it.

By Sibusiso Dlamini

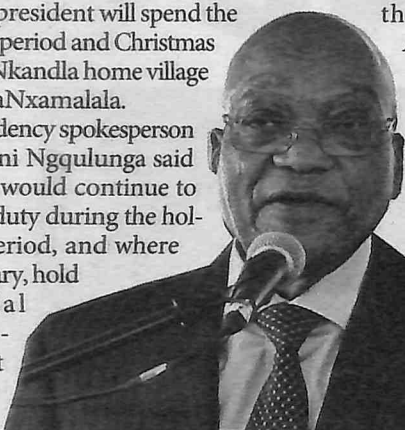
Focus on SA scene

ZUMA WISHES SOUTH AFRICANS A PEACEFUL FESTIVE SEASON

DURBAN – President Jacob Zuma yesterday wished South Africans a peaceful, joyous and restful festive season.

The president will spend the festive period and Christmas at his Nkandla home village of KwaNxamalala.

Presidency spokesperson Bongani Ngqulunga said Zuma would continue to be on duty during the holiday period, and where necessary, hold official meetings at home.



SA President Jacob Zuma.

in Nkandla on urgent matters of state. His festive season schedule includes attending the annual Msholozhi soccer tournament in Eshowe yesterday and the annual celebration of the AmaNxamalala Trust, an annual Zuma clan gathering to celebrate their founder Inkosi Matomela, in Mpendle tomorrow.

He is expected to attend the annual chess tournament on Tuesday in Sibusisiwe Hall, Mandeni, north of KwaZulu-Natal. "As an

avid chess player and promoter of the sport, President Zuma believes if chess is rolled out in schools, it would teach children key strategic thinking and they would excel in these strategies and tactics as adults," Ngqulunga said.

On December 24, he will attend the annual Christmas Party for senior citizens at Savannah Park near Chatsworth in Durban. The Jacob Zuma RDP Education Trust Senior Citizens' Christmas Party will take place on December 27 at the Mnyakanya Secondary School Sports Ground in Nkandla.

On December 29, Zuma will host the Jacob Zuma RDP Education Trust Youth and Children Christmas Party. **NEWS24**

13 injured from wind swept marquee during Zuma's speech

ZEEERUST – At least 13 people were injured when gale force winds blew over a marquee in Gopane near Zeerust where President Jacob Zuma was delivering a Reconciliation Day speech on Friday.

North West police spokesperson Brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone said: "The injured persons include two police officials, a local municipality mayor and a chief."

According to police, of the 13 injured, four were admitted to hospital while the rest were treated and discharged. The North West provincial government had earlier said no one was injured. A storm wreaked havoc, uprooting the marquee tent in which the Reconciliation Day celebration was held, forcing Zuma to stop his speech as security personnel moved in to whisk him to safety.

Strong winds accompanied by rain blew over the tent at around 1pm, just as Zuma was outlining government's intervention in Marikana following the killing of 44 people during a violent wildcat strike at Lonmin platinum mine operations in Marikana near Rustenburg in

August 2012.

Thirty four mineworkers were killed by the police on August 16, 2012, while 10 people, including two policemen and two security guards, were killed a week before.

Zuma said among the actions being taken was the provision of housing by government and also the mining company in order to improve living conditions. "Importantly, the issue of compensation, particularly for loss of support for the deceased families, for unlawful arrest and detentions, is being attended to. The South African Police Service is ready to pay. "Government lawyers are working with the legal teams of the affected persons or families of the deceased to finalise the claims. We cannot bring those who died back. However, we can and must do our best to ensure that the lives of their children improve."

He said other remedies included taking steps against all those, particularly within the police service, who were found to have committed criminality in the way they handled the situation at Marikana.

Africa News Agency

'Des van Rooyen must stop turning MK into Guptas' private army'

JOHANNESBURG – The Congress of the People (COPE) has accused Umkhonto weSizwe Military Veterans Association (MKMVA) Treasurer General Des Van Rooyen of trying to turn Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) into the Guptas' private army.

The party was commenting on reports that Van Rooyen, who is also the country's Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, wants to force MK veterans to read the Guptas' newspaper and watch their TV channel.

Van Rooyen reportedly told guests at the commemoration gala dinner that at the next MKMVA meeting he would push for a resolution that all members of Umkhonto we Sizwe read New Age newspaper and watch news channel ANN7, which are both owned by the Gupta family. "Van Rooyen's comments over Umkhonto we Sizwe were so reckless and irresponsible. What message is he trying to send to the country? That together with his faction want to capture Umkhonto we Sizwe and turn it into the Guptas' army?" **Timeslive**



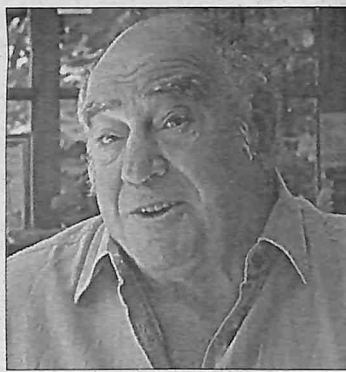
Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister Des van Rooyen.

Kasrils slams MKMVA leadership

JOHANNESBURG – Former Intelligence Minister Ronnie Kasrils slammed the current leadership of the Umkhonto weSizwe Military Veterans Association.

Kasrils has advised MKMVA to speak out against maladministration, corruption and other social ills.

Umkhonto weSizwe was formed in the 1960s to counter the Apartheid regime and it was later disbanded as the country moved towards democracy. **eNCA**



Former Intelligence Minister Ronnie Kasrils.

ARV treatment rollout in KZN prisons

DURBAN – Inmates throughout KwaZulu-Natal prisons have been trained as caregivers to assist their HIV positive peers take part in a massive ARV roll-out programme.

Speaking at the launch of the Central Chronic Medication Dispensing and Distribution (CCMDD) programme on Friday at Westville Prison, provincial health MEC Sibongiseni Dhlomo said the programme would ensure better coordinating and dispensing of chronic medications for HIV, diabetes, asthma, cancer and others. "This programme is ideal because the inmates are confined so there is minimal risk of non-adherence," he said.

Dhlomo said 4 000 HIV positive inmates from the province's 41 correctional facilities would benefit from the programme, which would also assist with eradication of stigma associated with HIV because the ARVs would be packaged sim-

ilarly to other chronic medication. KZN's prisons have 7 741 known HIV positive offenders, with 3 855 already on treatment.

"The CCMDD programme will help enrol the remaining nearly 4 000 HIV-positive inmates on ART," said Dhlomo.

"Under the new programme, pharmacies at correctional facilities in Pietermaritzburg and Durban will coordinate the collation of prescriptions from various correctional facilities in the province and submit those prescriptions to the service provider," he said.

Dhlomo said the initiative would benefit the inmates and broader society. "The vast majority of people committed to prison eventually return to the wider society. Therefore any diseases contracted in prison, or any medical conditions made worse by conditions of confinement, become issues of public health for the wider community when people are released."

Africa News Agency

Eskom praises convictions for electricity theft

JOHANNESBURG – Eskom has hailed the conviction of four people this week as a major victory in its fight against electricity theft which costs the power provider billions each year in lost revenue.

Last Monday, the Palm Ridge Regional Court ruled in favour of Eskom, handing down a guilty verdict in the case of the four accused, including a mother and son duo – aged 56 and 23, respectively.

The four, who collectively faced over 36 000 charges related to electricity theft, were found guilty on 16 451 counts.

The two main suspects, Mafuthi Chiliza and her son Nqobile from De Deur, south of Gauteng, were arrested in December 2012 when they were found in possession of a stolen Credit Dispensing Unit (CDU), a machine belonging to Eskom that

prints out prepaid electricity vouchers.

Also recovered from the Chiliza's premises was a hard drive belonging to another stolen CDU machine,

numerous customer lists, including electricity meter numbers, 996 illegal prepaid electricity vouchers of varying value as well as other equipment used for printing prepaid electricity vouchers.

The two other suspects, who were also found in possession of cus-

tomers lists, meter numbers and illegal prepaid vouchers, were linked to Mafuthi Chiliza, whom the court established was the ring leader of a syndicate that sold illegal prepaid electricity vouchers, through records found on their mobile phones.

Telephone records also linked Chiliza to Andile Mgadi, who was also arrested for the illegal possession of a CDU machine but was murdered during the trial.

The victory was described as a great coup by Richard De Nobrega, senior adviser for Eskom Security Investigations, who also testified at the trial.

"Eskom loses billions each year to electricity theft," said De Nobrega during his testimony. "But Eskom or the state is not the only victim of this crime. To recover the money that is lost by the power utility due to electricity theft, including illegal

connections, meter tampering and bypassing and the selling of illegal prepaid vouchers, Eskom is forced to increase the price of elec-

tricity, which ultimately affects legal electricity users in the form of increased tariffs." Following the guilty verdict, the state applied for an investigation into how the four accused benefited from their illegal activity, which could lead to the seizure of assets, including real estate and vehicles. **Timeslive**

Eskom
South African power utility

SUNDAYCOMMENT:

THINK ABOUT TOMORROW

The festive season ends in exactly 14 days. In actual fact, it really ends on Boxing Day because the very next day when shops open, back-to-school items replace the frills of Christmas.

However, when looking at the way people are spending and acting, it seems as though they believe it will last forever. Come January 2, it will all be over. All that will be left will be expressions which run along the lines of 'complements of the new year' and that will be it.

Office parties started a few days back and sadly, some people will be unable to look their colleagues in the eyes because of bad behaviour brought about by the atmosphere of indulging in alcohol and loose morals. Remember the case of the three Standard Bank managers who fought their employer tooth and nail after being reshuffled following their alleged witnessing of a sex romp in the toilet during a staff party? Hopefully, our readers will have enough sense not to lose themselves and act badly because these office parties do not mean the end of their lives because surely, Swaziland is just a village.

Stokvels, the money saving schemes usually run by women, save up for groceries which include perishables consumed during the three days which mark the festive season. These are just Christmas, Boxing Day and New Year. Having had discipline to save their thousands, the money will go towards food which will be consumed and expelled soon thereafter with only the midriff telling the story of what went into stomachs.

Some of these saving schemes have become wiser and now save towards getting money to be used for the new academic year and that is commendable.

However, it is sad to note how bonuses have already been spent on new furniture as well as clothes, making one wonder as to what was used during the 351 days that made the rest of 2016. The people who will eat and spend to their heart's desires will be the same ones lamenting the steep prices of uniforms, books and school fees come January, the month of worry.

It is sad to note the extent of consumerism in the country despite the majority of the working force complaining daily about meagre wages. How about treating Christmas the way we understand it to be? If the Christian community spent this day which comes once a year as a religious holiday where self is forgotten and Jesus' birth remembered, January would be easier to bear. After all, hardly any of the money spent goes towards praising Him who was said to have been born on this day, otherwise everybody would find cheer on the day as the best way to give Jesus presents would be by sharing with everybody in need.

Sadly, some of the behaviour we depict at this time of the year will lead to unnecessary deaths with relatives having to abandon festivities to prepare for funerals.

Would it not be wiser to remember that it does not start and end with the festive season and that life will have to go on, come January?



BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Analysis & opinion



Lawyer Sandzile Khoza (r) stressing a point to lawyer Sabelo Bhembe (l) while Qhawe Mamba and Nonhlanhla Dlamini look on. The two E50 million case suspects were acquitted by Judge Nkululeko Hlophe this week. (Pic: Mbono Mdluli)

THE COUNTRY WAS ROBBED BLIND

Reading the judgement of the E50 million case was an anti-climax for me, a real dud which then brought up feelings of anger.

Anger that after nine years of anticipating the end of the case, only three people have been blamed for causing the economy of the country to buckle.

Painful because the country lost millions, if not billions in potential revenue that could have been made had the whole process been properly done. For those with a very short memory, His Majesty King Mswati III came up with a very noble idea of empowering the nation with entrepreneurial skills and E10 million was allocated to capacity building a few years ago.

Assisting

This money was supposed to be used to teach ordinary Joe to become a business person and run enterprises instead of seeking employment. Instead of assisting people get the necessary skills to start businesses; the opportunity opened itself for fraudsters who claimed to have conducted classes for people whereas they hadn't and they made away with part of E50 million which they felt they deserved after circumventing a system which was not watertight to start with.

The country lost billions in pledges by institutions which

saw the project as one which would be viable and good to awaken a spirit of entrepreneurship the country so lacks. No institution could support an initiative which had so many holes, holes which saw money literally stolen from the pockets of the Swazi nation in so short a time.

The fact that it took nine years for the case to come to conclusion, is another issue that should make the blood of any Swazi boil because in those nine years, essential witnesses died and the nation was denied the opportunity to hear their evidence.

In the nine years since the arrest of the people who were paid for doing nothing, the economic landscape of the country changed.

Advantage

Other opportunists came about and took advantage of the nation's failure to harness its own resources and make money out of them. Look at how many businesses that could be run by ordinary Swazis are in the hands of foreign nationals.

I wish there was a way of having all the people paid from the E50million kitty to show where their impartation of skills has been of benefit for the economy because to date, I have personally not seen or heard anybody state how they were able to start a viable business post the Job Creation exercise.

With the population of an estimated 40% of people who are unemployed, who knows what the hundreds of Swazi people who could have been empowered could have achieved?

The country was seriously robbed, not just of the E50 million; that is peanuts when looking at the potential the exercise could have had. Instead, we have over thousands of graduates sitting at home twiddling their thumbs while alternatively hopelessly looking for jobs which would not have been the case had people been called up and taught how to start businesses.

Selling

With Swazis being able to emulate what their neighbours are doing when it comes to businesses (think of vendors at a market, all selling the same vegetables), we would have thousands of people engaged in different enterprises because some would have copied from those who were supposed to have been taught.

Had this exercise been successful, the country would have more to look forward to when it comes to South African Customs Union (SACU) revenue because most businesses would be exporters instead of always importing.

The Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA) would probably have no cause to get into businesses and personally count stock in an attempt to get people pay

the correct amount of taxes as everybody who would have been empowered would have cause to pay the right amount of tax because they would have engaged in viable businesses.

The government wage bill would not be inflated in this manner simply because there would have been no need to employ so many people as many would have aspirations to work in the private sector. Think of all the people who are in the civil service simply because it is more comfortable and employment is assured.

Confidence

The exercise was supposed to create businesses which should have brought back the confidence of the small businesses. In fact, the small businesses would have been medium enterprises by now had people curbed their greed.

One can never deny the fact that Swaziland needs to increase the number and size of small and medium enterprises and the Job Creation exercise was intended for just that.

To attract foreign direct investment is acute.

I have no opinion whatsoever about the three who were found guilty just as much as I have nothing against those who were acquitted save to say, this exercise made Swaziland poor and it is to blame for taking opportunities away from the nation.

Regional Company of the Year Competition: board chairperson's perspective



**NOKUKHANYA
GAMEDZE**

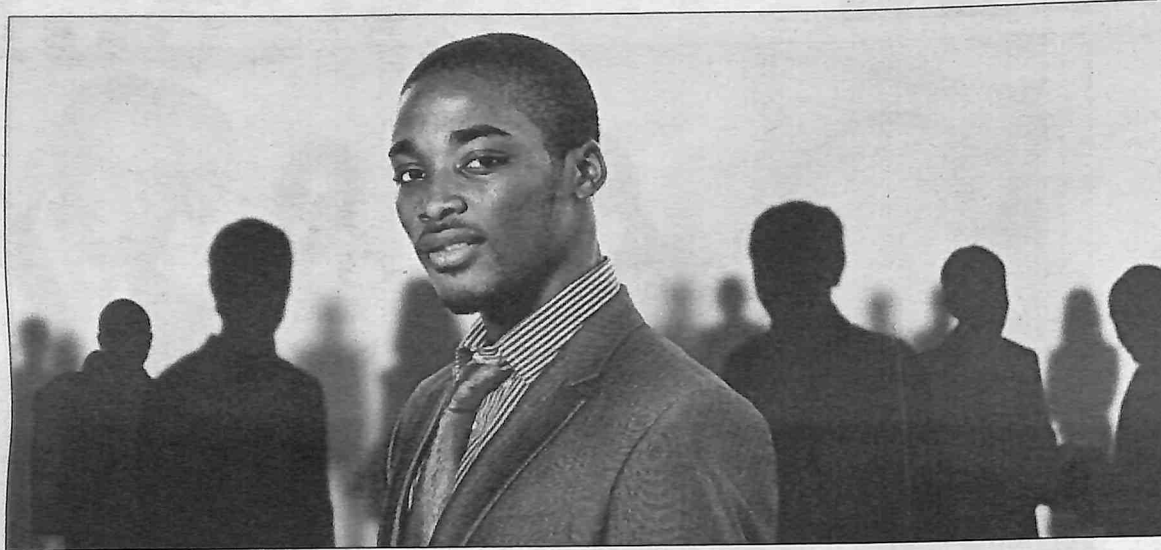
JA BOARD CHAIR

Last week, I had the privilege to be a part of one of Junior Achievement's prestigious competitions in Africa which showcases the magnitude of entrepreneurial talent that lies within young people found in the African continent.

It was truly one of the most important gathering of the JA family which was a great platform for skills and information sharing on how the JA programmes can be enhanced and strategies of how to move forward from the accomplishment covered thus far. I found myself wishing I could have made an effort to join this activity.

Nonetheless I believe there was no better time than now for me to be a part of this event. Representatives as far as the world wide office were present to witness this event such as the worldwide President and CEO Asheesh Advani who was instrumental in giving a worldwide perspective of the strategic direction of JA Programmes.

My first exposure was attending a meeting that was organised for board chairperson, country directors and other key staff members in the different countries. This particular meeting was intended to give insight on the current JA standard worldwide, discuss the direction at which this institution is being taken in the next five to 10 years' time. During this platform, the JA strategic plan was discussed from the worldwide office. The worldwide office monitors about six continents worldwide with about 163 countries.



This therefore means they present a strategy that has been born out of the monitoring activities conducted and identifying the needs for all member nations and coming up with one key strategy for all. It was revealed that there are four priority areas for JA that all member nations should work towards.

Supporting

The first priority area is defining and communicating the impact of all programmes based on the alumni. The second aspect is supporting human capital in order to accelerate growth. This therefore includes taking courses from the Harvard University that will capacitate country directors on different leadership skills. The third priority area discussed was the expansion of our funding base. This is where the worldwide office indicated that their newly formed target was to increase funding up to one billion per annum. Countries were chal-

lenged to set their own targets yearly that will see increase in revenue each year. The last key aspect discussed was the strengthening of network alignment. The worldwide office shared with the African region some of the strategies they had taken to ensure adherence to these four priority areas as a benchmark for the African countries.

Of course the gist of my trip to Zimbabwe was to attend the competition itself and see young people give presentations on their different products to eventually come up with the overall winner. What I discovered looking at the standard of the competition is that Swaziland is really outstanding, of course this fact being proven true by the fact that we have currently won the competitions for years now. We have, therefore, become a resource for the regional office where they can benchmark on how we prepare our young people for the regional

office. When the regional office CEO, Elizabeth Bintliff was in the country, she was just amazed at the standard at which our local competition is placed. The competition this year was dominated by girls having about 65% of the candidate competing. In terms of girls' empowerment, this was amazing but it also poses a challenge to the member countries to pay attention to the boy child as well.

Opportunities

All our kids, irrespective of gender, deserve equal opportunities for development and empowerment. Swaziland, having won the competition several times, is becoming a point of discomfort for the other member nations. It is also becoming a challenge for them that perhaps they need to revisit their strategies in order to compete with Swaziland. Again for Swaziland it raises the bar each year we win that we should maintain

these kinds of results.

One of the things that make us winners is the fact that we constantly evaluate our own performance and look at areas in which we can improve. We aim to represent the country in the worldwide competition that will resume in January 2018.

There are aspects in which we need to pay particular attention to. There is a growing need for participants to come up with products that will touch on the science and technology aspect. The world being a global village has adopted this concept hence our thinking should be tailored to that level as well. There are strategies we are putting in place for us to promote the science and technology aspect among learners. We are looking into infusing the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) concept into our programmes. The award winning JACO programme will now focus more on innovation and critical thinking that will encourage pupils to explore their innovative capabilities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) based business models. The entire programme will not be limited to this model but pupils will be exposed and oriented on how this model can help address needs, shortfalls and opportunities within their communities, corporate organisations and industry. We are also exploring the possibilities of utilising the newly formed Royal Science and Technological Park on how the pupils' businesses can be further incubated in this park for further research until they reach the expected international standards.

As I conclude, I would like to emphasise that as a nation we are developing the kind of generation that is sure to match the standards of the world and directly invest to the economic turnover of our country. We therefore constantly strive to reinvent our programme and tailor them to match the ever evolving world standards.



From the year 2003, the Swaziland Government developed a series of ICT related policies designed to unlock the entrepreneurial potential of existing and prospective businesses in the country.

The policies contained requisite framework for the liberalisation of the ICT sector, through the eventual creation of a new regulatory regime which will promote the technological convergence of various sub-sectors through digitisation.

Swaziland's ICT sector began to be more focussed given the institutionalisation of the sector through the establishment of a fully-fledged ministry of information communication and technology towards the end of 2009.

In June 2010, the Government of Swaziland reconfirmed that the ICT sector is critical in supporting sustainable development in the country.

This 'pronouncement' and commitment by government was viewed by business as a milestone and was in line with the 2013 Business Agenda, which had been jointly developed by the private sector and government. It was a historic activity which was to revitalise the economy through a properly developed information and communications infrastructure and framework.

DATA IS THE FUTURE OF BUSINESS

It is against this background that His Majesty King Mswati III, in His Speech from the Throne, in 2010, stated that, like most emerging countries, the kingdom faced a major challenge of improving its ICT sector in order to close the digital divide. "We need to intensify our efforts in this regard since ICT has proven to be a catalyst for success in our development objectives, bearing in mind its various aspects such as e-government, e-agriculture, e-commerce, e-education and e-health, to mention but a few."

In this age, doing business through electronic form, has provided a platform for most blooming and advancing economies; it has been a game-changer in the business space; it has improved the lives of citizens, saving time and energy on the day to day activities and decision-making processes.

The use of information technology in commerce saves costs, time, energy and paperwork.

In the advanced economies, ICT in governance has provided a platform to the people to do all government based activities sitting in the comfort of their homes and offices at the click of a button. All the works that required forming long queues can be done over the internet. Healthcare facilities can

reach people living at every corner of the world as a doctor's consultation can be available through online communication. The use of information technology in daily life has made tedious tasks simpler and cheaper and improved lives of the ordinary person.

However, in Swaziland, it is an open secret that data charges are extremely high compared to some other countries within the SADC region. This has resulted in innovations like e-governance, e-education and e-health a nightmare in the kingdom. People from advanced economies coming to Swaziland are frustrated by the inefficiency and high costs of the internet in the country.

Members of the Federation of Swaziland Employers and Chamber of Commerce, particularly in the banking sector, hotel industry and manufacturing industries who trade regionally and internationally, have registered complaints about the exorbitant costs when transmitting data through the Internet as part of their business.

The cost of installing an optical fibre line in Swaziland is more than 300 per cent higher compared to other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa; yet one of the selling points for industries such as hotels is free

Internet access.

The high costs of the internet in the country have not only had a negative impact on businesses alone, but academic institutions as well, including primary and secondary schools. Hundreds of schools in the country have computer labs, but are without internet access as it is unaffordable. This is a sad reality as it has been observed that countries with reasonable internet access have high technological research innovations which begin at primary schools. Insufficient capacity to innovate has been noted as one of the most problematic factors for doing business in Swaziland. The country's quality of scientific research and government's procurement of advanced technological products is lacking as a result of the poor internet infrastructure in the kingdom. Globally, when the internet is accessible to all schools and communities, it expands their thinking aptitude.

The digital environment is already empowering learners and teachers as never before and it is the FSE&CC's view that Swaziland should not be left behind in ensuring that the internet is easily accessible and efficient in all the sectors of the economy of the kingdom.

For this to happen, competition

is paramount. One of the key reasons for the country to experience such higher data charges is mainly a result of lack in competition due to the monopolisation of the telecommunications industry. Efforts to liberalise the telecommunications sector will further be in vain should the Swaziland Infrastructure Corporation Bill of 2016 be approved by the country's legislatures.

The Bill establishes the Swaziland Infrastructure Corporation and confers on it the exclusive privilege of providing the national telecommunications backbone infrastructure.

Currently, businesses in the country are unable to tele-conference, for instance, as a result of the poor internet services which comes with exorbitant charges.

Businessmen in Swaziland would prefer taking a flight to South Africa for a business meeting which would have been easily facilitated through tele-conferencing.

The Voice of Business in Swaziland strongly believes that the country possesses the potential to develop the necessary skills sets to achieve a competitive advantage in the ICT sector. For example, its competency level in the English language gives rise to the country's competitive advantage in respect of 'Call Centres' and development of business websites. Such potential will, however, go down the drain for as long as monopolisation of the telecommunications sector continues.

MIND THAT ERROR

ADIDI UYO



“Marching into 2017” is the title of the second editorial of the Times of Swaziland SUNDAY, December 10, 2016. The editorial begins with an observation that could be rightly described as mixed: “While some people are still struggling to comprehend the atmosphere and spirit out there, many are already in a festive mood.”

However, in the fourth paragraph, the editorial turns very sombre, as it waxes philosophical. Listen: “The downside is that as the merriment and excitement continues, some of us will not make it into the year 2017. This is the harsh reality we live in. Some will die because of their negligence and overexcitement while others, Lord forbid, will be involved in accidents. Still, others will die of natural causes; for death is, after all, part of life.”

Nobody can contradict that observation or deny the sentiment expressed. But anybody with an eye for spotting errors can see something that is amiss in the fourth sentence. People do not die of natural “courses,” but of natural “causes.” This is an error of faulty diction in the realm of pseudo-homophone.

In the same edition of the newspaper was an opinion piece with the title, *WHEN GOD CREATED SD...* I do not exaggerate when I say this was a reflective and scintillating commentary. A taste of the pudding, they say, is in the eating. The first and second paragraphs would sufficiently buttress that adage.

“When God created Swaziland, He eliminated most challenges that negatively affect other countries.”

“The living example of this claim, is that Swaziland is a country that has so tribes and that is one nation, one culture, one King, one language, we also have a culture of loving education, a people who have in their DNA abundant and unreserved hospitality.”

The second paragraph of the article qualifies for what we, on this page, have come to know as STOME: Sentence with Two Or More Errors. In it are two elements that will raise the eyebrows of anybody with an eye for yanking errors, the first of which is the comma after the word, “claim.” This punctuation mark creates the error of comma slice.

The comma is unnecessary because it splits the sentence by separating its subject from its predicate which begins with the verb, “is.”

Interestingly, the second element is also a comma which does the exact opposite of the first one. It is the comma that comes after “one language.” At this point in the construction, we have a complete sentence, so the punctuation needed is not a comma. Instead, what the con-

struction needs is a full stop or a semi colon. The comma creates the error of comma splice: We cannot use a comma to join two independent or main clauses.

However, if we must use a comma at this point in the construction, it must be followed by the co-ordinating conjunction, “and.” But that would make the sentence rather clumsy. If, like I do, you have a problem with the word, “example,” we may correct the sentence by revising it, thus: “A veritable evidence of this claim, is that Swaziland is a country that has no tribes and that is one nation, one culture, one King, one language. We also have a culture of loving education, a people who have in their DNA abundant and unreserved hospitality.”

If I may digress from grammar in order to celebrate the first sentence of the article under our spotlight, let me note that you cannot appreciate what God has done for Swaziland until you become aware of the fact that a country in Africa that goes by the name Nigeria has more than 700 languages and dialects, corresponding, of course, with different tribes. Not to mention its many kings who assume sundry names across the country!

Let us make yet another note, this not about grammar, particularly, but about writing, generally. Can you guess how many words constitute the sentence that follows the one

which we have just corrected? One hundred and eight words! That’s right: 108 words! Maybe, someday we shall examine the grammar of this 108-word sentence to see whether the writer pulled it off, or not. No doubt, this is an overly long sentence, but an extremely long sentence could be error-free.

Although the following sentence is about three times shorter than the aforementioned, it is not error-free. It is the lead of the news story in The Star of December 14, 2016, with the headline,

“All eyes on SABC’s Maguvhe.” It reads, thus: “Controversial SABC executive Hlaudi Motsoeneng, who a court of law has found was not entitled to hold any position at the public broadcaster, was doing a sterling job, MPs heard yesterday.”

Quickly, let us say that the pronoun, “who,” which begins the parenthetical construction in the sentence, is supposed to be “whom.” This is an error of improper case of pronoun. The proper case, in other words, is the objective, not the nominative. If you turn the construction around in the following way, you will quickly see why the pronoun should not be in the nominative case: “Who has a court of law found not entitled to hold any position at the public broadcaster?”

Talking about length of sentences and proneness to errors, here is an eight-word sentence: “It was long,

ugly and plagued with scandals.” It is the lead of a news story in the Saturday Star of December 10, 2016, with the headline, “Austrians’ wordy response poll.”

Short as it is, this sentence is not error-free, for its predicate has three elements, one of which is not equal to the first two. Whereas the first two elements in the construction, to wit, “long” and “ugly,” are words, the third, “plagued with scandals,” is a phrase.

The sentence therefore has an error of faulty parallelism, and it may be corrected this way: “It was long, ugly and scandalous.”

“The girl is said to have ran to her father, who is separated from her mother, and begged him to save her education by paying her school fees.” This sentence is the third paragraph of the news story in the Swazi Observer of December 16, 2016, with the headline, “Mother diverts kid’s exam fees for other use.”

In error in that sentence is the verb phrase, “have ran.” The error is that of incorrect tense. Instead of “ran,” the verb should be “run”: “The girl is said to have run to her father...”

At the top left side of the Swazi Observer of December 15, 2016 was a photo news story with the headline, *KING COMMISSIONS INGATJA*. Its caption read: “FOR THE LOVE: Thousands of Ingatja heeded to the King’s call and convened at Ngabazweni Royal Residence where

they were commissioned by His Majesty to cut the lusekwane shrubs.”

The verb, “heed,” is transitive; therefore, it takes on a direct object. The error is caused by the infinitive, “to,” which is unwarranted in the construction.

The confusion here might be connected with the verbal phrase, “pay heed to.” But, here, the word, “heed,” is actually a noun, not a verb.

Our last error for today - and for the year, 2016 - comes from the following sentence: “When you read about the litany of blunders we are given to making financially, as country, and how we continue to seemingly hold it together thereafter, one cannot help but feel like thanking our lucky stars for the continuous dogging of these disasters - disasters that we unwittingly create ourselves; perpetually.” This is the opening sentence of a commentary in the Times of Swaziland December 15, 2016, titled, *THIS NATION IS LUCKY TO AVERT DISASTER*.

The error in that sentence is one of shift of pronoun. There is a shift from the pronoun, “you,” at the beginning of the first clause of the sentence, to the pronoun, “one,” in the second clause. Make the two pronouns match and the sentence is error-free.

Its being quite a year on MTE! MIND THAT ERROR wishes you, its ardent reader, a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

LET'S END 2016, MISCELLANEOUSLY

english gerunds
questions conditionals negative
prepositions worksheets interrogatives
passives present nouns articles present
reported verbs exercises genitive affirmative
infinitives adverbs interrogatives
tenses adjectives relatives
future

Reminder to pay up your premiums before festivities



Exactly a week from now we will be in the swing of festivities, which have slowly been building up.

There are more and more “Christmas deals” from retail shops trying to seduce us into spending our hard earned cash on things we probably do not even need.

The time is now for us to plan how we are going to handle our finances during the festive season, because this month’s salary is the last one before things might start going downhill if not handled well.

The excitement that the festive season brings usually leads to poor financial

planning.

After a year of toiling, it is definitely thrilling to be able to let your hair down, so to speak, and have fun. It is a time when family members from far and wide come together, and the impulsive urge to overspend surfaces. January disease will come with the usual demands of school fees, uniforms, rentals, electricity, food, and other essential services.

Anticipation

Loan sharks are known to rub their hands gleefully at the beginning of the year in anticipation of booming business, and you might wind up being one of their cash cows.

Their interest rates are usually quite steep and paying them back is always quite traumatic. Why opt for that route when you could simply do your budgets wisely?

We encourage our esteemed clients to

ensure that their premiums are paid before the fun begins.

It would not be the best thing to start 2017 in the red. It’s important to sit down as couples or families around this time, and plan how much you are prepared to spend over the festive season, and stick to the plan.

When people start defaulting on payment, sometimes it becomes a little habit that does not seem too serious, until disaster strikes and you have to make a claim and it is turned down.

Funerals are emotionally and financially very distressing, but when you have a Dups funeral plan, that is up to date, the distress is minimised.

Some people will be going out of the country on holidays or to see relatives and friends.

It is safer to ensure that you leave after tying all the loose ends by taking care of

your monthly bills, especially your Dups premiums.

That way you can have fun without the thought of bills hanging over your head like a dark cloud. There are many options available to pay for your premiums.

Premiums

You can pay via debit order, salary deduction, or stop order to safeguard money meant for your premiums being misallocated to other causes. In the event you change banking details, it is important to notify Dups Direct Insurance of this development to avoid lapse of payment.

There are, however, some people that prefer to pay in cash or bank deposits, which are also good options provided this is done punctually.

Paying in advance comes in handy when you have to be out of the country for a long time and cannot make payment arrangements, or if you encounter other challenges that might hinder you

from doing so.

A debit order is a good option to consider in the New Year because it takes the hassle of running around every month to pay your premiums off your shoulders.

By choosing that option, you would be giving Dups the permission to receive the premium straight from your bank, and eliminate the risk of lapsing on your payments. Should Dups not receive any payments for a period of 12 consecutive months, your policy will be cancelled.

Call us on 2505 2028 if you would like to find out how you can switch your mode of payment for your policy to debit order.

You can also pay us a visit at our offices in Manzini, Matata, Matsapha, Simunye, Nhlanguano, Mbabane, Pigg’s Peak and Siteki. You can also send queries to info@dupsgroup.com, www.facebook.com/dups or on Twitter @dupsinsurance.



**LETHUMUSA
SIMELANE**

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I am greatly disquieted by the fact that the value of our culture and traditions seems to diminish and no one seems to notice, in actual fact, it is not that no one seems to notice, we all just decide to live in ignorance, pretend not to be aware of our surroundings.

I would not say we are oblivious, the truth of the matter is we are so short sighted to the point we have manipulated ourselves into believing that what is not ours is ours and what is ours is not ours. *Impela sitayicelivutsiwe!*

There are several things that have been brought to my attention, things that are considered to be minority by many yet ironically they are very significant in the life of a Swazi. By Swazi I do not mean someone who claims to be a Swazi just because he or she is very fluent on the Siswati language but I refer to the person who is deeply rooted in the Swazi culture and traditions. We Swazis value the presence of our ancestors and so we make sacrifices to them to keep a close relationship with them.

We believe that being lidloti is not an easy thing as not all members within a family can really attain that stage. It is part of tradition that whenever an animal sacrificed to the ancestors, the horns are kept *endlini kagogo*, usually by the entrance high up on the door. It is fundamental to note that these horns typify the alliance between the dead and the living.

Moreover, it enactment as a perpetual admonisher of the mandatory services to the ancestors. They are also conceived as having ability to protect the family from predicaments and any quandary. However, small horns like those of a goat can warn against evil spirits often times these are worn by *tangoma* and *tinyanga*.

Another important thing that I want to bring your attention dear reader is the importance of *tiphandla*.

Tiphandla are derived from the skin of a goat or bull. These animals are slaughtered for sacrifices.

The stirrup of skin are removed and given to the person who has made a sacrifice or on whose behalf has been made to wear. *Sphandla* (singular) which is worn on the wrist is believed to protect the person and also for him or her to be guided by the ancestors to whom the sacrifice has been made to.

It is reckoned to make a sacrifice in advance of a major task. It could be a war or weeding amongst others.

I am amazed at the alarming rate at which young girls fall pregnant. Ignore that it is culturally an insult to the father of the pregnant girl to fall pregnant still at her parental home.

SITA YICEL' IVUTSIWE!



● I am amazed at the alarming rate at which young girls fall pregnant. Ignore that it is culturally an insult to the father of the pregnant girl to fall pregnant still at her parental home. I wonder who takes the initiative to report their pregnancy to the ancestors because according to my knowledge, once a woman suspects that she is pregnant, she reports to her mother-in-law who in turn will cautiously keep an eye on her before she breaks the news to the rest of the family.

I wonder who takes the initiative to report their pregnancy to the ancestors because according to my knowledge, once a woman suspects she is pregnant, she reports to her mother-in-law who in turn will cautiously keep an eye on her before she breaks the news to the rest of the family.

The eldest male member of the family reports the pregnancy to the ancestors and postulate protection over the expectant mother and the unborn child sacrifices can be made. While in the gestation period, the mother to be goes

under rituals and observe taboos that vary from clan to clan, for example, a woman pregnant with a Dlamini child is prohibited to eat mut-ton. Furthermore, when the time to deliver overture, the expectant mother is given *timbita* which are believed to subside or minify the labor pains and to ensure fast delivery.

It is very important that delivery takes place *endlini kagogo* where there is presence of the ancestors.

However, it is believed that when the delivery takes longer than expected, then the child

is the product of an adulterous relationship hence he is a foreigner in the family and the ancestors do not recognise him or her. Soon after the child has been born, the new mother is supposed to be in seclusion.

She keeps indoors and whenever she is obliged to go outside, she puts on a cow skin or something over her head. I just want to remind people that these things are still necessary for us to practice, we are who we are today because of them.

Our grandparents ensured they follow the

NATIONAL MAIZE CORPORATION – WHO WE REALLY ARE

It is often said that a logo is to a business what a face is to each and every one of us. It is our identity, it defines us and often enough, a logo, just as our faces, forms a person's first impression of us. It is how we are recognised.

It reflects our values and principles and is also the most known powerful marketing tool. It basically helps establish our identity and in layman's terms, a logo is a mental shortcut to a product or company.

Think about it; how often have you been able to recognise a car from the side only, rather than from the ever present logo on the bumper or in front? It is true. The power of the logo lies in its visual nature. Studies have shown

that people recognise and relate to images faster than they do to text and in today's world of multimedia, this rings true more than ever. In the corporate world, we often say image is everything. However, the market is flooded with logos; from the corner of a newspaper to the moving scroll bar at the bottom of our television screens. In order to be effective, it is more than just necessary for a logo to have meaning, to represent something specific and unique to the subconscious mind of the consumer. In fact, it is imperative. The work of a logo goes on to represent your company long after you have exited that space, because a logo works best under repetition or repetitive situations to help

build brand loyalty.

IN 1985, just over 30 years ago today, National Maize Corporation (NMC) was established. Whether or not we were there when the company was launched is almost irrelevant today, because surely, by now, we have long forgotten the inspiring speeches that were delivered at the launch. But we were left with a promise – a promise that still stands today, one that has been safely embedded in the company logo. We were left with a logo – not just a logo, but a corporate brand. The colours, the logo itself, all stand for something, something that is essential to the sustenance of the Swazi nation. These things communicate NMC's promise to the Swazi nation

on a daily basis.

There is a thought process behind selecting the right colours for a business. Colours generally make a statement about a business or a company, so spending a little time thinking this through pays in the long-run. For the National Maize Corporation, this process was not only about what the brand was at the time it was designed but rather, NMC was already looking towards the future from the very beginning.

NMC colours not only reflect the personality of the brand, but also the important environment around it and other factors that are highly dependent on the success of the company. They also reflect the values of the company then and now, meaning the colours, no matter what the initial motivation may have been, reflect and

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footsteps of our forefathers. Our grandparents also left footprints for us to follow. It is within us to leave a legacy for the next coming generation and the only way to do that is to follow the foot prints and make sure we leave ours behind.

Dear reader, again I felt the necessity to bring up the issue of naming kids and further deliberate on it. A name in the Swazi society is extremely reckoned and the name given to the child is coupled to contemporary events, person or the traits or character the parents wish the child to possess.

The primal notion is that names square off the fate of those who carry them.

This concept is even observed in the Bible. Saul changed to Paul when he started serving the Lord. Abram changed to Abraham because Abraham meant he will be the father of nations. So it goes without saying that *libito lilandzela umnikati. Itolo emaSwati bekatsi libito lemuntfu lomdzala ekhaya alifi*. You do not give a child a name because you like it but because you are keeping the name and giving blessings to the child.

In conclusion, *emaSwati atiwa njengesive lesinemhambo nemasiko lakhutsata bunye nenhlonipho*.

These are structures that were left by our grandparents for us to emulate. We read in newspapers of wrongs that are committed by pupils and seemingly no one seems to see the negative effects of our now famous positive discipline.

The funny part is positive discipline happens not only in schools but worse at family level. *Imphele sitayicela ivutsiwe, indlela langikhulisa ngayo make yangenta ngaba ngumuntfu emphilweni, kani positive discipline ugcina esikolweni, luswati lwakha umntfwana weliSwati abe liSwati lelikhulise liSwati lamenta watsandza buSwati ngobe liSwati buSwati ngeluSwati emntfwaneni*. Old and outdated as this method seems, it still stand the taste of time.

Bangamane bangibophe ngobe sebaba nemalungelo. Sitayicela ivutsiwe. Itolo besati kutsi umntfwana emalungelo ngobe lilungelo lemntfwana likumtali wakhe. Batali labakhetsela umntfwana lokutamsita abe lutfo kusasa.

I am not condoning the physical abuse that some children are subjected to by their parents and guardians. *Umntfwana akashaywa ngatsi ubulalinyoka, umshaya ngenhli-tiyo yekumakha nelutsandvo. Kumatima kuletikhatsi tetfu, bantfwana abasatsint-fwa, sebahlala netinombolo etincingweni, wamtisintsa utsembisa kukubopha. Imphele sitayicela ivutsiwe!*

Dear reader, it has been a lovely journey together and may I take this opportunity and wish you a happy festive season. Till then, may *Mvelinchanti nalabasimelele kule-lalive, bachubeke balisibekele Lamsimudze!*

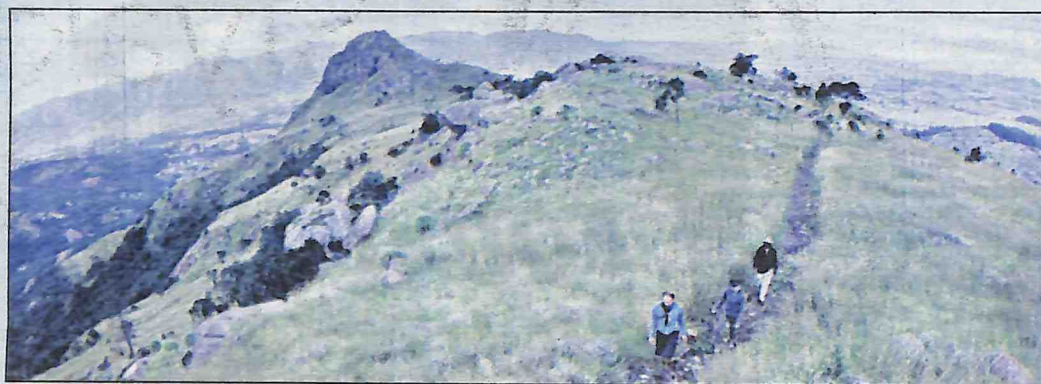


TOURISM & TRAVEL

BY BONGANI DLAMINI
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MOUNTAIN WALKING IN SWAZILAND; A HIKER'S DREAM COME TRUE!



Jane Livingstone, mountain walking expert, traveller, experienced blogger and co-owner of Mountain Walking Holidays, provides us with this fantastic blog all about taking a different approach to Swaziland.

For many, a holiday in Africa is a dream come true. People travel the world over to experience luxury jungle lodges and the rumble of safari truck engines. Swaziland is small, beautiful and unique country, offering unique opportunities for the ultimate African adventure. Forget everything you know about holidays in Africa, because in this blog we are going to delve into something a bit different. Enjoy safaris, customs, culture and everything else great about Africa, but from a totally new perspective.

We think you shouldn't just visit Swaziland — you should walk across it. Here's why: Encounter wildlife in a unique way on a Swaziland Walking Safari. No matter how you do it, viewing the exotic wild animals of the African plains is an unforgettable experience. While most people choose to mount up in large Jeeps and storm across dirt tracks in search of grazing giants, walking offers an alternative — and we would argue better — experience. You could find any number of beautiful, wild African animals in Swaziland; from the mighty elephant and swaying giraffe, to the gentle antelope and elegant zebra. It starts with the thrill of the chase. You spot tracks, hear noises or see movement far off in the distance. You tentatively make your way over. Following the tracks; heading for the noise. You sneak in between trees, ducking behind bushes and treading so lightly you feel like Elmer Fudd. And it's worth the wait. Standing on foot — watching on as these incredible wild and free creatures — lends a perspective unlike any other wildlife encounter. You're there with them, in the heart of nature. It's a wild, natural experience. The point of a walking safari isn't to spot as much game as possible, but to experience nature in a more cognisant way.

Back at camp there's no TV to distract me, no Internet or Instagram. And suddenly everything feels very raw and very real. This is why we go

on walking safaris. Walking also offers a number of definable benefits beyond that of a more intense experience. On foot, you can reach places vehicles can't, like dense woodlands and forests bursting with life. You also approach animals silently, unlike with the thunderous clap of a 4x4 engine — loud enough to spook even the bravest of animals. This isn't to say you should never experience a vehicle driven safari — it offers its own advantages — but we just think you should experience both.

Just as walking in Swaziland offers a new perspective for viewing wildlife, so too does it offer a new way of experiencing life and the culture of the Swazi people. The culture of Southern African nations, such as the exuberant, colourful and rich customs of the Swazi people, is something that attracts visitors from across the globe. Home to unique lifestyles found only in this corner of the world, a trip to Swaziland is not complete without a journey to discover these communities.

Many resorts, companies and travel agents will offer cultural tours: days out designed to introduce you to the local way of life, meeting locals

and sharing in their customs. The thing is, though, these are planned experiences, designed to make money. Walking in Swaziland, however, offers you the real experience. On your travels through Swaziland, wandering the mountain paths, through the bush and rural villages, you'll not only visit these communities, but rely on them.

You'll stay in their accommodation, buy from local stores and really share in the life of the Swazi people. This is the true African cultural experience. For your trip, you aren't just a visitor — you're a part of the Swaziland community. By visiting many of the smaller African nations like Swaziland, you support a developing economy. And by walking, you stretch that support just a little bit further.

When you visit a resort or hotel, just about everything is taken care for you. Trips are arranged, dinner is served. Your economic support is still valuable, but it is funnelled into a finite space. A Swaziland walking holiday offers the opportunity for something a little different.

As you explore a range of environments across the country, you have to rely on more than just one

small section of the Swazi population. Found in the mountains or out in the wilderness, most of the camps and lodges in rural areas are run by local communities or non-profits, and offer the perfect base for walking in Swaziland. Operated by some of the poorest citizens of Swaziland, money spent here — on accommodation and food — is put right back into the community, building infrastructure like roads and hospitals. Walking also introduces a more independent manner of travel, presenting you with the opportunity to directly support local workers, businesses and game reserves.

In our most recent trip with Mountain Walking Holidays, we hired local guides. Both had excellent knowledge of the area, matching or even beating anything you'd get from a private tour company, yet neither had full time or secure employment.

Supporting community tourism projects means you can spread the wealth. You bring economic stimulus to areas and communities many visitors never see. Your dream holiday becomes something even more special, it impacts more than just you.

influence the values of the company right across the sands of time. Allow us, the National Maize Corporation (NMC), to re-introduce our company to you and remind you what it is that is deemed important to us. NMC's logo has olive green, orange, black and white on it, and this is what these colours mean to us and for us:

Olive Green: The colour green signifies balance and harmony. Green is also the colour of growth, renewal and rebirth. Green, which is also the main colour in NMC branding, promotes a love of nature, family, friends and the home. It is generous and loves to share but also seeks recognition. It is also the colour of prosperity and abundance. Green also represents hope.

If there is one thing that NMC leadership often state concisely, it is that

there is always hope. Hope that one day soon, Swaziland will produce enough food to sustain herself; hope that farming will provide formal employment for a large percentage of the Swazi people; hope that farming will contribute a substantial amount of the country's GDP; hope that agriculture will indeed be the industry to take Swaziland out of the current difficulties pertaining to food security and hope that all this will happen by 2022, in order to realise His Majesty's vision of being counted among the developed countries. NMC believes one of the key attributes of a country to be considered developed is when it is food secured and feed itself and this could be attained through the agricultural sector. **Orange:** Orange is a warm, vibrant and flamboyant colour. It reflects energy combined with fun, the colour

of the risk-taker, the extrovert, and the uninhibited. Orange vitalises, inspires and creates enthusiasm. Orange also gives the impression of affordability yet has a touch of elegance.

Black: Black is a description of a positive balance on a company's financial statements. A company would be said to be "in the black" if it is profitable or, more specifically, if the company produces positive earnings after accounting for all expenses. Black also stands for power, control and authority, protection and comfort.

White: This is what calms everything down for NMC and brings it all together. White is calming as it creates simplicity, organisation and efficiency. It clears the way forward. For NMC, white also implies fairness, neutrality and independence. It is the company's reassur-

ing colour that helps create order and proficiency. It is very easy to take certain things for granted, especially in business, therefore, having white not only to balance operations but actually communicates that balance to all and sundry on a daily basis is exactly what was needed to get the company this far. Even today, in times of uncertainty due to several reasons and/or factors, white remains the silent voice urging us all to go on, giving reassurance and lighting the way ahead as NMC soldiers on towards achieving her mission. The logo also shows a map of Swaziland and we believe this is the most obvious of the different elements of the logo. National Maize Corporation is a company established to service the people of Swaziland by providing farmers with a guaranteed market for maize and also providing

access to this staple crop to the rest of the Swazi populace.

A triangular shape, just above the 'stripes' on the logo, is actually meant to depict the silos placed strategically around the country. These are the silos that are used to store the grain (maize) for the people of Swaziland. One day soon we hope, Swaziland will be able to fill up those silos and circulate a total amount of 120 000 metric tonnes of maize in a given 12 months period.

There is also a picture of a maize cob. This maize cob reflects that the core business of the National Maize Corporation is trading in maize. The new vision and mission of the company speaks of other grains and cereals, but for NMC, it all began with just the maize and we are indeed proud to tell this story too.

This is who we are. We are NMC.



*it is culturally
wonder who
y knowledge,
o in turn will*



BY Comfort Mabuza

WHEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS BECOME THE WORST HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSERS

● Who monitors these so called human rights defenders and activists claiming to be fighting for a just course of the Swazi populace when they are reaping us off?

We have to be extremely worried about certain personalities and entities who claim to be champions of defending people's fundamental rights and freedoms, while they end up abusing the very people's vulnerability for selfish gain.

Imagine so many thousands, if not millions of Emalangeni in aid monies, which end up not serving the intended purposes of the exposed people they claim to be assisting. In fact, there are already growing concerns that some of these characters claiming to be helping the needy masses are cashing out big time by abusing the very stories of people's plights. So heartless are these so called champions of human rights with no morals and ethics whatsoever are using the suffering of the downtrodden Swazis yet they cannot be held accountable for their actions. Speak of wolves in sheep's skins, which appears as angels of mercy, yet in actual fact their behaviour is so rotten to the core.

If you dare question their corrupt activities, you are then called names and badmouthed for calling for such accountability. You often wonder why there is brewing war with some entities whose agenda is to eat and live large at the expense of unsuspecting members of the public.

The deafening silence is just too loud to be ignored and it is so sad that these are the very people who use their Christian confessions while their behaviour leaves a lot to be desired as they continue exploiting the vulnerability of our people.

Such human rights violations, if left unattended, is certainly bad publicity when one considers that there are genuine Swazis who are doing their best to assist the vulnerable and marginalised people. But we certainly cannot turn a blind eye to these obtaining injustices forever and such noonday robbery and looting cannot be left unchallenged.

This is the greatest human rights violations with such inhumane proportions that need to be condemned with strongest terms ever.

WHEN PEOPLE'S PLIGHTS ARE USED FOR SELFISH GAIN

We implore NGOs, whose leadership is transparent and accountable with good corporate governance policies in place by being in their operations.

We are, however, alarmed to such terrible stories circulation all



over the world, attracting attention and sympathy from donors, yet little, if any of such support, trickles down to the vulnerable masses.

The state of people's poverty and vulnerability that is being flushed all over the world is sad and embarrassing, when these are used for enriching undeserving people. Sadly even though such stories generate big interest and support, especially those touching on the lives of destitute OVC, for instance, there is no one monitoring the utilisation of these resources once they fall in the hands of these heartless people.

We are aware of NGOs and individuals doing commendable work and still remaining more accountable, but we certainly are worried that there are those looting the resources for their own selfish gain.

It is very painful to see people's vulnerability used for individual's selfish gain and enrichment honestly. Those who claim they are alleviating poverty of the desperate Swazis yet cannot be held accountable are a great shame and worst human rights violators. How long shall we remain silent when such rot is taking place before our very eyes?

HUMANITARIAN ENTITIES OPERATING WITHOUT ACCOUNTABILITY

Aren't we all quick to blame government for corruption, when there are organisations and individuals who are filthy corrupt? It has since been brought to our attention that the stories being told about the plight of the Swazis are generat-

ing so much interest internationally.

But sadly, whatever is being raised on behalf of these vulnerable people financially hardly reaches them, and worse still, nobody is calling upon these thieves to answer for their actions. While we promote freedom of association and assembly, we certainly cannot be seen condoning theft with ulterior motives and false pretences, honestly. Such inhuman actions that thrive on abusing the sad reality and vulnerability of our people are exposed to definitely cannot be tolerated. Such human rights violations cannot be ignored and left unattended. Who monitors these so called human rights defenders and activists claiming to be fighting for a just course when they are actually reaping us off?

Who gives such characters mandate to do what they are doing on behalf of the marginalised and vulnerable people?

Who shall protect the innocent souls from such gross human rights violations where those who claim they are helping out the vulnerable but end up being not accountable to anybody or structure? Perhaps it is high time such human rights violators are named and shamed. How long should such be allowed to thrive? Lord Have mercy!

MONITORING WATCH-DOG LONG OVERDUE

Is it not time that human rights watchdogs that monitor these bad unbecoming behaviour be established? It certainly cannot be business as usual, somebody stand up

and stop this madness and abuse our vulnerable people are subjected to! Some of these hawks and ravens are feeding on desperate people's obtaining challenges and cashing out on the marginalised people's plights. We are aware of the existence of CANGO, but not all these outfits are members of this umbrella body. We cannot be painted with the same brush honestly, as there are good NGOs out there. It is these unaccountable entities who are formed with a sole aim of enriching themselves in the name of the struggle of our vulnerable sector of our people. Somebody must stand up and fight such human rights violations, and remaining silent forever is not welcomed and fear of standing up for truth to protect the vulnerable people is not welcomed. While Swaziland should be open in allowing freedom of association and assembly, but surely we should be worried by these brief-case entities who claim legitimacy while not being accountable to any structure locally, its an indictment to those claiming to be working in the field of human rights. Is it not perhaps time to call on government to ensure those who raise funds on behalf of the needy communities must be made accountable by putting in place some mechanism to actually ensure that intended beneficiaries get what is rightfully raised on their behalf? Is it not fair and just that all outfits that are raising funds outside Swaziland on behalf of the vulnerable poor and marginalised people be called upon to declare such to a local based body or entity with the view of ensuring there is accountability? Will it not be prudent to have a monitoring body of ensuring that the utilisation of such funds raised are actually benefiting the projects and groups they were meant to assist? We certainly cannot afford to have people cashing in the process using the plight of our vulnerable sector of society. Somebody stop this subtle human right violations and abuse of the marginalised and vulnerable.

When human rights defenders become so obsessed and violate people's rights with impunity, then we should be much afraid and very concerned indeed. Are we safe under these false 'Messiahs'? Can such characters be ever trusted with protecting people's vulnerabilities and plights? When champions and defenders become such heartless souls, *Tidli mosi leti! Sakanye sadliwa luhlata nkosiya-mi!!* I rest my case, such reap off really!!!



JOY NDWANDWE'S ZONE LEADERSHIP

Incwala, the annual traditional prayer and ritual, is transdisciplinarity.

According to Nicolescu (Nabudere: 2011) trans-disciplinarity implies, by its nature, the rejection of all dogma, all ideology and all closed systems of thought. *Incwala* rejects all religious dogma, ideology and most significantly the structural violence of all closed systems of thought. It is a prayer and ritual in terms of natural rights, does not need to validate by the structural violence of religion. It is a science in terms of natural rights, does not have to be validated by the structural violence of science.

It is a governance system in terms of natural rights, does not have to be validated by the structural violence of ideology and close systems thoughts. *Incwala* is social science in terms of natural rights, does not need validation from structural violence of all closed systems of thought. These thoughts emerged during my retreat which began from November 21 to December 4th ending at University of Venda. The theme at University of Venda was towards the science and technologies of humility in South Africa, funded by the Department of Science and Technology (RSA) through the National Research Foundation (RSA).

Cosmologies and Knowledge Systems

Incwala, rooted in indigenous cosmologies embedded within knowledge systems. It honours what Prof Luutu explicates as the feminine deity of self-renewal and regeneration. This begins with the King's seclusion, enabling meditation towards achieving a self-renewal process at year end. Thus, similar to the self-renewal and regeneration process of the snake, allowing for regeneration, which requires seclusion.

The feminine deity of self-renewal and regeneration is evident in the monthly menstrual cycle, which also requires seclusion. Kings must experience self-renewal so they go into seclusion, as this provides this period of regeneration towards renewed leadership the following year.

This is humility, embedded within indigenous leadership, rooted in indigenous cosmologies and knowledge system. According to Prof Luutu, enabling the human decompose to occur, evident in terms of the seclusion period. When the water party pilgrimages to the ocean and veld to bring compost elements for renewal towards regeneration. Cosmologically this occurs according to the feminine deity, the moon, as the water party collects the sacred water from the ocean. This sacred water emanates from the ocean during the period of the mating of corals, this is indigenous science. This science has experienced structural violence from religions, as *Incwala* is considered demonic and evil whilst in terms of natural rights rejects dogma.

The return of sacred water in calabash, known as *inkosazana*, rejects all ideology as this is cosmological, happens with no human spirit but cosmologically. Closed systems reject this notion presented by indigenous science as ludicrous, due to their structural violence.

Thus, intolerance of any ideology that is perceived as 'irrational' or 'demonic' or 'superstitious' or 'barbaric.' This is how structural violence embedded within religious institutions tried to advocate for *Incwala* to be stopped or banned. Reflecting how our education system encourages linear thinking, confide in dogma as dominant ideology within closed systems.

The negation of these indigenous cosmologies and knowledge systems, supported by the negative explanation of how lives are lost within the process of *Incwala*.

Am certain that the water and herb parties used to have casualties and deaths during these pilgrimages to the ocean and mountains. However, these pilgrimages have transcended as the general conditions have changes, so this linear thinking of *Incwala* reflects structural violence. Hence the contention now focuses on how the water and herb parties say '*mulhulise*', let him/her pass, when

INCWALA IS TRANSDISCIPLINARITY



going to the ocean or mountains.

This call 'mudlulise' respects and honours the calabashes carried to and from the ocean and mountain. Due to structural violence embedded within dogma, ideology and closed systems we negate this call. I do admit this culture too has become arrogant, the water and herb party have elements of arrogance. They demand money, during the ocean and mountain pilgrimage, also during the 'numike' during the collection of negativity engulfing the nation. To be liberated and burnt during the burning of the log ceremony.

Yet the regiments should be able to accept tokens from the nation. As this is symbolic rather than an *Incwala* tax, as presented at times.

Humility of Science and Technology

During my retreat I was immersed into why *Incwala* is transdisciplinarity, this is not to suggest that *Incwala* was the topic of discussion. When Prof Shiv speaks of cognitive justice, and how this must evoke the humility of science and technology. As Little *Incwala* had begun, I was mediating on Prof's message on the festival of humble knowledges. On how humble knowledges are playful, Little *Incwala* came to my mind, as it is playful whilst building confidence in dancing skills. I was mentored on how humility is confidence in the other, which requires patience as the story telling occurs on the other side.

Thus came the realisation on how *Incwala* has been facing structural violence from all dogma, ideology and closed systems.

As religious dogma, ideology, science and technology lacks humility, and lacks confidence and patience required to listen to the story telling of *Incwala*. Evidence of how religious dogma, ideology, and all closed systems lacks plurality, required by cognitive justice. As cognitive justice enables language dialects to express cosmologies, knowledge systems, myths and culture towards humility of science and technology. Science and technology lacks humility as it confines language into dichotomies, hence the western, Asian and African.

Yet humble knowledges use language as art and cultures, for truth to be truth it has to be true

The feminine deity of self-renewal and regeneration is evident in the monthly menstrual cycle, which also requires seclusion. Kings must experience self-renewal so they go into seclusion, as this provides this period of regeneration towards renewed leadership the following year.

in two languages, as Prof Shiv stated. This was taking me into the Little *Incwala* dancing that I was missing out on, as the languages of the songs are in both Siswati and *Kuyeyeza*, Ndwandwe dialect. Symbolising the feminine principle that is within the context of *Incwala*, embedded on how *Incwala* as it is preserved came with the feminine power of LaZidze of the Ndwandwe's.

The role of the feminine power continues irrespective of whether the Queen Mother is from the Ndwandwe's or not, but the plurality of language is the core. The feminine power of the reigning Queen Mother requires that she be in seclusion during the *Incwala* process.

Thus reflecting what Prof Luutu refers to as the complimentary principle embedded in the placenta. This placenta, requiring the Queen Mother to experience the humility of self-renewal and regeneration. This complementarity should not be misrepresented to be competitive principle, as they are humbled together during seclusion. In particular, as during the year the Queen Mother has been listening to the King and nation. Thus, taking into consideration how her Royal Residence is where all citizens come to 'kumbula ingubo' when they appeal for leniency.

This year's retreat made me reflect deeply into the arrogance of culture, particularly when it incorporates into modernity and not integrate modernity.

Thus, suggesting how there comes a time when culture is not transdisciplinarity by becoming dogmatic and closed system, hence my academic and research is on indigenous cosmologies and knowledge systems. Evidently enabling me to be a transdisciplinarity scholar, as its culture questioning that is perpetually accompanied by responses that are accepted as temporary (Nabudere 2011). Finally, *Incwala* questions the king and queen mother through its processes, and it also questions the governance system of the kingdom. Evidently *Incwala* ceremony annually responses to the temporary questions each year. To appreciate this critical thinking requires the rejection of dogma, all ideology and closed systems thought, and immersion into indigenous cosmologies and knowledge systems.

Loosening the apron strings of children with disabilities



CHARLOTTE CHIPANGURA

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People usually do not like to give alms to non-disabled beggars on the streets. I've known people to complain, "But that person is not disabled! Why should I give him anything? He should work for money like everybody else."

The norm is, beggars have to be disabled to get help. The gist of today's discussion is people with disabilities do not have to be beggars. They should be able to work like everybody else and should be accorded the right support.

Most parents dream of a brilliant future for their children.

They want their children to be active members of the community – make good friends, enjoy good wealth, work and earn a salary to enable them to live independently. However, when a child has intellectual disabilities, and sometimes even physical disabilities, parents tend to expect far less of them.

This is ironic because it is the same parents who also want their children to have equal opportunities out there in the world. But capacity building should rather begin at home, shouldn't it? Intellectual disability is a term used when a person has certain limitations in mental functioning and in skills such as communicating, taking care of him or herself, and social skills.

These limitations will cause a child to learn and develop more slowly than a typical child. They are likely to have trouble learning in school.

They will learn, but it will take them longer. There may be some things they cannot learn, but it is important to realise they will have things that they excel at, and these should be harnessed to make sure they can live off them. It is hard to have very high hopes for children that struggle with so many basic things, but we can never know how far they can go unless we loosen the apron strings a little bit. If you believe your child will always be helpless, it's hard for you to work towards changing the course of his life.

You will most likely convey the same negative perception to him. Parents need to have faith that despite their challenges, children with cognitive disabilities can live to transcend their diagnoses.

During my conversation with Sonia Paiva on how her family assisted with the construction of the Enjabulweni Learning Centre, she raised what I thought were very important points regarding how to raise children with disabilities.

When her child was diagnosed with a learning disability, she and her husband worked hard to ensure he got a good education. Because the son is now a young man with his own sense of autonomy, his name will not be disclosed. Sonia

confessed that she was always fearful of letting him go anywhere by himself, much to his annoyance because he believed he was perfectly capable of taking care of himself. Even though she harboured certain fears, she did not stop trying to groom him for an independent life. He can drive, cook, go to work, and has even moved out of his parental home! Sonia encouraged parents to work with what they have, and not try to force children into what they hoped they would be. "If your son has a problem with his hand, let's see what he can do with his feet, if he has a problem with his legs, let's see what he can do with his arms," she said. Since moving out of home, Sonia has noticed that her son's independence and confidence have actually grown by leaps and bounds, forcing her to realise that by overprotecting him from the harsh world, she was actually impeding his progress.

"The problem I had was that I was too protective of my son, and there was a lot of damage I created, because a lot of people felt if I'd let go earlier and not protect him too much, then he would have progressed a lot better. If I were to turn the clock back, especially when I see the progress he has made when he's more liberated, I should have done it sooner. If I were to give advice to parents I'd say, if your son can walk, let him walk. Let him experience how it feels to fall and get hurt," she added.

So how do you help your son become independent? Experts say you need to pay particular attention to your child's interests.

Does he like counting, cooking, fixing gadgets, cycling, gardening or does he like creating things? More attention should be paid to the child's strengths, rather than moan over the things he cannot do.

Many children with intellectual disabilities need help with adaptive skills, which are needed to live, work, and play in the community.

This is where it becomes important to send them to school where

they can be assisted by professionally trained teachers to relate appropriately with others, reading, writing, counting, and taking instruction. At home they can also be taught to take care of their personal needs such as cleaning after themselves, dressing, bathing and cooking.

It's a process of trying to hone their skills and should start from an early age. It is a good idea for parents to have good relationships with the child's teachers and therapists in order to share tips on how best to help the child.

Children are always a handful during school holidays; it's a little more hectic when they have cognitive disabilities like autism and are accustomed to a set routine. Instead of getting frustrated with them, give them chores to do, take them shopping and assist them in counting change. These skills will definitely come in handy later in life.

Praise your children when they do well. Teach your child with developmental delays independence, and there is no time like the present. If you have any comments on this article or any disability issues you would like discussed, please get in touch on 7810 3501 or charlonyatanga@gmail.com.

*Additional information obtained from Centre for Parent Information and Resources website

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505 2330



BARCELONA'S GOMES REFUSES TO PICK BETWEEN MESSI, RONALDO

MADRID - Barcelona midfielder Andre Gomes has said he will not compare Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo as he has too much respect for the star pair.

Messi and Ronaldo - each regarded as the greatest player of all time in their own right - have dominated world football and debate as to who is better has come to the fore again after the latter claimed his fourth Ballon d'Or last Monday.

Real Madrid star Ronaldo is now only one adrift of Messi's record for the France Football prize.

But as he is an international teammate of Portugal captain Ronaldo, while he plays alongside Messi at Camp Nou, Gomes has refused to name his preference.



Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.

"I do not like to compare them out of respect," Gomes told Catalunya Radio's Tot Costa programme.

"I will never answer it. I'm Portuguese and I have affection for Cristiano." *Goal*

FIFA boss wants video refs at 2018 SWC

YOKOHAMA - FIFA president Gianni Infantino hopes to see video referees used at the 2018 Soccer World Cup in Russia - if its teething problems have been fixed in time.

Colombia's Atletico Nacional slammed the new video assistant referee (VAR) technology being trialled at the Club World Cup in Japan after the first-ever penalty awarded under the system helped knock them out midweek. Real Madrid were also lukewarm after confusion around a Cristiano Ronaldo goal in another game, but Infantino promised FIFA would iron out the glitches.

"It's still premature to say when we will go live with this system," he told reporters yesterday. "But I hope at the next World Cup the test results will be positive enough to be able to implement it." Infantino praised the decision to award

Japan's Kashima Antlers a penalty against the South American champions.

"The referee didn't see the play and his non-decision could be corrected thanks to the video technology," he said on the eve of the final between Real and Kashima.

"The time it took (to award the spot kick) lasted too long, that's something we can work on. "But the right decision was taken and the penalty awarded, which was correct."

Chaos followed Ronaldo's late goal in a 2-0 victory over Club America a day later, when it appeared video technology could have ruled out the effort.

Ronaldo's celebrations were briefly cut short before the goal was confirmed. Infantino blamed the confusion on the video assistant pressing the intercom while consulting colleagues, confusing the match referee. *AFP*

FIFA president Gianni Infantino.



I should've signed Mane when I was at Dortmund

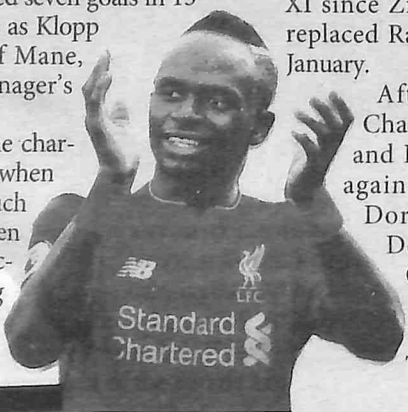
LONDON - Jurgen Klopp heaped praise on Sadio Mane as the Liverpool manager once again lamented his failure in not signing the forward for Borussia Dortmund.

Mane has made a seamless transition from Southampton to Liverpool, helping Klopp and Co. mount a Premier League title challenge ahead of Monday's Merseyside derby at Everton.

The 24-year-old Senegal international - formerly of Red Bull Salzburg - has scored seven goals in 15 league appearances this season as Klopp benefits from the exploits of Mane, who was on the German manager's radar at Dortmund in 2014.

"The quality of the player, the character of the team," Klopp said when asked why Mane has made such an impact. "They had really open arms for him from the first second they heard we were signing Sadio Mane. They were like 'Oh! Okay!' That helps." *Goal*

Sadio Mane.



'I want to win more titles'

MADRID - James Rodriguez has reiterated his happiness at Real Madrid amid ongoing speculation regarding the attacker's future at the La Liga club.

A January exit continues to be mooted for James, who has struggled to cement himself in Madrid's starting XI since Zinedine Zidane replaced Rafael Benitez in January.

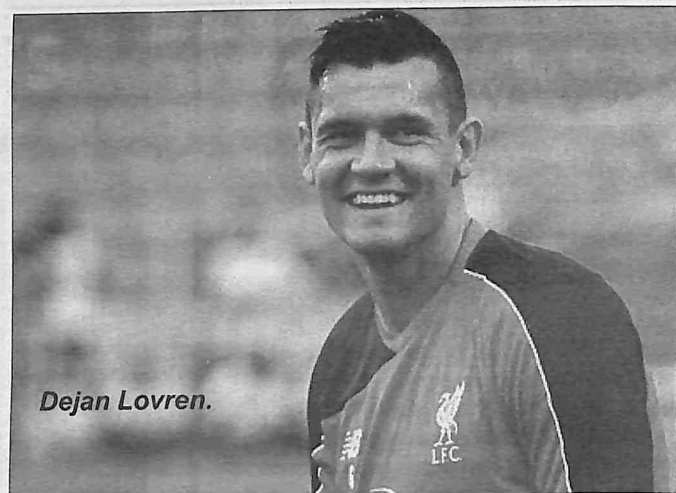
After starting Champions League and La Liga fixtures against Borussia Dortmund and Deportivo La Coruna, James was among the substitutes in Thursday's Club



James Rodriguez.

World Cup semi-final win over Club America.

The Colombia international, however, has no plans to leave the Spanish capital. *Goal*



Dejan Lovren.

Lovren ready for Lukaku battle

LONDON - Dejan Lovren says he does not fear the physical threat of Romelu Lukaku as Liverpool prepare to take on Everton tomorrow.

The Belgium international striker has already netted nine times this Premier League campaign, almost half of the Toffees' tally.

Nevertheless, Lovren is relishing the chance to battle it out with the powerful attacker.

"Everton have some top players and Lukaku is one of them," the Reds' defender told the Liverpool Echo. "He has proved it over many years in the Premier League that he is one of the best strikers in the league."

The Croatian centre-back was withdrawn at half-time of

Liverpool's 2-2 draw with West Ham with cramp last Sunday but played the full 90 minutes of the 3-0 win at Middlesbrough in mid-week and is fit and raring to go for the Merseyside derby at Goodison Park.

"It will be a tough challenge but I am ready. We are all ready to fight," he said.

"Physically, I am fine. I had a small problem but it is gone now." Liverpool are unbeaten in their last 11 league matches against Everton, winning four and drawing seven, their longest unbeaten run against their city rivals in the league since an 11-game streak between March 1979 and March 1984.

Goal

Moyes didn't know Sunderland would go up for sale

LONDON - Sunderland manager David Moyes admits he would have thought twice about joining them had he known about the club's financial issues.

Moyes will not be able to strengthen his side in the January transfer window with the Premier League cellar-dwellers up for sale.

The situation has left Moyes frustrated as he bids to preserve Sunderland's top-flight status after replacing Sam Allardyce in the summer, so much so that he has regrets over taking on the top job at the Stadium of Light.

"Sunderland always had an appeal to me, but if I had known about the situation I would have needed to look at it in a different way," said Moyes, whose Black Cats are four points adrift of safety ahead of Saturday's game against Watford.

"I would have had to think a lot more about it, because at the end of the day I want to manage in the Premier League."

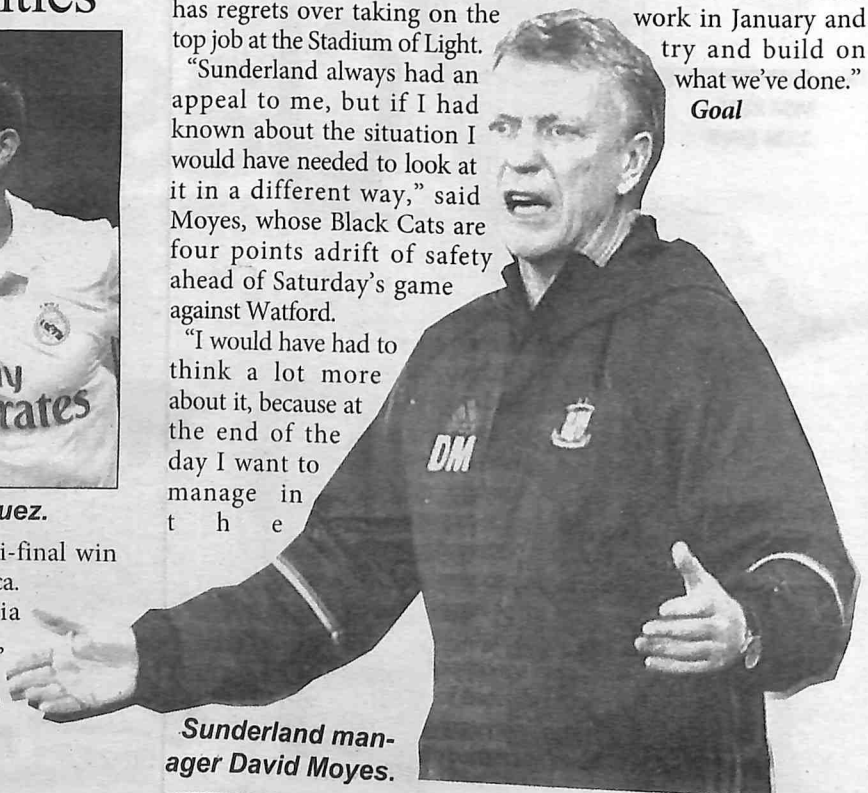
Premier League. "I did not know the club could be going up for sale, I was not made aware of that before. I didn't see us having no money [in January]. Even in the summer I knew what we were spending was small in comparison - and I said that to the owner."

"But I hoped it would be a short period and we would then have the next period [January] to get things done. That has shown itself not to be the case."

"I'm disappointed that I will not be able to do some work in January and try and build on what we've done."

Goal

Sunderland manager David Moyes.



HAMILTON'S DESIRE TO WIN TITLES COULD DEPEND ON LIFESTYLE - JOLYON PALMER

LONDON - Three-time world champion Lewis Hamilton's desire to win more titles could depend on his lifestyle outside of Formula 1, says Renault driver and fellow Englishman Jolyon Palmer.

Hamilton, 31, missed out on a fourth drivers' title this year to now-retired Mercedes team-mate Nico Rosberg.

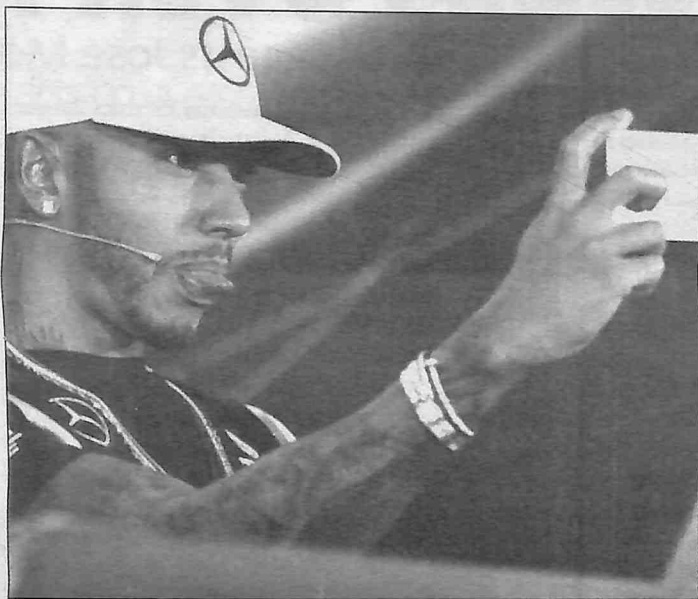
Palmer says Hamilton is in a "good place" for next season, but does not know how long he will stay at the top.

"So long as he's motivated, he'll be strong," Palmer, 25, told BBC Sport.

"He enjoys more of life outside Formula 1 than a lot of other drivers.

"At the moment he is very competitive with it and is able to combine Formula 1 with quite an elaborate lifestyle outside of the car. "But you still need the right circumstances. You need a good team behind you and you need to have a reliable car for the year to do it - it's not just up to him."

Hamilton is yet to learn who



Lewis Hamilton.

he will drive alongside next year, with Rosberg, 31, having retired five days after winning the title.

The German said the time was right after achieving his "dream", but Palmer says it came as a "massive shock" to everyone inside the sport.

"I couldn't really believe it," he said. "It's the best job. To be

champion, to be in the best car and being paid a huge amount of money.

"It is what everyone else is aspiring to do, so to be in that position and call it quits is difficult to understand for a lot of other people. "I would love to be in that position, but I don't have a family and kids. I respect him,

because from that position it is a very brave call."

Palmer, who will drive alongside Nico Hulkenberg next year, believes Hamilton will have an "advantage" over whoever Mercedes recruit to replace Rosberg.

"Anyone else is going to be coming in new to the team, and also pretty late without the preparation that most others have had," he said.

Palmer says it will be tough for Mercedes to replace the world champion because the "main contenders" are all under contract. But he added: "I don't doubt they will be fine. They still have Lewis Hamilton in the car and whoever they do get in the second car will be a very capable driver anyway."

"It is harder for them, and I'm sure they would much prefer Nico was staying on, but I think they have been so dominant the last few years they should be able to transfer that in to the next generation of cars and at least be race winning."

BBC

Keane sets sights on England debut in 2017

LONDON - Many people make New Year's resolutions but not everybody sees them through.

Michael Keane is not everybody.

This time last year, the Burnley centre-back's targets for 2016 were to help the Clarets gain promotion back to the Premier League and get his first England call-up. Now, having achieved both of those goals, he is setting his sights even higher for 2017.

"My first England call-up was probably the best moment of my career and being promoted from the Championship for the second time in three seasons is not easy to do," Keane told the Daily Express.

"I played in nearly every game when we won the league, which was fantastic experience, and it was nice to fulfil my other New Year's resolution of making it back to the Premier League."

"Now I want to make my England debut in 2017 - that's the first wish on my list - and to stay in and around the squad. Hopefully I can do that by playing well for Burnley on a consistent basis and helping us to remain in the Premier League."

The 23-year-old has made 16 appearances in the Premier League this season, scoring one goal, and England boss Gareth Southgate was in attendance to watch him in Burnley's narrow defeat away at West Ham in midweek.

"It's always good when the England manager comes to watch and you're on show but, more than anything, it's playing regular football that gives you confidence," Keane continued.

"When you manage to get a run of games in a settled side and you manage to put a few decent performances together against the likes of Liverpool and Everton, you go from strength to strength. It's good to be noticed."

Goal

Alexis Sanchez one of the best in the world - Xavi

MADRID - World Cup winner Xavi is delighted to see Alexis Sanchez getting the recognition he deserves, with the Arsenal forward now considered to be 'one of the best attacking players in the world'.

The Chile international has always been held in high regard, but has often been overshadowed by the exploits of others.

His efforts at Udinese in Serie A earned him a high-profile move to Barcelona in 2011 but his time at Camp Nou was spent working in Lionel Messi's shadow -

with the majestic Argentine at the peak of his powers.

Alexis has, however, become a leading light in the Premier League since trading Catalunya for north London, with his contribution helping to push Arsenal into title contention this term.

Return

His 12-goal return has him sat alongside Chelsea's Diego Costa in the race for the English top-flight's Golden Boot, while the lack of a contract extension at Emirates Stadium is seeing him linked with big-money moves elsewhere.

Xavi is not surprised to see the 27-year-old shining in the global spotlight, with his ability clear for all to see when forming part of a star-studded squad at Camp Nou.

"The level Sanchez is playing at now is not a shock to me at all, he is one of the top forwards in Europe and now everybody is seeing it," said Xavi.

"He scored some important goals for Barcelona but maybe because there were so many established stars already at Barcelona that not everybody recognised him as they should. AFP



Alexis Sanchez and Xavi.

Ramos resumes Real Madrid training ahead of Club World Cup final

MADRID - Real Madrid defender Sergio Ramos has resumed regular training ahead of today's Club World Cup final against Kashima Antlers.

The Spain international missed Madrid's semi-final win over Club America as a precautionary measure after complaining about a minor knock following Madrid's journey to Japan. Ramos took part in yesterday's training session without any noteworthy issues, though, and is ready to make his comeback versus the J-League champions. Fellow defender Pepe, meanwhile, was unable to participate with his team-mates and seems set to miss out today's showpiece, with Raphael Varane expected to get the nod alongside Ramos.

Real Madrid will be gunning for their second Club World Cup title when they take on Kashima Antlers, having previously lifted the trophy in 2014 after beating San Lorenzo 2-0 in the final, with Ramos and Gareth Bale on target. Goal

Racing threaten to sue Goosen over quitting

PARIS - Springbok star Johan Goosen was threatened with legal action by Racing 92 on Friday after his shock decision to quit the sport and return to South Africa.

The 24-year-old was reported to be taking up a commercial director's job in South Africa, a decision which left French champions Racing fuming.

"Johan Goosen, whose contract was renegotiated less than a year ago, now claims to be releasing himself in an extraordinary manner by announcing he has made the unbelievable decision to return to South Africa for a role of commercial director," said Racing president Jacky Lorenzetti.

"Racing 92 reserves the right for a judicial follow-up to both Johan Goosen and those who advise him."

"Racing have always supported Johan Goosen both morally and financially, even though he has unfortunately demonstrated lately a certain lack of responsibility."

"Hopefully he will quickly realise that respect for a contract, like that of the given word, is the basis of all relationships."

AFP

Man charged with murder of Tyson Gay's daughter

LOS ANGELES - A man was indicted this week on a charge of wanton murder in the October death of US Olympic sprinter Tyson Gay's daughter Trinity, police in Lexington, Kentucky, said on Friday.

Trinity Gay, 15, died in the early hours of October 16 after she was caught in the crossfire of a shootout between individuals in two cars in a restaurant parking lot in Lexington.

A grand jury indicted Chazarae M. Taylor of one count of wanton murder and four counts of wanton endangerment "for his role in creating the environment that ultimately led to the death of 15-year-old Trinity Gay," police said in a statement.

Taylor's 19-year-old son D'markeo C. Taylor was indicted on one count of wanton endangerment and 20-year-old Lamonte Williams was indicted on four counts of wanton endangerment. AFP





BARCLAYS

ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



AGENT IN SHOCK SERIE A CLAIM OVER ROONEY

● suggests Jose Mourinho beef

MANCHESTER - A well-respected Italian football agent claims Manchester United tried to sell Wayne Rooney to Napoli over the summer and that the player "does not have a good relationship" with Jose Mourinho.

Rooney's performances at Manchester United have come under huge scrutiny this season with the player struggling to find his best form and regularly warming the bench under the United boss.

The player remains just one goal shy of Sir Bobby Charlton's all-time goalscoring record at Manchester United - but Vincenzo Morabito, a well-known inter-

mediary between the Premier League and Serie A, has claimed the 31-year-old could have been flogged to Napoli during the summer.

A move to an English rival was ruled out but the former FIFA agent insists Mourinho is keen to offload the ageing star and make room in his squad, with even a loan move mooted.

Clubs

"I know for a fact that he was offered to Napoli as he can't go to other English clubs, which could lead him to Spain and Italy," Morabito told Radio CRC.

"He was, I repeat, offered to Napoli. While the idea is beautiful, when you look at his €10million-a year salary, it isn't realistic."

"He certainly doesn't have a good relationship with Mourinho, and therefore his future is far from United, even on loan, to give them more room."

Rooney's future at United was recently discussed in our Monday Verdict feature, where we suggested a move to Everton could be sanctioned as early as next month - should the player overtake Charlton's record. *teamtalk*



Wayne Rooney.

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Oscar.

Oscar's decision to quit Chelsea for China 'embarrassing' - Carra

LONDON - Oscar's decision to leave Chelsea for the £400 000 wages on offer in China has been described as 'embarrassing' by Jamie Carragher.

The 25-year-old Brazilian will complete a £52m move to the Chinese Super League in the next fortnight, with reports suggesting the player will become football's best paid player by making the move.

But Carragher, writing in his Daily Mail column, lamented the Brazilian's decision to effectively put

wealth before his career.

"It is a sad day for football when a player about to enter his prime moves for financial reasons and nothing else," Carragher wrote.

"The money is astronomical, but it's not as if he is on a pittance at Chelsea.

"This is not a move to further his career. He will talk about the league growing in China, the chance to work with Andre Villas-Boas and the excitement about a new adventure - but we all know those words will be nonsense.

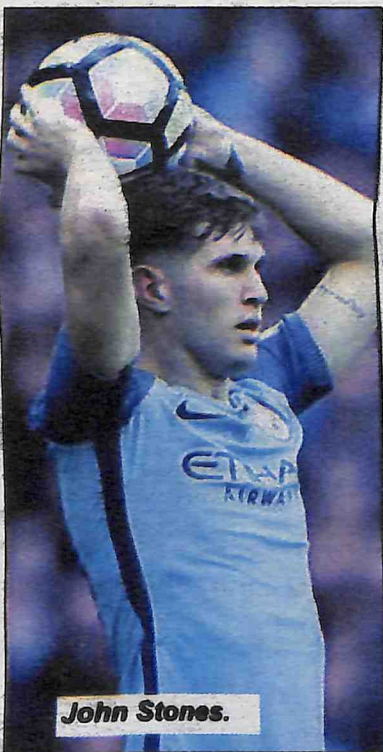
"He has gone for the size of the contract. Nothing else. Players used to look for a pay day in their mid-thirties when their career was coming to an end. We all understood that.

"With the riches now on offer in China, I could understand a player's head getting turned when he reaches 30 - but 25?

"It is embarrassing that a player would give up his career and the chance to compete for the biggest prizes in the game just for money."

TEAMTALK

'Stones has potential to be Europe's best, but isn't ready yet'



John Stones.

LONDON - Roberto Martinez believes John Stones has what it takes to become one of the best centre-halves in Europe but says he still has a lot to learn.

The Belgium boss managed Stones for three years at Everton, during which time he saw him mature into the player Manchester City made England's most expensive defender when they paid £47.5 million for him in the summer.

"You're talking about one of the best footballing centre-halves in European football, but that's potential," the Spaniard told BBC Radio 5 Live.

"We're very, very quick to judge people and not to understand that he's still a very young man, probably ahead of where he should be."

Stones has come under fire following

some below par defensive performances this season, the most recent example coming in his side's 4-2 defeat at Leicester last weekend, when he was culpable for at least one of the Foxes' goals.

"You're the last man and when you make a mistake in those areas

you are going to get punished. He's someone who needs to learn many aspects of his play," Martinez said.

"The value in the market proves to me he's got the potential to be one of the best centre-halves in Europe but he's not ready yet. His decision-making, he needs to learn certain aspects to make

sure he doesn't make mistakes in areas you don't get away with in football."

GOAL

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'Show more hunger against Polokwane City'

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs midfielder Siphwe Tshabalala feels they can beat Polokwane City and end their nine-game winless streak if they show more hunger today.

Amakhosi are under pressure to turn their current situation around and their supporters have lost faith in the entire team, including coach Steve Komphela.

Shabba though, has urged the supporters to continue rallying behind them, adding that they will repay them with good performances.

"We have to show more hunger against Polokwane," Tshabalala told the Amakhosi website.

"With extra passion and commitment, we will beat them," he said.

"I would like to plead with our supporters to continue rallying behind the team.

"We will repay their faith in the team with good performances,"

continued the veteran midfielder. The 32-year-old revealed that the current slump has brought them closer as a team as they seek to find solutions to their problems.

"This situation has brought us closer as a team.

Together

"We are working together and supporting one another through this slump," he revealed.

"We have to soldier on. We must keep knocking on the door until we get the ball in the net. We are continuing to look for solutions. Sunday (today) is another opportunity to get the win to keep up with the leading pack," Shabba continued. "We are not happy with our situation.

"We understand the frustration of our supporters and we take the stick for this situation.

"Feedback helps us improve," concluded the Amakhosi winger.

GOAL



CAPE TOWN CITY STILL KEEN ON BUC'S MASALESA

CAPETOWN - Transfer-listed Orlando Pirates central midfielder Lehlogonolo Masalesa remains on the radar of high-flying Cape Town City.

The 24-year-old anchorman has been kicking his heels on the sidelines at Bucs since being placed on the transfer-list prior to the current 2016/17 campaign.

Despite reported interest from Premier Soccer League (PSL) clubs such as City, Kaizer Chiefs and Mamelodi Sundowns, he stayed at the

Houghton-based side.

An impeccable source has disclosed that City are still in hot pursuit of Masalesa, while Chiefs are yet to register their interest in the lanky midfielder.

"Viera has been linked with a whole host of clubs in the last few months," the source told Goal.

"Only a few of them have expressed their interest in the player so far and City are one of those clubs. He's just waiting for a concrete offer," the source continued.

"However, there's nothing from Chiefs at this stage. Let's wait and see what happens next month when the window reopens," the source concluded.

Masalesa, who is not registered with the PSL this season, is still contracted to the Buccaneers and interested clubs will have to pay a transfer fee for his services in January 2017.

He worked with City coach Eric Tinkler and Chiefs trainer Steve Komphela at Pirates and Platinum Stars respectively. **GOAL**



The Ministry of ICT (Information, Communications and Technology)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology takes this opportunity to invite members of the public, individuals and organizations to a stakeholder validation workshop of the Swaziland Broadcasting Bill 2016, to be held at the Royal Swazi Convention Centre Ezulwini, 20th December 2016, beginning at 9.00am.

The objects of the bill are:

- Provide for the establishment of the Swaziland Broadcasting Corporation, a national public broadcaster for the Kingdom of Swaziland, by amalgamating the operations and resources of Swazi Television Authority and the Swaziland Broadcasting and Information Services;
- Provide for the regulation of broadcasting services in Swaziland;
- provide for the maximum availability of broadcasting to the people through the three tier system of public, commercial and community broadcasting services;
- Provide for broadcasting to contribute to the socio-economic development of the society, nation building, provision of education and the strengthening of the spiritual and moral fibre;
- Provide for the establishment of a Board of Directors to run the Corporation and the procedure for the nomination of the members of the Board;
- Provide for the licensing of the Corporation; and
- Provide for matters incidental to public broadcasting.

For any enquiries please contact:

Senani Khumalo 24054047
email: khumalanto@gov.sz

&
Nozipho Mabuza 24054051
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1) What will happen if television owners do not
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2) List at least three benefits that come with the
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COSTA HEADER SEALS 11TH STRAIGHT LEAGUE WIN FOR CONTE'S MEN

LONDON - Chelsea equalled their longest Premier League winning run by beating Crystal Palace 1-0 yesterday for their 11th consecutive victory.

The league leaders were already guaranteed to be top of the tree at Christmas and a first-half goal from Diego Costa extended a run that stretches back to October 1.

Chelsea last won 11 on the bounce during their 2009-10 title-winning season and have been crowned champions each time they have previously topped the table on Christmas Day.

Costa's opener came at the end of a drab first half but marked a sparkling return to form for the Spain international, whose 13th Premier League goal of the season takes him beyond his tally for the entire 2015-16 campaign.

He got his head to an excellent Cesar Azpilicueta cross to get the better of Palace goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey two minutes from the break, proving enough to secure maximum points.

Chelsea's joy at moving nine



Diego Costa celebrating.

points clear of Liverpool and Arsenal at the summit was tempered somewhat by yellow cards for Costa and N'Golo Kante, who are now suspended for the Boxing Day clash with Bournemouth.

Cesc Fabregas' winning goal at Sunderland in midweek was not enough for him to retain his place in the Chelsea starting XI, dropping to the bench in one of two

changes made by Antonio Conte.

Willian - one of the men to come in - was central to the visitors' first meaningful attack.

Following a tepid opening in the Selhurst Park fog, the Brazilian exchanged passes with Eden Hazard on the edge of the box before Joel Ward obstructed the Belgian to concede a free-kick 20 yards out. **Goal**

FIXTURES

TODAY

Absa Premiership		
15:30 Baroka FC	v	Golden Arrows
15:30 Kaizer Chiefs	v	Polokwane City

German Bundesliga

16:30 Darmstadt 98	v	Bayern München
Merck-Stadion am Böllenfalltor		
18:30 Bayer Leverkusen	v	Ingolstadt BayArena

Italian Serie A

13:30 Sassuolo	v	Internazionale
16:00 Udinese	v	Crotone
16:00 Pescara	v	Bologna
16:00 Napoli	v	Torino Stadio San Paolo
16:00 Chievo	v	Sampdoria
21:45 Lazio	v	Fiorentina
21:45 Genoa	v	Palermo

Premier League

15:30 AFC Bournemouth	v	Southampton
18:00 Manchester City	v	Arsenal
18:00 Tottenham Hotspur	v	Burnley

Spanish La Liga

17:15 Leganés	v	Eibar
18:00 Valencia	v	Real Madrid
19:30 Deportivo La Coruña	v	Osasuna
21:45 Barcelona	v	Espanyol

French Ligue 1

16:00 Nice	v	Dijon
18:00 Olympique Marseille	v	Lille
21:45 Monaco	v	Olympique Lyonnais

Ozil not good enough - Merson

LONDON - Former Arsenal midfielder Paul Merson says Mesut Ozil's role in Everton's winning goal on Tuesday night was 'not good enough'.

Arsenal lost 2-1 at Goodison Park, a result which leaves them third in the Premier League and six points behind leaders Chelsea, and Merson feels Ozil could have done more to prevent Ashley Williams heading in from a corner late on.

Writing in his column for the Daily Star, Merson said: "He [Ozil] was cowering as the ball came in and he literally ran away from it.

"That's not good enough. That doesn't win you league titles.

He doesn't even need to win it. Just a little nudge could have been enough to put Ashley Williams off but he gave up.

"Arsenal can't afford to do that."

Arsene Wenger's side travel to Manchester City today and they'll again be without defender Shkodran Mustafi, who has been ruled out for the remainder of the year with a hamstring injury.

"They are really going to miss Shkodran Mustafi. He hasn't lost a game since he's been there," said Merson.

"But if Arsenal lose this game they could suddenly be a long way behind Chelsea and playing catch-up again."

Manchester City bounced back from consecutive defeats at home to Chelsea and away to Leicester

with a 2-0 victory over Watford on Wednesday and Merson believes the game against Arsenal is a must-win for Pep Guardiola's

Paul Merson.

side. Goal

'Spanish players not valued in Ballon d'Or vote'

MADRID - Real Madrid and Spain captain Sergio Ramos claims Spanish players are "not valued as much" when it comes to Ballon d'Or voting.

Ramos' Madrid team-mate Cristiano Ronaldo won his fourth Ballon d'Or this month, finishing ahead of Barcelona star Lionel Messi and Atletico Madrid striker Antoine Griezmann.

However, while Spanish clubs accounted for the top six in the final rankings, the three shortlisted Spain internationals - Ramos, Andres Iniesta and Koke - failed to pick up a single vote.

"It surprised me that Iniesta did not get any votes for the Ballon d'Or, but no, I was not surprised that I did not get any votes," Ramos told a news conference.

"It surprises me that Raul and



Spain captain Sergio Ramos.

Iniesta never won a Ballon d'Or. It seems that Spanish players are not valued as much." Ramos was careful not to be overly critical of the voting

process, though, with Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane a former winner of the award.

Goal

South African-born Mokotjo receives Dutch citizenship

AMSTERDAM - Former Bafana Bafana international Kamohelo Mokotjo obtained his Dutch citizenship at a naturalisation ceremony on Thursday.

Mokotjo, who was born in Ondendaalsrus in the Free State Province 25 years ago, has been playing his trade in Holland since 2009.

As a result, the defensive midfielder became eligible for naturalisation after living in the European country for more than five years.

Following one season with the SuperSport United first team, Mokotjo left the Tshwane club for Dutch outfit Feyenoord ahead of the 2009/10 campaign.

But Feyenoord decided to send him out on-loan to Excelsior imme-



Former Bafana Bafana international Kamohelo Mokotjo.

diately. He then returned to Feyenoord after helping Excelsior gain promotion to the Eredivisie.

In 2013, Mokotjo left Feyenoord for PEC Zwolle where he was able to establish himself. Following one successful season, he moved to FC Twente where he is now the team captain.

The former SuperSport academy player made his international debut for South Africa in a friendly game against Mozambique four years ago.

Mokotjo surprisingly announced his retirement from international football eight months ago after falling out with Bafana head coach Ephraim 'Shakes' Mashaba.

Even though, the former South Africa youth international now has a Dutch passport, he's ineligible to play for Holland.

Goal

SUNDERLAND BOOST SURVIVAL HOPES WITH WIN OVER WATFORD

SUNDERLAND - Sunderland took a huge step in their battle against relegation as they defeated Watford 1-0 at the Stadium of Light on yesterday.

Pele van Anholt struck early in the second half with what proved to be the decisive blow to lift the Black Cats to their fourth win of the season.

The win moves Sunderland up to 18th in the table and within a point of Crystal Palace, who sit just above the drop zone.

After an indifferent first half, Black Cats boss David Moyes, who this week learned he will have little or no cash to spend during the January transfer window, saw his team finally get going to secure a fourth league win in seven games.

In a poor first 45 minutes, Sunderland rarely looked like putting the visitors under the kind of pressure which had done for Hull and Leicester in their most recent home victories.

Where Troy Deeney and Odion Ighalo were a constant threat for the visitors, Jermain Defoe was fatally isolated for long periods at the pinnacle of a 4-2-3-1 formation, and it was Watford who created the clearer openings before the break.

Keeper Jordan Pickford has been in excellent form for the Black Cats in recent weeks, and he had to be at his best once again when Nordin Amrabat unleashed a fierce volley from Etienne Capoue's second-minute corner.

Ighalo might have opened the scoring from Jose Holebas' driven 15th-minute cross, but could not make meaningful



Sunderland's Patrick van Anholt, third left, celebrates with teammates after scoring his side's first goal during their English Premier League soccer match against Watford at the Stadium of Light, Sunderland, England. (AP)

contact at the near post, and defender Miguel Britos was left with his head in his hands after failing to hit the target from another Holebas cross 11 minutes later. Sebastian Prodl did call upon Pickford on the half-hour, but his header was straight at the keeper, and it took a fine covering tackle from Didier Ndong to prevent Juan Zuniga from converting Ighalo's cross two minutes later.

Sunderland manufactured little of note until late in the half when Victor Anichebe played in Van Anholt and his shot from a tight angle was repelled by keeper

Heurelho Gomes.

But Gomes was left helpless within four minutes of the restart when Adnan Januzaj picked out Defoe's run and the striker crossed for the supporting Van Anholt to turn Kabasele and fire home off the inside of the far post.

Defoe himself shot over from distance two minutes later with the Black Cats visibly growing in confidence, but they slept to allow Capoue and Amrabat to combine from a 59th-minute corner once again, although this time the latter's shot flew high over. *Teamtalk*

Dikwena, Maritzburg in dull draw

PHOKENG - The Absa Premiership encounter between Platinum Stars and Maritzburg United failed to produce a goal as it ended in a dull 0-0 draw at the Royal Bafokeng Stadium in Phokeng yesterday afternoon.

The result means the hosts now occupy 11th spot on the log standings with 13 points from the same number of league matches.

In the first 10 minutes, both camps exchanged good passes in the middle of the park, but both defences stood firm to prevent any clear-cut chances.

However, the hosts came close to opening their scoreline when Robert Ng'ambi saw his header going inches over the crossbar from a cross that stemmed from the right flank.

Although the match had no shots on target by the break, both sides enjoyed positive spells of ball possession in the heart of the park, with both goalkeepers enjoying an early holiday.

The second half gave the hosts an opportunity to attack in numbers, as Ng'ambi came close to scoring when he unleashed a volley which sailed over Bongani Mpnadle's crossbar in the 62nd minute.

A minute later, Lebohlang Maboe failed to hit the target when he received the ball unmarked in the box, but his well-taken shot went wide off the target with only goalkeeper Mbongeni Mzimela to beat. *Backpage TXT*



Middlesbrough's Alvaro Negredo, centre, celebrates scoring his side's second goal of the game with his teammates during their English Premier League soccer match against Swansea City at the Riverside Stadium, Middlesbrough, England, yesterday. (AP)

Negredo brace fires Boro to win over struggling Swansea

MIDDLESBROUGH - Middlesbrough eased their relegation worries with a comfortable 3-0 win over struggling Swansea at the Riverside Stadium yesterday. Alvaro Negredo bagged a first brace to send Boro firmly on their way, the second coming from the penalty spot.

Marten de Roon added a third for the hosts just before the hour mark as Aitor Karanka's side moved up to 14th in the table.

The defeat leaves under-pressure Bob Bradley's side rooted in the bottom three heading into Christmas, while Bradley's men were second best throughout, giving Negredo space in

the box to swing home an 18th minute opener before Jordi Amat tripped Adam Forshaw to set up Negredo's second from the spot.

Derseved

Bustling Boro got the third they deserved just before the hour mark when Marten de Roon converted a cross from Negredo and they could have made it four late on when the returning George Friend roved forward only to fire high and wide.

Bradley's men had looked lively in the opening moments, Modou Barrow having a cross cut out by Ben Gibson then Gylfi Sigurdsson stinging the hands of Boro keeper Victor Valdes from long-range. *Teamtalk*

Mashego, Manzini seal Chippa win

EAST LONDON - Katlego Mashego and Lerato Manzini were on target as Chippa United earned a 2-0 victory over Highlands Park at Sisa Dukashe Stadium yesterday.

Chippa United dominated the first stanza and deservedly went ahead through Katlego Mashego's free kick in the 26th minute. He nearly made it 2-0 not long after but Tapuwa Kapini made a good save.

Lerato Manzini finished the game off for Chippa when he finished off from Paseka Mako's cross in the 73rd minute.

The Chilli Boys were in control as they dominated play at the Sisa Dukashe Stadium. They nearly hit the front early when Zamuxolo Ngalo brought down Thamsanqa Sangweni. Yet, his fifth minute free kick smashed against the post with Tapuwa Kapini beaten. It was virtually one way traffic and eventually Mashego gave Chippa some reward for their dominance. After being brought down by Ngalo, he smashed in a free kick from around

30 yards which seemed to take a deflection off the wall in the 26th minute.

He nearly made it 2-0 from another set piece when Mothobi Mvala fouled Theminkosi Lorch, and the striker forced Kapini into a good save from a similar distance. The Zimbabwe international dived full length across his goal to deflect the strike away from the top corner.

After the interval, the Lions of the North did force a save from Daniel Akpeyi when Mvala hit a powerful shot from beyond 40 yards which gave the goalkeeper some work to do although he wasn't troubled.

Gordon Igesund's men were having more possession with Surprise Moriri prominent, however, clear chances were few and far between. From some occasional deliveries into the box, Akpeyi had no problem in dealing with the danger.

It was over as a contest in the 73rd minute when Paseka Mako broke into the box and pulled it back for Lerato Manzini to finish.

Sport24

Noble helps West Ham to priceless win over Hull

LONDON - Mark Noble's second-half penalty helped nervy West Ham to an ill-deserved 1-0 victory over relegation rivals Hull at the London Stadium.

For the second time in three days, Noble stepped up to the spot to secure an unconvincing, but very welcome, victory for the Hammers.

But Hull will wonder how they left the London Stadium empty-handed. They have now not scored away from home for eight-and-a-half hours but will not come much closer after being denied by the woodwork three times and seeing an effort cleared off the line.

West Ham, in contrast, were abject but nevertheless picked up a fifth win of the season, all of which have been by the same scoreline.

In the early stages, Hull keeper David Marshall had looked as though he might have to be substituted after pulling up with a groin problem.

But he opted to stay on and West Ham sportingly ensured he did not have to exert himself, with a tame 30-yard Dimitri Payet free-kick their only effort on goal in the first half.

However Hull created a host of presentable chances, the first of which was all West Ham's doing.

Aaron Cresswell's woefully under-hit backpass played Dieumerci Mbokani in one-on-one with Hammers keeper Darren Randolph but his effort clipped the inside of the post and rolled across goal to safety.

Moments later Randolph did well to palm Harry Maguire's powerful header wide, before Sam Clucas fired too high and Mbokani volleyed over.

Randolph then kept out Maguire's shot before the same player threatened again, this time denied by Pedro Obiang's interception which almost rolled into his own net.

The hosts trooped off at half-time to boos from some home fans and no doubt met with an angry boss in Slaven Bilic, who hauled off the ineffective Manuel Lanzini and Obiang at the break.

Andre Ayew and Edimilson Fernandes were the ones sent on to sort out the mess, but somehow things threatened to get even worse with Noble heading Andrew Robertson's cross against his own post.

Robertson then took aim from just inside the area only to see his angled drive crash back off the opposite post. *Teamtalk*



West Ham United's Mark Noble scores his side's first goal of the game from a penalty during their English Premier League soccer match against Hull City at London Stadium in London, yesterday. (AP)

GOLDEN FOOT CLUB JOINT RUN



Golden Foot Club athletes posing with French-born runner Wilfred Palcy (c) after a joint run at Zakhele Sports Ground yesterday which came in a form of a 21km race. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



Thandi Kunene, Zebenguni Mkhathshwa and Phumlile Kunene after the race.



The runners stretch their muscles after the race.



Senani Nkambule running up the hill.



Golden Foot Club ladies having a tough time at Esikhaleni selusekwane during the race.



French-born runner Wilfred Palcy (back wearing white cap) with some of the Golden Foot Club athletes at the joint run.



The runners pictured passing Pick N Pay in Manzini.



Senani Nkambule reacts as she passes the photographer.



The athletes enjoying themselves.



The club members rubbing shoulders with Wilfred Palcy.

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JAZZ VS IMBUBE AT MAVUSO SPORTS EMPORIUM



Sinkhala Mayibongwe tries to mark Musa Mdluli during the second playoff match between Jazz and Imbume at the Mavuso Sports Emporium yesterday morning.



Jazz players on the bench looking determined during their game against Imbume.



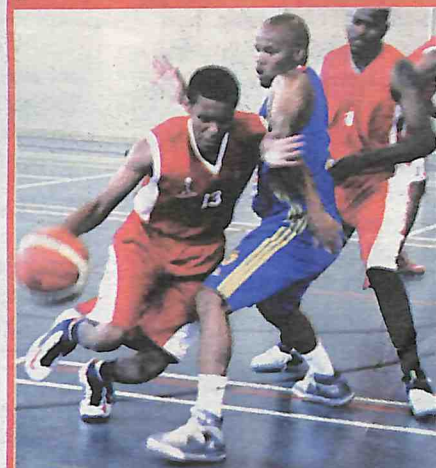
Imbume coach Xolani Simelane giving instructions to Bonz.



Malusi 'Bamsy' Nxumalo shoots to score.



Veteran Wandile 'Whitey' Mngadi trying to block an Imbume player.



Siboniso 'Bonz' Gina tussling past his way past Mchobokazi.



An Imbume player trying to feign past two Jazz players.



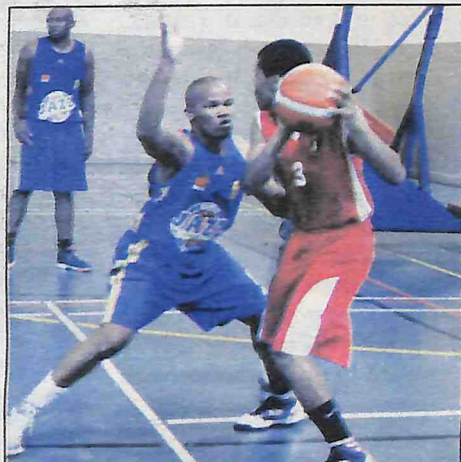
Jordy Shiba shouting for help from his teammates.



'Bonz' leaving Wandile Mngadi behind as he dashes to score.



Bamsy moving forward with the ball whilst Mzwandile 'States' Vilakati closes in.



Lwazi Mchobokazi blocking Siboniso 'Bonz' Gina.



Imbume players taking a rest during a time out.

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PALCY JOINS OVER 30 GFC ATHLETES TO COMPLETE 51ST RUN

STORIES BY SABELO MAJOLA

ATHLETICS - French-born runner Wilfred Palty joined over 30 Golden Foot Club runners in their end of year 21km joint run yesterday.

The race started at the Zakhele Community Hall and was run using the annual 'Tuff One' route. This was Palty's 51st run this year and he described the route as challenging.

"I am not used to hills. It was easy in the first 5km but as soon as we got to the first hill, it was a bit challenging for me," he said. Palty said another challenge was sharing the route with vehicles as well as the hot weather conditions.

...Fascinated by Incwala ceremony

ATHLETICS - After successfully completing his 51st run for the year, French athlete Wilfred Palty said he would attend the Incwala ceremony yesterday.

Palty declared his interest in the national event, adding he couldn't wait to join the regiment in dance. "Now that I'm done with the race, my next move is attending the Incwala ceremony," he said, enthusiastically.

Palty said he would consider com-

ing back to the country in the near future.

Golden Foot President Tokky Hou appreciated Palty's participation in the run. She stated that this was the club's last run for the year.

"We appreciate having Palty joining us all the way from France and I hope he attained the best experience. I want to thank all the athletes for coming through and our next joint run will be held on January 7," she said.

"It is less hot in France and the routes we use are just for athletes and not cars. But I am impressed by the Golden Foot Club as they are just amazing," he said.

The French will be marking the end of his adventure with the last race slated for Mozambique.

Palty has been running all across the world, including several African



French-born runner Wilfred Palty (c) with Sifiso Mdluli, Banele Dlamini, Mzwandile Mthethwa and Salaphi Dlamini (all from Mbabane branch).

countries.

His 50th run was at Lesotho while he has been to Kenya, Egypt, South Africa and his next stop is Mozambique next week.

Been

He has also been to North, Central and South America, Asia, Europe, and Australia.

He has a Facebook page called yeswecan where promotes his chari-

ty work and shares his journey.

"I always capture my experiences in different countries and share it with my running group to encourage a healthy lifestyle.

"I'm also a smoke-free advocate and my goal is to convince people to quit smoking, a decision I took after I lost my uncle to the disease," he said.

Swaziland loses to Zim in Region VI semis

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

SOCCER - It was a case of so near yet so far for the country's Under-17 squad as they crashed out of the AUSC Regional Games after losing 5-4 to Zimbabwe in the semi-finals.

The Velekhaya Mthethwa-led charges lost after the dreaded penalty shoot-outs after holding their Zimbabwean counterparts to a 2-all draw in normal time during the game played on Friday. The locals started the game on a high and were unfortunate not to score their opening goal 30 minutes into the game after being denied by the Zimbabwean goalkeeper Martin Mapisa who made a brilliant save.

The opposition made use of their chance a minute later and found the back of the net through Nicholas Guyo.

The local squad found an equaliser in the 46th minute which resulted from an own goal by Zim's Tatenda Muringani.

The local boys took the lead in the 59th minute and it was Leon Manyisa who registered his name on the scorer's chart. The two sides continued to give each other a tough time inside the pitch and the opposition's efforts paid off 16 minutes before time as they managed to get even. This was through a goal scored by Kuda Mangami who finally got into the net after three consecutive saves from the Swaziland goalkeeper. The locals were unfortunate as they ended the game one man down after Melusi Nyaweni was sent packing following a rough tackle one of the opposition's players.



Imbube coach Xolani Simelane giving instructions to Siboniso 'Bonz' Gina.

STORIES BY
SIBUSISO DLAMINI

BASKETBALL - The basketball season of the year 2016 ended on a high note with an

action-packed grand finale yesterday at the Mavuso Sports Emporium.

First on the court was the Manzini derby between the Steels and Superstars. Steels were missing six

It was the hardest game of the season - Jazz coach

BASKETBALL - "This was a very tough game for us. It was very close, from the very onset and truly scary."

These were the words of capital city glamour side Jazz head coach Tich after their win against Imbumba.

The coach further revealed that it was the toughest game of the season for them because Imbumba were not relaxing but they also came in hard and wanted the game too.

"I think we won it in the last

quarter where we stepped up our defence and that's when we made a difference. They (Imbumba) brought a very good game our way and they were serious about winning this game.

This was definitely the hardest game of the season. Now, I think we just have to focus on the finals." Meanwhile, his Imbumba counterpart Xolani Simelane was gracious in defeat. "What the fans just watched here was a show of how basketball is played. From

the very moment the game started, you could see that we were in it to win it. I think, even after losing - by such a narrow margin - we are still happy.

The team has played very well this season regardless of being a newly formed team.

All in all, we can't wait for next season. And one more thing, I think we really have to implore sponsors to come through because the league would be much better with sponsors," he said.

SNBL ends on a high

players and they came to the game with only six players.

When the game started though, they were like a house on fire and had a very good first half. When the first stanza ended, Steels were on the lead as the score beamed 24 - 14 to their favour.

After the recess, fatigue seemed to get the better of them and Superstars were really picking up their game as they fought hard with everything they had.

They fought back with fruition as they ended up winning the game 68 - 53, and just like that, Steels had failed to defend their title.

Next was capital city glamour giants Jazz, who were up against newly formed and remarkable Imbumba.

The game was a thriller from the onset as Jazz tried to impose themselves early in the game but Imbumba were up for the challenge.

The game kept all spectators on the edges of their seats as they watched end-to-end staff.

The game ended 52 - 48, in favour of Jazz.

By the time of compiling this report, the finals of the season between Superstars and Jazz were yet to be played.

It was a lesson for us - Steels coach

BASKETBALL - Speaking after they were stunned by Superstars who beat them 68 - 53, Steels coach Andile Thwala said the loss was a lesson for them and it gave them the opportunity to reflect on the season as a whole.

"Regardless of us missing six players on game day - I can guarantee you that we prepared thoroughly for this

game, but due to reasons beyond our control, part of our team couldn't make it. Superstars were very good today, and I think we somehow underestimated them because we beat them by a big margin earlier this season and this was our downfall. In conclusion though, I think the loss will give us the opportunity to reflect on the season as a whole and work on the next one."

MALKERNS OPEN DARTS TOURNEY FINALS TODAY

BY SABELO MAJOLA

DARTS - In respect of the Incwala ceremony, the Malkerns Open finals, which were scheduled for yesterday, will now be played today at Malkerns Club.

The winner-takes-all games were scheduled to commence at 10am but had to be shifted.

Swaziland National Darts Association (SNDA) Secretary

Phumlani Ndwandwe apologised for any inconvenience caused.

"We had to shift the games because of this special day for the Swazi nation.

The games will continue where we will see the finals taking place tomorrow (today)," he said. He said the tournament would now be played annually and they would maintain the winner takes all concept. "We hope it will also attract more players from the Southern African Region.

As an association we are very pleased with the club's initiative and are hopeful that the tournament will also grow. Also featured here are pupils who will be scorers throughout the competition.

The aim is to expose them to high level competitive games. This will also improve their mental sharp-

ness and awareness," he said. The winner in both the singles and doubles category will walk away with a cash prize of E5 000, respectively.

The top scorer will win E1 000 sponsored by Plus and Minus Accounting.

The tournament has attracted players mainly from South Africa.



E15 000 NEEDED TO BRING BACK MWASE

STORIES BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER - Mbabane Highlanders need about E15 000 to bring back estranged coach Meck Mwase, who is currently in his native country Malawi.

Information gathered by this publication is that the coach wants the team to pay him the E10 000 he is allegedly owed by the team in respect of salaries as well as transport fee, about E5 000.

Mwase unceremoniously left the black and white side which was then under the leadership of resigned Managing Director Bheki 'Rubber' Simelane.

A source close to the matter revealed

that the two parties have not agreed on the terms of the new deal.

"The coach wants to be paid a certain amount before he can return to the country."

He has verbally agreed to join the team but they will have to offer him an improved salary since he is now holding CAF A Licence, which will be a requirement in the Premier League next season," the source said.

Mwase referred all queries to Mbabane Highlanders when asked on the matter yesterday.

"I am not in a position to comment on these issues, please talk to Highlanders," he said. The team's General Manager David Litchfield said he was not aware of issues involving the coach as con-

tractual matters were being handled by the team's elders.

The 2015/16 MTN First Round Best Coach recently acquired his CAF Licence A with the Football Association of Malawi (FAM) and is expected to lead the 'Black Bull' during the second half of the season.



Coach Meck Mwase.

Ex -Pirates development player at 'Bull'

SOCCER - Capital city giants Mbabane Highlanders are on the verge of signing former Orlando Pirates development player Sandile Mzizi.

Mzizi, who was under the guidance of veteran coach Augusto Palacios at the Soweto based giants, started training with the black and white outfit on Tuesday at the Mhlambanyatsi Sports Ground.

Players

The South African born player is said to be one of the five players to be signed by the team in the next transfer window period.

Highlanders General Manager David Litchfield said they would be signing a number of players when the second

registration window opens.

"We have too many players training with the team. I can't be sure of this particular one as I have not been to training in the past week," he said. If eventually signed, Mzizi could become the second player from Orlando Pirates after Steve Lekoelea, who once had a short stint with the team during the 2010/11 season.

Local teams through to last eight in SA tourney

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

VOLLEYBALL - All local teams are through to the quarterfinals of the Ladysmith International tournament currently taking place in South Africa.

The five local Premier Division giants namely Correctional Males and Ladies, Lomahasha Customs, Chili Babes and Zakhele Ladies all made it through to the next round of the competition featuring teams from South Africa, Mozambique

and Lesotho.

The teams will be part of the knockout action where they will be fighting for E7 000 and E5 000 first prize monies at stake in the male and female categories, respectively.

Swaziland National Volleyball Association Secretary Nonophile 'Affie' Dlamini confirmed the developments when contacted.

"All our teams have made it through to the quarterfinals stage to be played tomorrow (today). They really fared well in the round robin stage where Correctional

Males finished on top of their group while Customs finished second in their group," she said. Dlamini described the team's success as good work in progress for local volleyball, as their objective was seeing the teams compete effectively at international level.

Performance

"We are very happy with their performance, which is a sign that we are improving as a country."

We wish them the best of luck in the knockout stage and are confident they will win," she said.



Correctional Sunrise Ladies team posing before their departure to South Africa on Thursday afternoon. (Courtesy pic)

Green Mamba put Sande on transfer

BY SABELO MAJOLA

SOCCER - Zimbabwean-born defensive midfielder Blessing Sande has reportedly been put on transfer by Green Mamba.

Sande joined the Correctional Services side when they were under the leadership of fellow countrymen Rodwell Dhlakama and was a regular. The player has, however, seen less game time since coach Hebert Maruwa took over the reins at the club.

It has been reliably gathered that the player lamented on the lack of game time and asked to be released by the team in order to find a club where he would be active. Former

Malanti Chiefs player Mxolisi Mkhontfo has been preferred in the position with Sande warming the bench for the better part of last season.

Green Mamba CEO Thami Phakathi said they were waiting for a report from the technical bench on the issue player's appraisal when sought for comment yesterday. "All the team's players are still contracted and wait to get the report from the technical bench then we will take it from there," he said. The 28 year old is a former Black Rhinos Football Club as a midfielder. Sande was part of the team that received a silver medal in the Swazi Bank Cup after losing 0-2 to Mbabane Swallows.

Chiyangwa is new COSAFA President

STORIES BY QONDILE NTIWANE

SOCCER - Phillip Chiyangwa has been elected as President of the Council of Southern Africa Football Associations (COSAFA) after he stood unopposed at the organisation's Annual General Meeting at Sun City, South Africa yesterday.

Information gathered from COSAFA is that the Zimbabwe Football Association (ZIFA) President takes over from Suketu Patel, who elected not to stand after completing two terms in office.

The other contender for the role of COSAFA president, Dr Danny Jordaan from the South African Football Association, also withdrew before the vote.

Support

Chiyangwa expressed his delight at having received the support of the region, who unanimously welcomed his appointment, saying he was "happy and humbled" to lead.

Frans Mbidi of Namibia was voted in as Vice-President for the next five years.

Out-going president Patel said he believed he had completed his

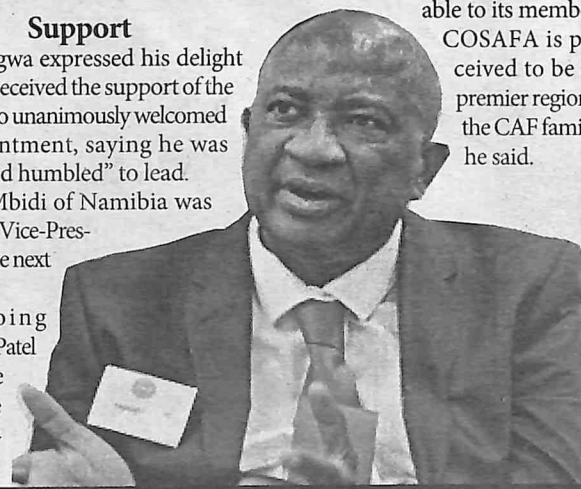
mission to help develop football in the COSAFA region and it was now time to pass on the baton.

"When I took over the presidency 10 years ago, development was the objective and we have achieved that. It is important to know when one has done his job and leave with dignity."

Tournament

"Back then we had one tournament, our senior challenge, but this year we have hosted five events across the age-groups in men's and women's football. "It has always been our objective that young players' first exposure to international football is in our region. I hope that legacy will continue. "We have great sponsors in place and these relationships now need to be nurtured. We have built a credible institution that is account-

able to its members. COSAFA is perceived to be the premier region in the CAF family," he said.



New COSAFA President Phillip Chiyangwa.

... Timothy Shongwe loses COSAFA seat

Former National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) First Vice President Timothy Shongwe lost a seat in the new COSAFA executive committee after not being elected.

Shongwe, who served as COSAFA Competition Committee Chairman in the previous executive, failed to make it into the new committee during the elections held at the regional football mother body Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Sun City, South Africa yester-

day. The five additional individuals to make up the executive committee in their role as ordinary members were; General Pedro Neto (Angola), Andrew Kamanga (Zambia), Sameer Sobha (Mauritius), Alberto Simanga (Mozambique) and Walter Nyamilandu-Manda (Malawi), who has served as an ordinary member on the outgoing exec. Jordaan, David Fani (Botswana) and Mclean Letshwidi (Botswana) withdrew from the vote for ordinary members.



RESULTS

ABSA PREMIERSHIP

Chippa Utd	2-0	Highlands Park
Platinum Stars	0-0	Maritzburg Utd

PREMIER LEAGUE

Crystal Palace	0-1	Chelsea
Middlesbrough	3-0	Swansea
Stoke City	2-2	Leicester
Sunderland	1-0	Watford
West Ham	1-0	Hull City

SundayObserver SPORTING

DECEMBER 18, 2016



At the 'Bull's kraal:

MWASE'S E15 000 ULTIMATUM

...Malawian born coach wants Highlanders to pay him E15 000 plus a new deal before his return.

Vardy sees red as Leicester stage fine comeback at Stoke

TRENT - Daniel Amartey scored a dramatic late equaliser as 10-man Leicester City overcame Jamie Vardy's red card to earn a 2-2 draw at Stoke City yesterday.

Vardy was controversially sent off midway through the first half for a challenge on Mame Biram Diouf, while referee Craig Pawson also awarded Stoke a penalty after Bojan Krkic's cross was handled by

Danny Simpson.

Bojan netted from the spot and Joe Allen looked to have killed off the match in first-half stoppage-time with his fifth top-flight goal of the season - the strike giving him more goals this season than his previous four combined.

Claudio Ranieri was furious with Pawson but he had late hope when substitute Leonardo Ulloa headed in his first Premier League goal of

the campaign. And Amartey scored with a header of his own with two minutes left on the clock - his first Leicester goal - as the champions salvaged a thrilling point, repeating their two-goal comeback away to Stoke from last season.

Stoke are now winless in three league matches and sit 11th in the table after their late collapse.

Leicester, meanwhile, drop to 15th and sit just three points clear

of the relegation zone, but will take confidence from only their second point from nine away matches this season.

A lively start to the match saw Kasper Schmeichel - back in Leicester's team as one of two changes - save from Jonathan Walters, before Lee Grant made a magnificent stop from Robert Huth's looping header at the other end. **Goal**



Leicester City's Daniel Amartey, scores his side's second goal of the game. (Goal)