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March 26, 2016

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MY STAFF CAN HAVE SEXUAL AFFAIRS - TV CEO

PAGE 2

SALARY REVIEW TALKS BACK NEXT WEEK

PAGE 2

BEN 10S FIGHT OVER SUGAR MAMA (51)

PAGE 10

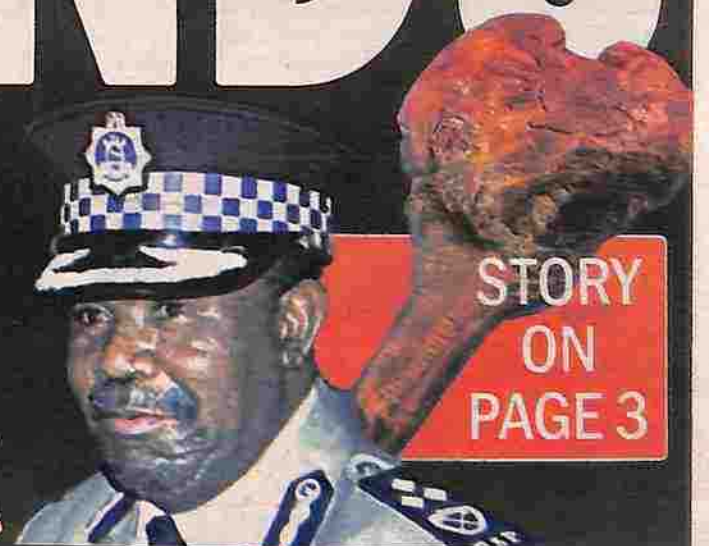


JESUS DIED FOR US: Her Majesty Indlovukazi preaching to the congregants during the Good Friday Service at Lobamba National Church. Six to Six Jericho Church was a marvel to watch as they performed at the service. (Pics: Simon Shabangu) **MORE ON PAGES 4 - 5**



NATIONAL COMMISSIONER OF POLICE GETS MORE POWERS...

MAKHUNDU IS BACK



STORY
ON
PAGE 3

...This time makhundu is in the form of The Public Order Bill of 2016 that comes with stringent rules that will make it very hard for members of the public to hold meetings, demonstrations, gatherings or events without lawful certification. The Bill stipulates that before holding any meeting, gathering or event that will include more than 15 people in a public place, the convener of that assembly shall first issue a written notice

Govt invites unions for salary review talks next week

By Mbono Mdluli

Government and public sector unions will next week engage in the negotiations for the much awaited salary review report implementations.

This is an assertion by acting Minister of Public Service Jabulani 'Buy Cash' Mabuza, who told senators on Thursday that government was ready to go to the negotiations table as from next week. He was speaking during the ministry's budget debate before its Senate Portfolio Committee, Minister Mabuza and was representing the indisposed Minister Patrick Magobetane Mamba, who is currently recuperating at home after being discharged from a South African hospital.

A question was posed to the minister by Senator Ndumiso Mdluli as he wanted to know when the salary review negotiations would be held so that the review is implemented. The same concern was held by Senator Adam 'Bomber' Mtsetfwa, who expressed his concern in the manner in which the issue was handled. He wanted to know if this was taking the country in the right direction.

"This will all depend on the way that the negotiations will go. Otherwise we are ready to go to the negotiations table and offer what we can. We want to start the negotiations next week if all goes well. We want to then implement the salary review in April," replied Mabuza.

Mabuza was also of the view that the spirit was good amongst all the parties involved now that the negotiations are about to begin. He expressed hope on the fact that the negotiations would be finalised speedily so that they would be implemented in a shortest possible time. He said this when responding to Senator Chief Ngome Ndlangamandla's question on how the spirit was amongst the concerned parties. The chief expressed worry about the peace that could be disturbed if negotiations were to be disregarded.

Salaries

"We're of the view that a negotiations table should be used in situations like this one where two or more parties are not on the same page concerning a certain issue. We have seen in the past that the negotiations table has managed to bring peace between two or more players that otherwise see things differently," Ndlangamandla observed. Senator Bonsile Mngomelulu wondered when government was going to increase public workers' salaries so that they were at par with their colleagues in other countries in the SADC region. "There is an outcry among public servants who are asking us when this would happen," she said. In response Mabuza said it would be difficult for him to say when that would happen.

He said it would be difficult to just increase salaries because the nation should also know that the government workload was also increasing. There was the Free Primary Education (FPE) programme which required that many teachers be hired. The public sector unions that are expected in the negotiations under the Joint Negotiation Table (JNT) include the Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT), National Public Servants and Allied Workers Union (NAPSAWU), Swaziland Democratic Nurses Union (SWADNU) and Swaziland National Association of Government Accounting Personnel (SNAGAP).

SWAZI TV CRISIS:

MY STAFF IS FREE TO HAVE SEX AT WORK – CEO 'S'GCOKO'

Stories by Ackel Zwane

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the country's state television station Bongani 'S'gcosiyancinca' Dlamini says members of staff are free to engage in sexual relationships among themselves at the national broadcaster.

Addressing the nation during prime time evening news bulletin at the station headquarters on Wednesday, he cited his own experience where he said he was a practicing polygamist, who also ran a string of girlfriends on the side and therefore his staffers were free to follow suit. He was reacting to an expose by the *Observer on Saturday* regarding an intern who was impregnated

allegedly by one of the managers and irregularly hired before she was dismissed again irregularly on discovery that she was heavy with a child. However, insiders had revealed that the said mother-to-be was also drawing salaries even though she had been forced out of the Swazi TV payroll system.

"At this station, there are men, women, girls and boys and they are all free to engage in sexual relationships.

I am also married by Swazi law and custom and have several wives of my own. I also have girlfriends and therefore do not see anything wrong in people who work here having affairs because they are adults, they are free to do it just like I do it. I am



LET THEM BE: STVA Chief Executive Officer Bongani 'S'gcosiyancinca' Dlamini.

still even going to get other girlfriends myself." The CEO complained, without attaching the accompanying justification that the story insinuated that he was the one who actually impregnated

the intern. He reiterated that he did not care whether it was a manager or whosoever because he, as the CEO, had his own women and was aware people were just after his head.

'Nepotism or not, I do it'

Dlamini further revealed that he personally engaged the maternal uncle of the chairperson of the board of directors back into the station on a contract basis after he had taken his voluntary exit pay.

Rights

This was among the many complaints by staffers that it was a move to siphon money out of the station because the individual had already taken what was due to him and had left the station on a voluntary basis, therefore, forfeiting all other rights to be engaged by the station once more, let alone on a contractual basis without the post having even

been advertised.

"That person was brought by the CEO, I brought him back and he will remain here

until I find a suitable person to replace him where he will proceed to work for the church where he had been offered an opportunity to provide legal services.

...Among the many reported misdeemeanours a large contingent of staffers in senior positions have been forced out of the station only to be replaced by a similar number, this time a majority of them being females.

Snip

vices.

I used my own discretion and will continue using my own discretion. I don't have to seek permission from newspapers."

Above all else Dlamini considers himself a very kind human being and a Christian save that his faith was rela-

tively small, *ngisontsa kancane* but what are these people looking for from me?"

Assess

Among the many reported misdemeanours a large contingent of staffers in senior positions have been forced out of the station only to be replaced by a similar number, this time a majority of them being females.

Another glaring development is that of a driver who joined the station after he was recruited by the executive based on acquaintance basis.

This is the driver who was found pushing a station vehicle uphill all by himself after he had strayed to as far away a place as Mphandze near Mafutseni and could not explain how he found himself there. He has recently been promoted to the procurement department to source material and assets for the station.

Accountants forced out in bid to conceal evidence

Two senior accountants at the troubled national broadcaster, Swazi TV, were on Tuesday suspended by management following an expose by our last installment of the *Observer on Saturday* detailing rampant looting of finances at the station.

Insiders revealed that the witch hunt began in earnest on Saturday following the publication with instructions to move key documents allegedly for safekeeping.

Managers

However, there was resistance on the part of some staffers who felt they were the custodians of the said documents. On Monday morning while the board was locked up at a meeting to discuss the crisis two other senior managers were conducting interviews of individual employees forcing them to give names of suspected colleagues who may have leaked the documents to the newspaper.

The two accounts managers Nozipho Mdakane and Sibusiso Dlamini are said to have already been served with letters of suspension containing dubious charges that have not been tested through a disciplinary process.

'S'gcoko' drags King's name into crisis

The angry Swazi TV CEO, in an obvious attempt at drawing public sympathy says the national broadcaster belonged to the King and the nation and therefore journalists and people from 'other quarters' should keep their hands off it.

This was after he ducked allegations of looting of funds belonging to the station in which employees have gone for days without pay while some of the station's assets have also been attached.

He further condemned his own staff members he claimed were 'children' for leaking documents

detailing questionable transactions that resulted in hundreds of thousands being paid out to a consultant by the station for work not delivered.

He went further to claim that the consultant, SAMKHO, completed its work while at the same time admitting that payment had already been done before work was done as per the contract.

This transaction in particular involved three items that included a performance management system, a workshop that never was and the review of strategic and turnaround strategy. The accountant queried

this transaction as to "it is not clear what are they claiming for as they have not even conducted the workshop."

It should be noted that they were paid E175 000 as deposit. But CEO Dlamini used his power of the signature to order that they be paid a whopping E350 000. The accountant who queried this transaction was transferred to the marketing department and has since left the station. Another transaction was a claim paid in October last year, to the tune of E285 000. It was addressed to the CEO and for the attention of Mr Bongani Dlamini.

Here the tax invoice is craftily addressed to Dlamini and not the accounts section of Swaziland Television Authority as would be the normal practice. Again the director is given these instructions: "please process payment contract as per discussion" and not as per contract as would be the case in official business. The following day, a Masuku, the Acting CEO, instructed accounts to "please process payment, 20/10/15 to SM Corporate Services (Pty) Ltd." That was for tax invoice 100 245 600 for "interim fees for professional consultancy services as per the service contract E250 000 and 14% VAT to the tune of E35 000. NB: Read more on the Swazi TV crisis on page 6

MAKHUNDU IS BACK!

COVER STORY

Stories by Bodwa Mbingo

Makhundu is back. Makhundu is a big wooden knobkerrie. Makhundu can be likened to a severe legislation that leaves no small room for a contest.

The country has had severe laws that included the Non-Bailable Offences Order that was to be later christened makhundu by those in power.

This time makhundu comes in the form of The Public Order Bill of 2016. Already, the Bill has been gazetted. It will remain in that form for 30 days before it's open for discussions, mostly in parliament where laws are cooked.

The Public Order Bill comes with stringent rules that will make it very hard for members of the public to hold meetings, demonstrations, gatherings or events without lawful certification.

Fines

The new Bill stipulates that before holding any meeting, gathering or event that will include more than 15 people in a public place, the convener of that assembly shall first issue a written notice to a local authority or to a regional administrator (in extreme cases) within seven days of the intended meeting to obtain a compliance certificate to proceed with it.

The Bill that when enacted into an Act will repeal the archaic Police and Public Order Act of 1963, which gives more powers to the Royal Swaziland Police Service (RSPS) national commissioner to stop any of the above assemblies and comes with hefty fines for those who will contravene the provisions of the Act. Some of the fines included in the Bill go as far as E25 000 or a five year jail term while the NatCom also reserves the power to stop any gathering.

Section 9 (2) of the Bill states that the NatCom may prohibit an intended gathering,

whether or not such gathering is in compliance with this Act, if the NatCom has reason to believe that the gathering will endanger the maintenance of public order and public safety.

Therefore, members of the police on the instruction of the NatCom may prevent the holding of a gathering that is prohibited under the Act by causing access to any public place to be barred to any person or class of persons for such time as may be deemed necessary to prevent the gathering from taking place.

The Act further provides that in circumstances where a local authority

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officer on provisions of the Act.

This fine could also be imposed on people who use threatening, insulting or abusive words or behaviour, display anything or perform any act with intent to provoke public disorder.

It also set out to stamp out xenophobia, as people incite by way of display of banners or placards, or

by way of speech or song, or by similar means, hatred of other persons or groups on account of differences in nationality or national origin, culture, language, religion, race or gender.

Essential inclusions by convenors in notice for gatherings:

- The name, address, telephone, facsimile number(s) and email address of the convener and the convener's deputy
- The name of the organisation or branch under the auspices of which gathering is convened or, if the gathering is not convened under the auspices of an organisation, a statement that the gathering is convened by the convener
- The purpose of the gathering
- The category of persons, including participating groups, attending the gathering
- The date, time and duration of the gathering
- The place where the gathering is to be held
- The anticipated number of participants
- The proposed number and, where possible, the names of the marshals who will be appointed by the convener

Gathering in the form of a procession:

- The exact and complete route of the procession
- The time when and the place at which participants in the procession are to assemble, and the time when and the place from which the procession is to commence
- The time when and the place where the procession is to end and the participants are to disperse
- The manner in which the participants will be transported to the place of assembly and from the point of dispersal
- The number and type of vehicles, if any, which are to form part of the procession

has not issued a compliance certificate and the police considers it necessary in the interest of public order or public safety, or to prevent the unreasonable infringement of the rights and privileges of those who live, work, shop, trade and carry on business in the locality affected by the gathering, restrict the gathering to a place, or guide the participants along a route, to ensure order.

Issue

Convenors of the gathering can only seek redress with the principal magistrate of the district in which the gathering is to be held if aggrieved with a decision by the local authority or NatCom to prohibit the gathering or the failure by the former to issue a

compliance certificate for the setting aside of the prohibition or for an order compelling

the issue of compliance certificate.

The police can further require any person to remove any item which the police officer reasonably believes that person is wearing wholly or mainly for the purposes of concealing that person's identity. When it comes to hosting events, the NatCom may, by notice addressed by the promoter, organiser or manager thereof, prohibit its holding or continuance in any area or place on that particular place if he has reason to believe that public disorder is likely to arise during such an event. Any police officer, therefore, may give or issue such an order and use only such force as may be necessary to prevent the holding or continuance of an event in respect of which a notice has been issued and disperse any gathering of people in attendance. Furthermore, the Act comes with fines of E10 000 or jail time of two years for a number of offences that include failure to comply with an order of a police officer or with any steps taken by that police

Life in jail for destroying King, govt's property

The Public Order Bill of 2016 frowns at individuals who will be found to have destroyed or damaged property used or intended for the use by the King, government or a local authority.

Such an offence comes with a stiff sentence of a maximum life imprisonment if the offence is found to be committed with intent to endanger life or with the knowledge that it is likely to endanger life.

The Bill further states that the offence on conviction will warrant a jail time not exceeding five years in any other case.

Sentence

Life imprisonment (also known as a life sentence, life-long incarceration or life incarceration) is any sentence of imprisonment for a serious crime under which the convicted person is to remain in prison for the rest of his or her life or until paroled and in the country a life sentence constitutes a 25-year jail time.

According to Article 18 (1) of the Public Order Act, 2016, a person shall not wilfully and unlawfully destroy or damage,

or do an act with intent to, or knowing it to be likely that the Act will, impair the usefulness or efficiency or prevent or impede the working of any property used or intended to be used —

(a) In the service of His Majesty the King, the government, or a local authority;

(b) For the purpose of an airport or air service or a supply of water or electricity to any person or community or persons; or

(c) In the performance of any other service essential to the life of the community.

The Bill further seeks to safeguard statutory documents and national flag and insignia.

Section 21 (1) of the Bill provides that; "A person shall not knowingly and without lawful authority or excuse, destroy, mutilate, deface, or alter any statutory document, or destroy or deface the national coat of arms or national flag, commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment not exceeding one year or to a fine not exceeding E5 000 or to both.

E25 000 fine, jail time for possession of firearm, explosives

The possession of firearms with the aim to prejudice public order will now come with a fine of E25 000 or five years jail time in the country.

Being found in the company of the one carrying such a firearm will also prove problematic for that particular person will also face the wrath of the law with the same punishment being imposed on them.

Excuse

This is contained in the Public Order Bill of 2016 that is still subject to enactment into an Act of parliament. In the old Police and Public Order of 1963, one was only liable, on conviction to imprisonment not exceeding five years with no particular fine imposed.

Section 17 (1) of the Bill states that; "Any person who, without reasonable excuse, carries or is in possession or control of any firearm or other offensive weapon, or any ammunition, incendiary material or explosive, in circumstances which raise a reasonable presumption that the firearm or other offensive

weapon, ammunition, incendiary material or explosive is intended to be used or has recently been used in a manner or for a purpose prejudicial to public order shall, unless such person proves a contrary intention, commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment not exceeding five years or a fine of E25 000."

Conviction

Subsection (2) of the article continues that; "Any person who consorts with or is found in the company of another person who, in contravention of subsection (1), is carrying, or is in possession or control of any firearm or other offensive weapon, or any ammunition, incendiary material or explosive, in circumstances which raise a reasonable presumption that such person intends to act, or has recently acted, with that other person in a manner or for a purpose of prejudicial to public order, shall, unless such person proves a contrary intention, commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to the penalty referred to in subsection (1).

Bill breathes fresh air to journalists, observers

The new Bill sets out to protect the rights of journalists or independent monitors to go about their lawful business in covering and observing the activities

without being disturbed by anyone during public gatherings.

Section 14 (1) clearly states that the right of the media and independent monitors to observe public

gatherings and report thereon shall be respected and upheld by the police, local authority as well as the convener and organiser of a gathering, and the participants in a

gathering.

Subsection (2) further states that a police officer may not prevent or obstruct the lawful activities of journalists or independent monitors

during public gathering while the following Section says; "Any person may make a video or audio recording of a gathering and the seizure of technical equipment, as well video and audio recordings of gatherings shall only be confiscated in accordance with the law and not arbitrarily."

NATIONAL CHURCH SERVICE



NATIONAL PRAYER: Her Majesty Indlovukazi joined by Prince Mahlaba, Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini and Princess Ntombikayise in prayer. This was during the Good Friday Service at Lobamba National Church yesterday.

Indlovukazi warns on

...Mother of the nation says some singers do not sing from the heart but pretend to be doing so and warns Christians to guard against such

By Sandile Nkambule

Her Majesty the Indlovukazi has warned the Christian community to guard against fake gospel singers who pretend to spread the message by singing from the heart yet they are not.

The mother of the nation said singing was a part of worship and this was something people would be judged with in heaven hence gospel singers should not fake,

but sing from the heart in order to win over lost souls.

Her Majesty who was making her brief sermon during the Good Friday Services held at the National Church in Lobamba yesterday, said Christians had different gifts in spreading the gospel since, some may be gifted in preaching on the pulpit, others by giving to the needy, while singing is one of those.

"Bazalwane kufanele uma uhlabela uhlabele lokaphuma

PREACHERS



THY WORD: Reverend Sihle Mkhonta.



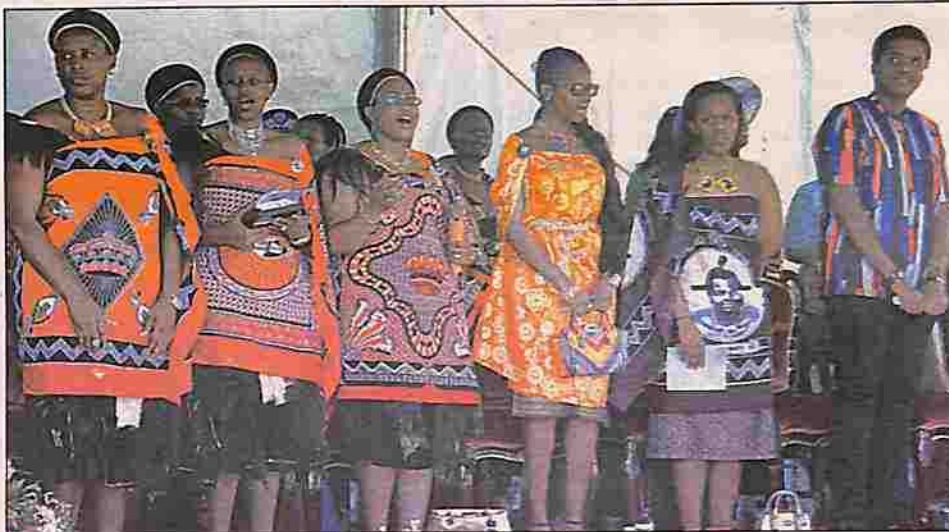
AMEN: Reverend Sikelela Shabangu.



SURRENDER: Bishop Johannes Fakudze.



DENOUNCE: Bishop Owen Mavuso.



SIGODLO: Emakhosikati LaMotsa, LaMahlangu, LaNtentesa and Emazinyane also came through to be part of the church service.



JERICHO MEET: Bishop Bhekibandla Vilakati meeting Bheki Mlilo of the Zion Church from the USA.



BELIEVERS: A section of the many Christians who came together to worship at the National Church.



PRAYER: Bishop Samson Hlatshwako leading the congregation in prayer.



GOOD NEWS: Bishop Khanyakwezwe Vilakati of the Jericho Church and Reverend Sikelela Shabangu sharing a light moment.

NATIONAL CHURCH SERVICE

false gospel singers

enhlityweni, ngoba siyabona kutsi labanye bayatentisa nje akuphumi kubo," she said.

Addressing thousands of Christians from different denominations, mostly the Zion and Red Gown sect, the Queen Mother said it was heart warming to see such a large number of Swazi Christians gathered to commemorate the death of Jesus Christ, a celebration being held the world over.

Her Majesty further told congregants that the Good Friday

Service should not just be a norm, but this should in fact change the lives of Swazis each year such prayer events are held.

As one of the pastors said some people take the Good Friday Services as a usual thing that is bound to be attended but without change in their lives.

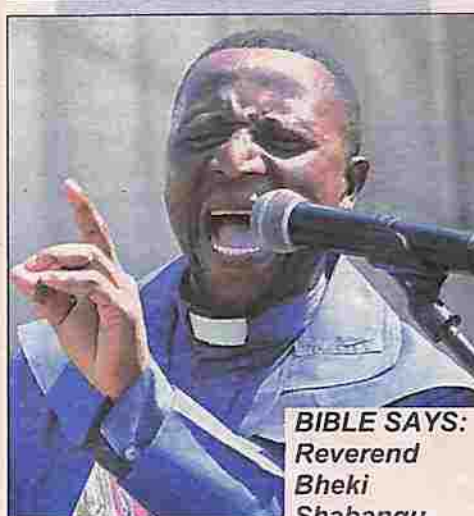
The service was attended by amongst others the Prime Minister, Sibusiso Dlamini, his deputy Paul Dlamini, and cabinet ministers.



ROYAL DANCE: Her Majesty joined by some of the Christians and security personnel in song and dance. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



BIBLE STUDY: The little Emazinyane also participated fully as they were captured reading the scripture.



BIBLE SAYS: Reverend Bheki Shabangu.



ALSO THERE: National Secretary Nhlanhla Dlamini, DPM Paul Dlamini and Senator Ndumiso Mdluli were also among the thousands at the service.

PUBLIC NOTICE



APPLICATION FOR POSTAL TARRIFFS INCREASE BY SWAZILAND POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION (SPTC)

The Swaziland Communications Commission is in receipt of an application from the Swaziland Posts and Telecommunications Corporation for a 51% postal tariffs increase. The increase is proposed to be effected over a Three (3) year period as indicated in the table below.

Year	Proposed %increase
2016/2017	17%
2017/2018	17%
2018/2019	17%

The Commission is currently considering the application in terms of section 6(b) of the Swaziland Communications Act, 2013.

In this regard, the Commission kindly invites comments from the public on this application. Comments may be directed to the address shown hereunder within 7 days from the date of first publication of this notice.

Physical Address: Mbabane Office Park, Block 1, Fourth Floor, North Wing
 Postal Address: P. O. Box 7811, Mbabane
 Telephone Number: +268 2406 7000
 Email Address: info@sccom.org.sz
 Website: www.sccom.org.sz

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SWAZILAND COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (SCCOM)

Doc.10209



SWAZILAND ELECTRICITY COMPANY (SEC)

Head Office, Thuyatini House, Mhlambanyati Road
 P. O. Box 258 Mbabane 1100
 Tel: 2409 4000, Fax: 2404 2131
 www.sec.co.sz Toll Free: 800 9000

Energy for the Future

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

DAY	DATE	MAINTAINANCE BY (DEPOT)	AFFECTED AREAS	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	PERIOD
Tuesday	29 March	Manzini	Ngogola Khanyisa Scheme	Line Relocation	10:00a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
		Sithobela	Mkhatsini, Mhembe, Lavundlamanti, Mphaphati, Othandweni, Gucuka, Mahlabatsini and surrounding areas	Routine Maintenance and Line Installation	9:00a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Thursday	31 March	Stonehenge	Thembehle, Matsholo Road, Woodlands School and Water treatment plant, Mbuluzi Water Pump, Mabhala, Lutindzi, National Baptist, Lukhaba	Routine Maintenance	9:00a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
		Manzini	Mafutseni Police Station, Mafutseni Station, Mafutseni Filling Station, CPL, Mpandze	Line Relocation	10:00a.m. – 4:00p.m.
		Manzini	Nsingweni Siphafeni	Closing Span	9:00a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
		Pigg's Peak	Kufikeni, Elshadai, Mbutini, Nkomazi	Jumper Installation	9:30a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Friday	1 April	Manzini	Nsingweni, Elubhaceni	Closing Span	10:00a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Swaziland Electricity Company | @SECswaziland | TOLL-FREE 800 9000

CEO HIJACKS TV STATION FOR PERSONAL TIRADE

Stories by Ackel Zwane

In a bizarre development in the unfolding mess at Swaziland Television Authority, Chief Executive Officer Bongani 'Gkokosiyancina' Dlamini did the unthinkable on Wednesday when he forced his way into a spot during the evening prime time news bulletin to defend himself against corrupt practices and failure to run the station professionally.

He was reacting to media reports especially to an in-depth investigation conducted by the *Observer on Saturday* in which most of the facts were published. Observers say it is normally the head of state or head of government that is allowed such status to address the nation on issues of national importance. The kingdom's prime minister often makes official announcements on behalf of the King on the national broadcasters.

Under normal cases national broadcasting outlets like radio and television are closely monitored by security agents to keep away detractors who might disturb the peace by taking over the station. Most coup d'états take place after taking over of such key media communication outlets where announcement or regime changes are made.

Public broadcasting includes radio, television and other electronic media outlets whose primary mission is public service. In much of the world,

Parly was forewarned

Employees of Swazi TV alerted Parliament through a list of key issues that needed urgent interrogation.

It was on the basis of this list that Information and Communications Minister Dumisani Ndlangamandla was ordered by the House of Assembly to institute an investigation which he has not done until this point of total collapse when the station is even struggling to pay staff. As from November last year, telephone lines were disconnected and employees make calls from the CEO's office because of unpaid bills. Staffers said when they first raised cracks in the new CEO's administration way back as 2011, there were moves to remove then board chairperson Maxwell Mthembu under the false labelling that he was associated with the underground movement to undermine the authority of the state. That allowed for the settling of the new executive until the submission of

complaints were leaked to Parliament.

On recruitment the employees said "staff was told that government had noticed that STVA was over-staffed hence there was need for restructuring. A consultant, SAMKHO, was engaged and the 2009/10 report issued. Terms and conditions of employment clearly state that 'vacant posts will be advertised internally and later on advertised outside' if candidates are not found. We have noticed that over 23% of the staff has been hired under corrupt practices under the leadership of the current CEO. Interviews were not conducted."

At the height of the financial crisis at Swazi TV, the boss was travelling to Asia, Europe and Americas for equipment exhibitions especially in Holland, California, Hong Kong and Singapore and taking home all the goodies associated with travelling abroad.

funding comes from the government, especially via annual fees charged on receivers.

After the five minute spot during the news bulletin the CEO went on for over 10 minutes trying to protect what he said was a good name from

hatred by his enemies on an agenda he could not understand.

He did not address the issues on the article especially those bothering on use of the nationally funded broadcaster to fulfil his own personal aspirations.

Moneys deducted from staff not remitted

Staffers allege that the moneys due to financial institutions and other statutory bodies were not remitted such as pension funds, savings and cooperative society (which has finally obtained an order to attach Swazi TV assets for same), provident fund, insurance (with various companies), and last straw: funeral scheme.

"This has a negative impact on the employees in that

they have to pay the interests as required by the financial institutions or if STVA decides to pay the interest, it means that the profit realised will go to the financial institutions and the employees will get nothing as increment or benefits. Furthermore, employees are no longer able to secure funding from financial institutions and access savings from schemes where

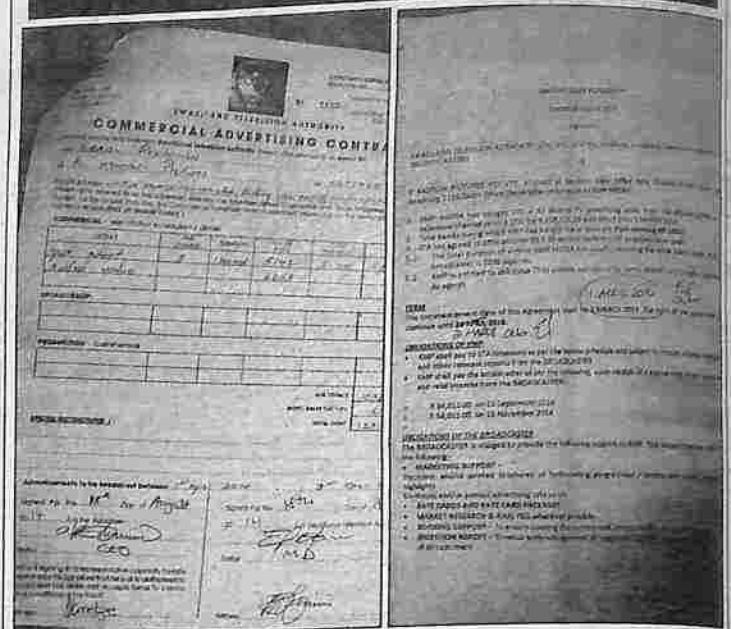
they have been investing over the years." On benefits approved by STVA in terms of employment: notches are not effected; bonuses (were last received in 2009 yet there is no circular revoking such or memo issued). Programmes procurement not

adhered to: there is need to investigate the contract signed with a programme supplier by the name of Pushpender) it has come to our attention that the supplier was given a discount which is over 77% yet the institution is expected to generate revenue so as to benefit the hardworking employees.

Prayers: commission of enquiry be set up to probe the issues; probe the human resources office on issues of staff welfare; probe recently conducted auction (items from deceased CEO never paid for); probe financial statements if they are true reflection of the current situation at STVA and if they are in line with the strategic plan; delay the release of the subvention until commission's findings; probe STVA pension policies to see if they are in line with Pension's Act, 2010 as amended since most staff has long reached retirement age yet are still under the employ of Swazi TV."

ANIMAL FARM?: Swaziland Television Authority Chief Executive Officer Bongani Gkokosiyancina Dlamini.

STATEMENTS OF FOUL-PLAY



WRONG TURF: Swazi TV CEO signed on the wrong side of this other contract and where the station boss was to have signed is the signature of the supplier. **STRANGE DATES:** The contract was issued on a different date at the top, in August, but it had already been in operation since April 1 of the same year.

How SA company got 78% discount

The CEO entered into a contract with one South African Indian by the name of Pushpinder Singh trading as Kohinoor Motion Pictures in which the latter came out the winner with 78.72% discount in advertising spots despite loud protests from the affected managers who had avoided this deal because it would not have been relevant to Swazi audiences. This is contained in a dubious contract between Kohinoor Promotions and STVA initiated by the CEO on each page.

This resulted in STVA losing over a E1 million in revenue despite moves to revise the contract after it became apparent that it was wrong for the CEO to commit to any deal beyond E250 000. There were attempts to later vary the discounts so they would appear to have been reasonable but the Indian continued to benefit from the deal. All the managers got to know that a deal had been clinched when the Indian, through his manager Errol Pretorius said that "please find attached the agreement for the barter deal as per the agreement, the following programme titles are being sent to you in different packages: Mouse in the house (26), Football heroes (40), Globe spin (13), Our planet (26), Disappearing Frontier (52),

Winning women (52), Sports Pro (130), Celebrity bites, May the bee (204) and Flipper & Lopaka (78). Therefore we are not sending you any wrong tapes or programmes. We are also sending you the following programmes today through Fedex 939 tapes: Army wives, Samantha Who, Desperate Housewives, Lost, Our planet." Now the station was committed and had no way out, courtesy of the CEO.

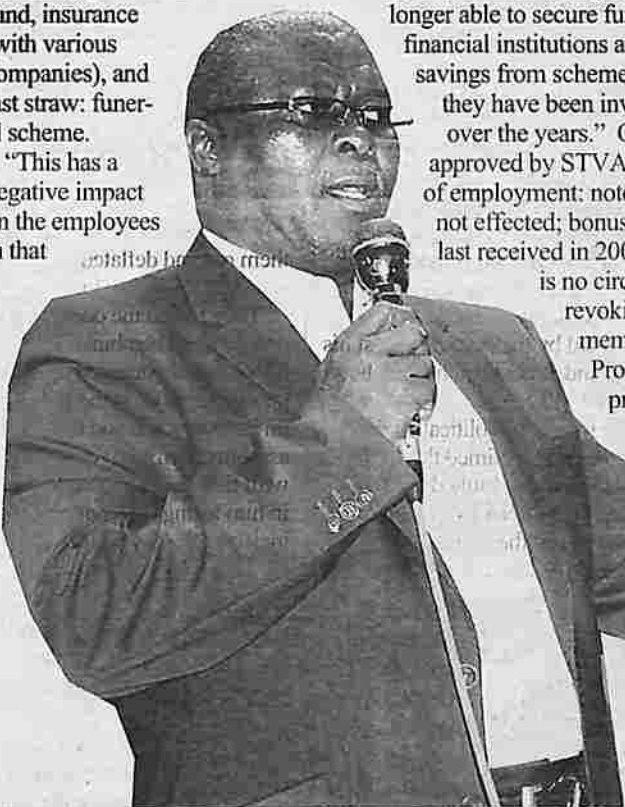
These programmes did not have the capacity to generate any revenue through interesting viewers save for the supplier because the programming and marketing departments were not involved.

Interestingly in the contract one transaction was for a spot advert under time channel B for the duration of one second (equivalent of the blink of an eye) and 5242 spots were bought while 2058 were given as discount. The contract for the barter deal was dated 08 August 2014 but it was to run from 1 April 2014 until 31 March 2016. Wrote Errol the Swazi TV boss, following the deal, in an email message of 11 September 2014: 8:01AM: "On behalf of KMP Media we wish you a long and happy time in Media Sales and Scheduling at Swazi TV! Big Man Bonani! When are you coming to visit us in JHB?"

Donated bicycle that grew, lost its wheels

Then there was a donated bicycle for the needy that later disappeared only to resurface after staffers started questioning its where-

abouts. A driver was allegedly dispatched after hours to bring it back but it would seem it has disappeared once more.





ACTION PLAN: TUCOSWA with 20 other organisations will submit recommendations to the UN to be undertaken by government in order to be in good standing in terms of human rights issues. (Inset) SNAT Secretary General Muzi Mhlanga.

21 DEMANDS SUBMITTED TO UN AGAINST SD TO SHAPE UP

By Linda Jele

At least 21 civil society organisations have submitted 21 recommendations to the United Nations (UN) that have to be undertaken by government in order to be in good standing in terms of human rights issues.

Government will appear before the United Nations Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to present how far it has gone in respecting human rights issues. Government is expected to make the presentations on progress on the respect of fundamental human rights.

UN member countries appear before the UPR every four and half years to make presentations and receive recommendations by other countries.

This was announced during a breakfast meeting at the Mountain Inn on Thursday where the civil society made presentations on what they would be lobbying the close to 200 UN member countries to recommend to the government.

It was disclosed that the country first appeared under the United Nations Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in October 2011. The country accepted 107 recommendations and rejected 33. Most of the recommendations the country received were in relation to civil and political rights.

The country is expected to again to appear for review under the UPR by

the Working Group of the UN Human Rights Council between May 2 and 13, 2016.

The Swazi civil society, represented by four coalitions, submitted shadow reports in four thematic areas, namely, Civil and Political Rights, Economic, Social, Cultural Rights, Women's and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) Rights as well as Children's and Youth Rights.

The different groups submitted shadow reports, which shall be presented to the countries in a pre-session that will be held in Geneva from April 1, 2016.

The project was financed by the European Union (EU).



SUBMITTING ORGANISATIONS

1. Swaziland Multi-Media Community Network
2. Swaziland Concerned Church Leaders
3. Swaziland Coalition of Concerned Civic Organisations
4. Constituent Assembly – Swaziland
5. Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT)
6. Coalition of Informal Economy Association of Swaziland (CIEAS)
7. Foundation for Social and Economic Justice (FSEJ)
8. Church Forum
9. Trade Union Congress of Swaziland (TUCOSWA)
10. TASC – Swaziland
11. SOS-Swaziland
12. Super Buddies
13. Prison Fellowship
14. Luvatsi – Swaziland Youth Empowerment Organisation
15. Lawyers for Human Rights – Swaziland (LHRS-SD)
16. Swaziland Rural Women's Assembly (SRWA)
17. Swaziland Action Group against Abuse (SWAGAA)
18. Rock of Hope – Swaziland
19. Swaziland Young Women's Network (SYWON)
20. Swaziland People Living with HIV (SWAPOL)
21. Nhlanguano AIDS Training Information and Counselling Centre (NATICC)



Recommendations for action by the state under review

1. Repeal the Suppression of Terrorism Act of 2008
2. Enact a legislation that facilitate the registration, operationalisation of political parties
3. Develop a legal framework that guarantees freedom of expression, free media and operationalisation of other independent media houses.
4. Ensure the protection and respect for human rights through freedom of association, expression and assembly.
5. Government to engage on an all-inclusive (cross section of the civil society including political parties) meaningful dialogue to map out the country's political way forward.
6. Implement poverty reduction and development strategies that respond to the basic needs of the population; and also put in place monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.
7. Align labour laws to international standards and ensure that the welfare and rights of workers are a priority.
8. Make attempts towards closing the gap between rural and urban communities in water and sanitation services to mitigate issues of health hazard for the poorest population.
9. Prioritise basic services for the population in the national budget to ensure that their basic needs to food, health and education are met.
10. Endeavour to resolve issues of land in the country, and issues related to chieftaincy disputes as these exacerbate poverty and affects the poor population of the country in terms realising their human rights.
11. Introduce a social security system, particularly a state pension. Continue investment in the public education sector as education is a significant factor for development.
12. To take initiative to implement the National Youth Policy; which seeks to close the constitutional gap in recognising the rights of youth in the country.
13. To align the Child Protection and Welfare Act, 2012 with international instruments
14. To resuscitate the National Child Coordination Unit for better coordination, monitoring and evaluation of programmes targeted at children to enable policy formulation and better service delivery.
15. Strengthen the OVC safety nets for all children by establishing half way houses or orphanages for children in need.
16. To standardise tuition fees in schools to curb the issue of top-up fees which renders education inaccessible and unaffordable for some sections of the society
17. Ensure quality and relevant education at primary, high school and at tertiary level; and attempt to adapt education syllabus to vocational training at all levels to minimise reliance on white collar jobs.
18. Legislatively ban corporal punishment at schools and all sectors of society in the country; and adopt programmatic measures to eradicate the practice through conducting civic education/ public awareness in line with international instruments on the right of children.
19. Take measures to ensure that there is at least 15% youth representation and participation in decision making structures as per the African Youth Charter.
20. Take immediate action to ensure alignment of domestic law with CEDAW and specific sections of the Constitution, including Sections 28(3) on the right not be compelled to undergo customs that they are in conscience opposed to 211 (2) on accessing of Swazi Nation Land; and 86 on representation.
21. Speed up the processes to adopt the pending legislations (Marriage Bill, the Administration of Estates Bill, the Deeds Registry Bill, the Employment Bill, the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Bill, and the Draft Land Policy) into law; after having extensively consulted and accommodated civil society organisations inputs.
22. Organise capacity building seminars and trainings for the judiciary (including lawyers and judges) on the application of CEDAW and the enforcement of rights guaranteed therein.
23. Introduce measures to address negative customs and traditional practices, especially in rural areas, which affect full enjoyment of the right to property by women, and ensure abolition of harmful traditional practices, affecting women and girls.
24. Respect, implement the Constitution and upscale special temporary measures to ensure women's equal representation in Parliament and other political and decision making bodies.
25. Decriminalise same-sex relationships, and take further steps to protect, respect, and fulfil rights for the LGBTI community.
26. Initiate and implement awareness raising workshops that seeks to inform and cultivate understanding of LGBTIs at all levels of government and to private individuals
27. Ensure non-discriminatory practices based on gender by state agents and service delivery organs of government and the private sector.

Police damaged Muzi Mhlanga's manhood, UN will be told

On March 14, 2015 the Secretary General of the Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT) Muzi Mhlanga was allegedly assaulted by the police and lost his front tooth and almost had his manhood severed.

The Civil and Political Rights Coalition has claimed that Mhlanga was assaulted by the police at the SNAT Centre. It was reported that the police were led by a senior officer from the Manzini Regional Police Headquarters, identified as Jele. It was claimed that the police stormed the hall with about 15 officers and stopped a teachers' meeting. Other 200 police officers were also present in the premises, it was reported.

It was reported that teachers

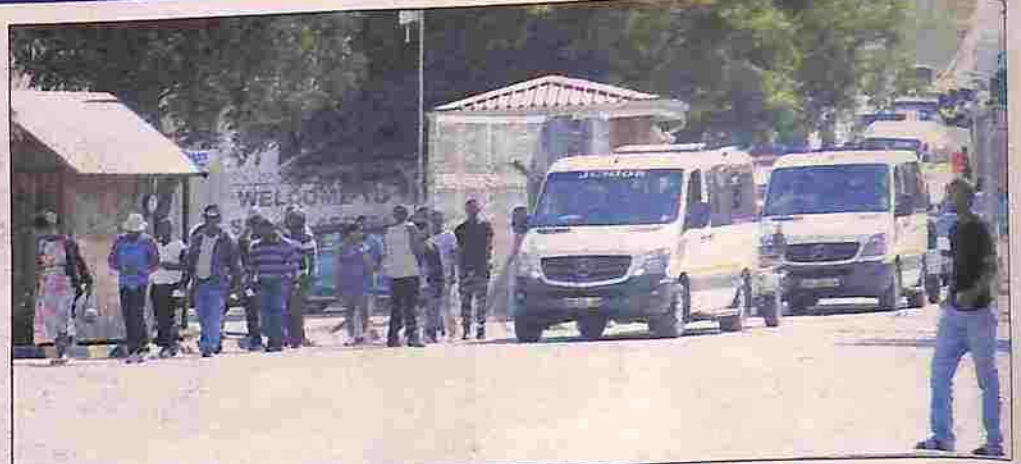
moved out and boarded buses and vehicles, but the officers ordered them out and deflated tyres for the mini bus they were in.

"They forced the door open and one officer Theminkosi Mngomezulu dragged the secretary general out of the mini bus, threw him down and they all assaulted him all over the body with fists and kicks which resulted in him losing his front tooth (left incisor). He was bruised all over the body, especially the back and had lacerations on his penis," read the report. It further stated that the police admitted the acts and issued an apology. However, the civil society argued that the absence of a legislation protecting freedom of association and expression, such was most likely to happen in the future.

BUSY DAY AT NGWENYA BORDER AHEAD OF EASTER HOLIDAYS



HOME SWEET HOME: Some of the locals and visitors lining up at the Ngwenya Border Post.



COMING IN NUMBERS: As the Easter weekend started on Friday people were coming in the country in big numbers. Some were visitors coming to spend their holidays, while others were returning home from their different places of work outside the country. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

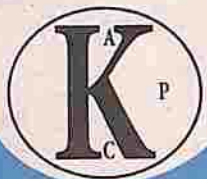


QUEING UP: People queuing to gain entry to the country.



WAITING: Immigration officers had a hectic day due to the long queues..

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OFF THEY GO: A bus ferrying some of those who left the country.



FAMILY TIME: Some of the tourists who visited the country.



GOODIES: This loaded trailer behind a Cressida also made way to the country.



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'SD could be headed for another financial crisis'

By Ackel Zwane

While finance stakeholders are meeting over an imminent financial crisis for Swaziland, there are more questions than answers.

A lot of the issues transpired through consultations with stakeholders attending the finance stakeholders on Wednesday morning.

Given that the first E1 billion tranche of the Southern African Customs Union revenue is expected next month, this seems rather too little to pay for government's bills, including the E400 million monthly wage bill.

Budget

There are no feasible sources of revenue in sight given that even last year Finance Minister Martin Dlamini failed to raise the E1 billion he had promised, which he said would help finance the budget.

This translates to the fact that, according to experts, a E20 billion budget is faced with a huge deficit and in

order for the economy to perform under stable financial conditions, the Swaziland Revenue Authority will have to perform a miracle to raise the much needed E7 billion during this financial year. The other factor is that the SRA is building its own headquarters and the money that it collects will go towards that project as reflected in the budget.

Exchange rate

"Expenditure is estimated at E20.7 billion, including payments for public debt and other statutory obligations amounting to E1.9 billion. Total expenditure for 2016/17 represents an additional E3.0 billion above the appropriated level for 2015/16. Capital expenditure is budgeted to grow by 36 percent in 2016/17 financial year while recurrent spending is budgeted to increase by 13 percent. Total expenditure for 2016/17 represents 44 percent of GDP compared to 40 percent of GDP in 2015/16."

The economist further noted that in the financial year 2010/11, government expenditure was lower but it has doubled this time around yet the

country had reverted to the same situation and this could require mass cuts in the civil service.

Even before the money comes from SACU, government is already worried about expenditure than finding solutions on where to find the revenue, and soon. Foreign obligations require servicing of interest bill resulting from the exchange rate, interest rates for once have already been adjusted twice, say experts.

If there was a reduction of E560 million from SACU, and the ministry of finance could not raise E1 billion last year, how is it going to cover the ever widening gap? Ask experts.

Dlamini has also not stated where the E1.5 billion for drought would come from and if this would come from donors then he must be prepared to meet the conditions set by them (donors) such as suspension of financing of certain activities. At the start of April the country must also service its foreign obligations. "This budget is impossible," says an expert. "E1.5 billion to finance drought is about 10% of the budget."



Martin's wish list



- Amendment of the Income Tax regulations, including removal of the tax allowance exempting gains on the disposal of business assets. However, the amendments would also reduce taxation on medical aid for the private sector.
- Introduction of taxation of residents on their worldwide income. Currently, residents are taxed depending on source, meaning that tax is imposed on income generated within Swaziland only.
- VAT Refund Agreement between Swaziland and South Africa is ready. From April, residents simply declare the VAT of their purchases at any of our border posts, and government receives the revenue from South Africa. This replaces the current arrangement where declaring residents are charged twice, and must retrieve refunds from South Africa, often months later.
- The projected additional revenue from increased declarations is over E120 million per year. I would urge all Swazis to declare their purchases, so that vital funding for government services can be secured.
- Government plans to review the Customs and Excise Act; and accommodate a number of modernisation initiatives aimed at enhancing revenue collection and

improving our Doing Business rank. The SRA is introducing the accreditation of preferred traders. SRA will reward those taxpayers who have a proven record of tax compliance, by issuing certificates of accreditation, which grants faster treatment at our borders. Lessening delays in the declaration, clearance and release of goods and the ability to prepay, will reduce the cost of doing business in Swaziland. Upgraded trade software, which allows electronic signature and documentation, will reduce barriers to trade.

● There is also a plan in the budget to introduce a levy on alcohol and tobacco. The purpose of the levy is to augment revenue loss from applying a lower rate of VAT on these products as compared to the historical sales tax rate. From 2012, the VAT rate on alcohol and tobacco was 14%, a reduction from the previous rates of 20% and 30% on alcohol and cigarettes respectively. The revenue loss is estimated at around E60 million per year. Consumption of alcohol and cigarettes has significant public health effects. It is right to try to influence customers' behaviour through taxation.



STOP IT: Ben 10s Godfrey Magugu and Thanduxolo Makhalipha are fighting over a sugar mama.

Ben 10 gets own medicine

JOHANNESBURG - This Ben 10 did not care how his sugar mama's husband felt about her cheating on him. But now he knows the hurt of heartbreak.

He said his younger friend stole Cikizwa Mabulu (51) from him.

Thanduxolo Makhalipha (32) from KwaNobuhle in Uitenhage, Eastern Cape said: "We dated for five years. She said she was not happy with her husband."

"I dumped girlfriends of my own age to concentrate on her. But in 2014 I lost my job as a jikeleza driver. That is when the fighting over money and her cheating started."

"When I tried to end things in July last year she pleaded with me not to go," he said.

"Then the other day I saw her cosy with my friend drinking in a tavern. She ruined my life. How can she cheat with my friend?"

"What is worse is that he is younger than me!"

But Cikizwa said: "He is trying to embarrass me more than he already has. I have a court order against him as he is abusive when he is drunk. He is just bitter that things did not work out between us. Now he is out to destroy my life because I refused to buy him booze and cigarettes."

Cikizwa said Thanduxolo did not break up her marriage of 22 years. She was divorced from her husband in 2014.

• New Ben 10 Godfrey Magugu (30) said: "I started dating Cikizwa in December 2014 after we met at an umgidi ceremony."

"I knew she was then dating Thanduxolo, but she told me she did not want him because he was abusive."

"I love her very much. He can't take her away. She is mine."

Daily Sun

Man arrested for not returning VHS rental 14 years ago

NORTH CAROLINA - It's going from one bad joke to another.

A North Carolina man is speaking out after he says he was slapped in handcuffs for not returning a VHS rental more than 14 years ago — and now the movie's star, Tom Green, is coming to his rescue.

James Meyers, 37, says he was driving his daughter to school Tuesday morning when he was pulled over by Concord police for a broken tail-light.

It was that moment he was informed that there was a warrant out for his arrest, specifically for not returning the 2001 flop, 'Freddy Got Fingered.' "I thought he was joking," Meyers told WSOC-TV, recalling his arrest.

The flick's comedian apparently did too.

"I just saw this and I am struggling to believe it is real," Green tweeted Wednesday night. Meyers said he vaguely remembers renting the comedy — which has a 4.5/10 rating on IMDb.com and won five Razzie



Awards in 2002, including Worst Picture. Apparently when he failed to return it, a warrant was issued in late 2001.

After he was informed of the warrant, Meyers said he was allowed to continue on to his daughter's school under the promise that he'd

turn himself into the police department later that day.

He thought he'd arrive and it'd all get sorted out. Instead, he found himself booked for a class 3 misdemeanor, which is punishable with a fine up to \$200.

He has a court appearance scheduled for April 27. Google

...about a week before the deadline, 65 residents have instructed lawyer Sakhele Hlophe from C.J Littler and Associates to file an urgent application before the High Court seeking an order declaring the intended evictions and demolitions order null and void.

Stories by Linda Jele
High Court

The close to 65 residents who face eviction from Madonsa do not want to move an inch and want to set aside the High Court order directing the Swaziland National Provident Fund (SNPF) to demolish their houses and evict them.

The SNPF had given them until March 31, 2016 to vacate Farm 319 of Manzini on the strength of a court order. However, the residents have claimed that the court order was erroneously granted by the High Court in 2007. The High Court, on August 9, 2007 issued an order directing the residents who were illegally occupying of the farm to vacate the premises.

Demolitions

However, it has not happened because the residents challenged the decision in court, engaged the SNPF for an alternative remedy.

About a week before the deadline, 65 residents have instructed lawyer Sakhele Hlophe from C.J Littler and Associates to file an urgent application before the High Court

MADONSA RESIDENTS WANT EVICTION ORDER SET ASIDE



HOUSE OF LORDS: The High Court of Swaziland.

seeking an order declaring the intended evictions and demolitions order null and void. Alternatively, they have applied for an order stalling the evictions and demolitions until the Swaziland Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration finalises the negotiations between them and SNPF.

According to Themba Mamba, a representative of the residents, the High Court issued the evictions and demolitions order in August 2007 and the residents sought assistance from traditional authorities such as the Ludzidzini Council and the Swaziland National Council (Liqoqo). The matter was dealt with by different bodies and in 2011, the residents approached the Swaziland Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration to engage SNPF with a view to

have the residents purchase a portion of the farm where they had built their homes.

He alleged that the commission drew up a memorandum of understanding and caused it to be signed by both parties.

Departments

They allegedly agreed that the land dispute would be addressed through negotiations and compromise. He further alleged that the agreement was that the commission would have finalised the negotiations by April 6, 2012 or any other date agreed upon by the parties.

"The commission has been required, in order to come to an appropriate and just decision, to consult extensively with other relevant government ministries, boards and departments.

"The term of office of the members of the commission had at some

point come to an end and while the matter was still pending before the commission. This resulted in the deliberations being stalled until the renewal of the terms of office of the members of the commission," Mamba said in an affidavit.

He alleged that owing to the extensive consultations, the human rights commission had to undertake, it failed to meet the deadline, but the matter was still pending before it. He claimed that the SNPF, in total disregard of the memorandum of understanding, issued notices that it will evict the residents and demolish their houses come April 1, 2016.

He argued that the Fund could not cling to the argument that it was obliged to execute the order because the deadline set in the agreement with the commission had expired.

He claimed that the Fund continued to submit before the commission even way after lapse of the deadline.

On their alternative prayer to set aside the order for eviction, Mamba claimed that it was erroneously issued because they were considered to be illegal squatters in the farm owned by SNPF.

Funds

"In the circumstances, the order sought in the combined summons were erroneously granted on the ground that jurisdiction of the honourable court is expressly excluded by section 9 (1) of the Farm Dwellers Act of 1982," he said.

He alleged that the residents were taken aback when, in December 2015, they received correspondence that the Fund would continue to evict them.

He submitted that they had obliged with the memorandum of understanding to the letter.

He claimed that they agreed that the decision by the commission would be binding to all parties, therefore, it would have an effect of substituting, abating or replacing the order of eviction and demolition.

The matter, on Thursday, appeared before High Court Judge Jacobus Annandale. No order was made, but the parties were ordered to file all relevant papers in readiness for argument next Friday. Meanwhile, there was an undertaking the intended evictions and demolitions would not take place, at least until the matter is heard and finalised.

We've been lenient enough - SNPF

The Swaziland National Provident Fund (SNPF) has said it has waited way too long not executing the court order because it was trying to find possible ways to deal with the matter in a humane way.

The Fund has claimed that the residents had not been candid with the truth in their application to stall the execution of the court order to have them evicted. SNPF General Manager Fund Miccah Nkabinde, in an answering affidavit, alleged that the Fund was now suffering financial losses as a result of not being able to utilise its own farm.

Support

He claimed that the Swaziland Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration failed to meet its 2012 deadline to have finalised the matter because its recommendations were not achievable without government support. He alleged that various engagements were undertaken, but it became evident that the matter required intensive consideration on the part of the commission. "It is fair to say that all possible avenues for the resolution of the matter were explored to no avail. For a period of almost four

years, there were various engagements before the human rights commission," he said. He submitted that the Fund, even though armed with a court order, wanted to have the matter resolved in a humane manner.

Investments

He claimed that in all the bodies and structures the residents reported the matter to, it was ruled that the Fund was the rightful owner of the farm and the residents did not have authority over it. He claimed that the commission, in November 2013, recommended that a portion of the farm should be sold to the residents, but they failed to reach an agreement. He claimed that the Fund had at some point agreed to sell a portion of the farm to the residents at a price lesser than the market price. He said, however, the Fund had a mandate and any sale was possible if the land was sold at market value because it had to make maximum returns on investments made on behalf of its members. He claimed that the Fund continued to engage the commission with a view of finding a solution, but the commission asked to extend the deadline until June

2016, while it tried to finalise the matter. He claimed that the Fund's board of directors only agreed to extend until March 31, 2016 and thereafter would execute the evictions order.

"However, I wish to place on record that even though the cut off date of March 31, 2016 has been fixed, the respondent (Fund) intends to follow due process, by serving formal eviction notices on each and every homestead and accord them an opportunity to vacate voluntarily before the formal demolitions commence." The Fund is represented by Zweli Jele from Robinson Bertram Attorneys. Lawyer Lucky Howe appeared on behalf of the Swaziland Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration. He was instructed after the chairman alleged that the attorney general told them that he was privy to the government side of the matter. Masuku argued that he feared that there would be conflict of interest if they engaged the AG's office to represent them in the matter. He said the commission wished to file papers in the matter. They were ordered to file papers on Thursday.

Civil servants forced to travel long distances to work

By Sandile Nkambule

Shortage of government houses continues to seriously affect some civil servants who are forced to travel long distances to and from their work stations.

So serious is the situation that the Observer on Saturday has reliably learnt that some government officers travel from as far as Siteki to Mbabane using public transport while some from as far as Big Bend to Nhlanguano.

Concerns

This effectively means some of these officers have to spend about four hours to and from work and they connect public transport.

Government working hours require one to be in office or work station for eight hours and this means the affected officers only spend four hours at work and on the road as they leave early in the morning and afternoon.

According to inside sources within ministry of labour, the situation has been going for some time now and what has raised concerns is

that some of these officers are transferred from their previous work stations where they are housed by government.

"We feel the different ministries should have considered not effecting the transfers since the accommodation shortage has not been arrested," said our sources.

In her audit report tabled before Parliament, Auditor General Phetecia Nxumalo made mention that some of her findings in the ministry of labour were that some retired civil servants continue to occupy government houses.

A former human resources manager was cited as owing government about E15 000 for occupying a government house despite that the officer has since retired, stated the auditor general in her report. While government is trying to address the issue of housing through the institutional housing project, she is carrying out through the Swaziland National Housing Board, the feeling amongst most civil servants is that transfers should at least be put on hold for now.



Ministry of Public Works and Transport

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MINISTRY OF PUBLIC
WORKS & TRANSPORT



Pastor Lindiwe Dlamini

SPECIAL EASTER ROADS SAFETY MESSAGE BY THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT

It is that time of the year where as a nation we celebrate the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As we approach the Easter holidays, let us be aware that our country's roads will become very busy, thus increasing the chances of fatal road crashes and even permanent disabilities in many. Let us be careful on the roads; treat each other with respect, and obey traffic laws and road signs, so as to avoid most of these road accidents.

Recent statistics indicate that 160 people die on our roads every year with 45% being pedestrians. Our economy also suffers greatly as the productive members of society are lost through the road accidents every year. Let us consider the many breadwinners who are whisked away from their families, leaving orphans and traumatised dependants. Therefore let us 'think life and preserve the lives of road users'.

The country has a beautiful road network, we therefore have an obligation to make these roads more traversable. We urge motorists to refrain from drinking and driving. We also plead with pedestrians to always use designated crossing areas such as zebra crossings. Swazis are urged to keep a close eye on children as they use the road. Many children have fallen victim of such negligence.

During the Easter holidays, we appreciate the work done by public transport operators in ferrying members of the public from one destination to the other and I would like to encourage them to continue observing speed limits and loading capacities of their vehicles. They should 'think life and preserve the lives of passengers'.

Beloved citizens, let us make sure that we remove hazards on the roads, especially stray animals. Be warned that untended livestock is very dangerous to motorists in broad daylight and more life threatening at night. To everyone travelling outside the country during these holidays, whether by public or personal transport, we wish you a safe journey. Please drive carefully and observe territorial traffic laws. We urge all Swazis to treat with respect, all our visitors as we drive along the country's roads.

We wish you safe travel to and from your places of worship and holiday destinations. 'slow down, save a life'.
It could be your life.

God Bless You.

UMLAYETO WETEKUPHEPHA EMGWACWENI NGESIKHATSI SELIPHASIKA MASWATI LAMAHLE, NANGU UMLAYETO WETEKUPHEPHA EMGWACWENI NIWETFULELWA YINDVUNA YELITIKO LEMISEBENTI LEMIKHULU NEKUTFUTSA

Nine bakaNgwane, sengiso sikhatsi seliphasika lapho sikhumbula kufa nekuvuka kwenkhosi yefu Jesu Kristu. Njengoba imigwaco yefu itawube iphitisela kangaka, sive siyecwayiswa kutsi asishaye ngekucophelela siphephe etingotini temgwaco.

Lucwaningo lwembule kutsi ngemnyaka balikhulu nemashumi lasitupha (160) banifu labasishiyako emhlabeni ngetingoti temgwaco. Labangemashumi lamane nesihlanu ekhulwini (45%) kulaba ngulabahamba phasi (pedestrians). Umnofo walelive uyatsikamefeka ngekulahlekelwa ngulabo labasenemandla ekwenta umkhicito. Nine bekunene live liyadzabuka nangekulahlekelwa ngulabo lekungubona bafaka sinkhwa emlonyeni (breadwinners) ngoba kwandza tintsandzane. Ngako-ke zindla ngekubaluleka kwemphilo wonge timphilo talabasebentisa umgwaco. Silitiko lemisebenti lemi khulu nekutfutsa sinensayeya yekwenta nekugcina imigwaco yelive imihle futsi isezingeni lelisetulu kwatise phela kutsi siphokophele khona ku-2022 lapho khona live litawube libalelwa emaveni latfufukile. Siyancusa esiveni kutsi sibambisane nelitiko ngayo-yonkhe indlela kute siphephe sonkhe.

Bashayeli bayacelwa kutsi bangatichubi timoto uma banatse lokudzakisako, labahamba phasi kanjalo bacaphelise timphawu temgwaco: bewele etindzaweni lelibekiwe tekewela umgwaco. Sive siyacelwa kutsi sinake banifwana basasebentisa wona umgwaco, sebanyenti labasilahlekele ngetingoti temgwaco.

Kulamaholidi agudi, asitsatse lelifuba sidvumise umsebenti lomuhle lowentiwa ngibo bachubi betincola labetwala sive. Siyakhutsata kutsi bachubeke ngekuhlonipha litubane lelibekiwe kanye nekulayisha ngelinani lelingilo. Khumbulani bumcoka bekulondza imphilo yemgibeli ngaso sonkhe sikhatsi.

Nine bekunene, sicela kugcizelela indzaba yemfuyo emigwacweni. Asatini kutsi imfuyo lengenamelusi iyingoti kulabesentisa umgwaco imini nebusuku, ayeluswe imfuyo maswati lamahle, ikhweshiswe nasemigwacweni yelive.

Kulabo labatawuvakasha ngephandle kwaleli, sinifisela luhambo loluhle naloluphephile nisaya etindzaweni tekukhontela nakumaholidi. Khumbulani kugcina umtsefo wemgwaco walelo live lenilivakashele. Siphindze sicela kumaswati akitsi kutsi sihloniphe futsi sishayelise kahle tivakashi tefu letichamuka ngephandle kwaleli.

Sinifisela kukhonta lokuhle nemaholidi laphephile.

Inkhosi Inibusise!



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
A Department of The Ministry of Health

Shan claims he gained nothing at all from Salgaocar project

In fresh revelations he made to South African publication, the City Press, former Salgaocar boss Shanmuga Rethenam, otherwise known as Shan, has stated that he made no personal financial gains at all from the now closed iron ore project at Ngwenya. The Malaysian businessman told the publication that most of SARL's profits from the venture were ploughed back into the iron ore project in any event and that the other reason for the small profits of SG Iron shown in the financial year 2012/2013 which the City Press referred to in their article was because there were significant forex losses in that year.

The South African publication reported that Shan strongly denied all the allegations made by parties that are currently in litigation against him and remain unproven. In Shan's right to reply published by the City Press he said:

● "I hold only a minority stake in the company responsible for

the transport of the iron ore (SARL);

● I was not granted the mining rights in my personal capacity. These rights were granted to SG Iron;

● SARL paid for all the upfront costs required to build and improve the infrastructure required to transport the iron ore from Swaziland, a landlocked country, the 300 miles to the nearest port of Maputo and then, by sea, to China;

● The transport costs were high mainly for this reason and were not "inflated" as alleged;

● The other reason for the small profits of SG Iron shown in the financial year 2012/2013 which City Press referred to in their article was because there were significant forex losses in that year;

● Most of SARL's profits from the venture were ploughed back into the iron ore project in any event; and

● I have made no personal financial gains from the iron ore project at all."



THEN: A number of businesses had to cease operations after the mine closed down. Mostly affected was the truck business.

SALGAOCAR SHIPPED OUT OF SD

Stories by Bodwa Mbingo

Former Salgaocar boss Shanmuga Rethenam, otherwise known as Shan, is now engaged in a fresh court battle with his Seychelles business partners in Canada.

While most thought the Salgaocar issue was a closed chapter following the closure of the Ngwenya Iron Ore Mine, fresh allegations of how money was siphoned from the country by Shan to his own company in Seychelles have resurfaced.

This is documented in court papers in Canada as the former Salgaocar boss is now involved in a court battle with his business partners, Radia and Ajay Singhvi.

As contained in South African publication, the City Press, over a three-year period, SG Iron (Salgaocar) shipped E2.28 billion worth of iron ore out of the Ngwenya Mine, but for all the iron ore leaving the country, government earned no tax, and saw little in the way of dividends and royalties because roughly E2.21 billion was eaten up by a single line item — "transport and production".

Accusations

Shan, a Malaysian businessman, stands accused of allegedly inflating transport costs to shift profits from the country's mining operations of Ngwenya to his own company in the Seychelles.

The accusations were made by Shan's own business partners — a claim backed up by internal financial statements of his company as well as documents and e-mails filed in court papers, which provide a new insight into why Swaziland's

mining operation was struggling financially.

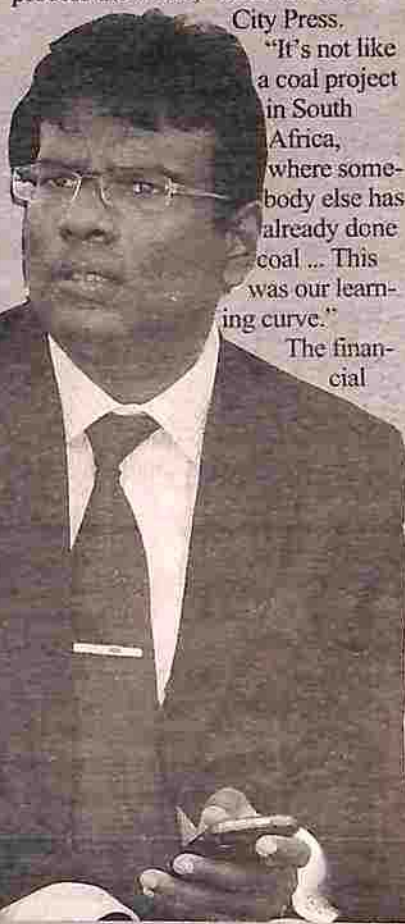
Project

In 2011, Rethenam's SG Iron was granted a seven-year licence to reprocess iron ore dumps that were left behind when Anglo American stopped mining there in 1977. SG Iron was 50% owned by Southern Africa Resources Limited (SARL), a company that Shan controlled in the Seychelles, 25% by the Government of Swaziland and the remainder held by the King in trust of the Swazi nation.

"It costs us a lot of money to process the waste," Shan told the City Press.

"It's not like a coal project in South Africa, where somebody else has already done coal... This was our learning curve."

The financial



The financial statements audited by PwC in Singapore provide no breakdown of these enormous costs, but internal financial records show that for every E1 earned in sales, roughly 94c to 97c was spent on transport. And through a deal that Shan struck, the sole provider of transport was his company in the Seychelles, SARL

statements audited by PwC in Singapore provide no breakdown of these enormous costs, but internal financial records show that for every E1 earned in sales, roughly 94c to 97c was spent on transport. And through a deal that Shan struck, the sole provider of transport was his company in the Seychelles, SARL.

"We came up with this scenario that the parent company will run the logistics and then the mining company will just mine... with the blessing of the King and of the government," Shan said.

"It's a total arm's-length transaction."

"Arm's-length" transactions refer to related companies charging each other the same prices they would charge outsiders — a safeguard against transfer mispricing to dodge taxes or rip off minority shareholders.

However, Shan was not only the president of SG Iron, he also acted as a president of the parent company SARL, in which he held a 20% stake, thus had ultimate control over both companies.

logistics

The extremely high transport costs being charged by SG Iron's major shareholder, from a tax haven, throws up a major red flag for transfer mispricing, which has been viewed as robbing Africa of countless billions of Emalangeni.

Shan insisted to City Press that despite the high logistics costs, "the parent company was losing money through the nose". While the SG Iron saw little to no profit, a letter from Gautam Radia, co-owner of SARL, to Shan, claims that the Seychelles

STILL BATTLING: Former Salgaocar boss Shanmuga Rethenam.

Go bury relatives at parental homes, Manzini Municipal Council tells residents

Stories by Sandile Nkambule

The shortage of burial space within the Municipality of Manzini has reached a level where Council is now pleading with residents to use alternative burial space.

The Municipal Council is pleading with those who have parental homes around the country to at least consider burying their loved ones there since the burial space at Ngwane Park is almost full.

Swazis who have properties within the city have been asked to assist Council by going back to their roots for alternative burial in order to save the little that is left for those who are not Swazis by birth.

According to city Council Public Relations Officer (PRO) Mathokoza Thwala, the Ngwane Park cemetery is almost full and

As shortage of burial space in the city reaches alarming levels with Ngwane Park Cemetery almost full, Council pleads with residents to use alternative burial space as they believe all Swazis have parental homes

they are still soliciting another burial space hence the plea with those who can afford to be buried home, to do so.

Loved ones

Thwala said this was happening only seven years after they migrated from the golf course cemetery and of note is that the usage of their burial site is at an unprecedented rate.

"Lately, between three and five people are buried at the Ngwane Park cemetery every week. However, we do not want to be caught off balance and as a proactive initiative we are already scouting for alternative piece of land wherein the people of Manzini will bury their loved ones.

We hope and pray that we acquire an alternative burial site very soon," Thwala said.

Some people who do not mind using the available crematorium in the city now opt for it as a number of cremations have been witness through some residents within the city in turn assisting Council in making some savings on the burial space and extend the lifespan of the Ngwane Park cemetery.

From the tar mark near the main road leading to KaShali, the burial space has been filled up to the Christian Fellowship Church led by Apostle Jeremiah Dlamini and above that there no longer is space for burial.

Already the graves have now reached the gates leading to the church premises, a sign that the burial space issue is serious.

challenges

Thwala acknowledged the fact that they have noted that some people, even though not residing within the Manzini urban area, prefer to bury their loved ones at the cemetery.

He politely discouraged such practice in view of the challenges relating to burial space within the city of Manzini which was ideally meant for rate payers.

He said they were actually looking for the space as a long term plan for Council and that rate payers should

not press the panic buttons as regards the current cemetery.

Time

Although Thwala could not state which site they have identified for the cemetery, the *Observer on Saturday* has reliably learnt that they might negotiate for a certain portion near one of the chiefdoms in the semi-urban area.

The old Mangwaneni cemetery was closed by the Council as it was full to the brim about seven years ago and only people who had booked for tombs way back in the 90s and early 2000 are allowed to bury their loved ones there.

Meanwhile, three other cemeteries, one at Ngwane Park below the high school there, another near Swaziland Electricity Company (SEC) sub station at Zakhele, and the other opposite the city police station are no longer in use as they were rendered full a long time ago.

E2.2 BILLION WORTH OF IRON ORE



company, which did nothing except to provide logistics for the Swazi company, made "in excess" of \$40m (E553m) in profit up to that point.

It has been gathered that in 2012 to 2013, SG Iron's most productive year, 1.2 million tons of iron ore were exported out of the country. While SG Iron made a modest profit of E66 million, the profit was soon offset by losses as E956 232 000 was transferred to SARL in the Seychelles for transport costs listed under "purchase of goods and services".

Allegations

In Shan's own affidavit he details how his Seychelles business partners, Radia and Ajay Singhvi, approached an official from Swaziland with allegations against him.

"Radia and Singhvi told him I had been enriching myself through SARL and SG Iron, which he said was as good as embezzling Swaziland state funds," his affidavit reads.

"Mr Gautam told him I had claimed a \$20 million (E312 million) bonus from SARL while SG Iron was losing money, disguised the transfer pricing under a logistics contract between SARL and SG Iron to make huge profits, taken other commissions and mismanaged SG Iron."

However, Shan vehemently denied these allegations to City Press.

After Radia "revealed the breakdown of rates SARL charged SG Iron" he recommended that SG Iron should "either terminate the agree-

ment with SARL or, alternatively, renegotiate so that the terms would be more favourable to SG Iron," according to Shan.

Crime

In October 2014, SG Iron was placed into liquidation with Paul Mulindwa being appointed the Liquidator.

SG Iron stopped making cash payments to SARL and Shan became embroiled in a messy fight with his own shareholders.

Shan, who is now fighting a separate court battle with Singhvi in the Seychelles, said his only crime was being too generous to the Swaziland state at the expense of the other shareholders.

He claims he is being sued for negligence while operating the company in the country.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini speaking to the Editors Forum a week before last said government, in collaboration with the liquidator, was currently soliciting investors to take over the assets of the mine and resume operations. He said in the meantime the Liquidator is safeguarding all residual assets left at the mine premises with the hope that maybe a buyer would be found to purchase the assets as a going concern and resume operations.

"The safeguarding of the assets is at a huge cost to the estate and the financial resources are depleted. Regrettably creditors remain unpaid because there are no financial

resources available," said the premier.

Dlamini added that mineral commodity prices including iron ore dropped drastically in the world markets to more than 60% between calendar year 2013 and August 2014 and that the operational costs clearly became increasingly unsustainable.

"The mine applied and was granted Judicial Management by the High Court in October, 2014. In December 2014 it became apparent that the company was insolvent and the Judicial Manager applied and was granted Provisional Liquidation because there was no firm proposal from Salgaocar; the main investor on how the mine could be retrieved from its insolvency status. On 30th January, 2015 the High Court of Swaziland issued an order confirming the liquidation of S.G. Iron Ore Mining (Pty) Limited formerly Salgaocar Swaziland (Pty) Limited," further added the prime minister.

He said in February 2015 the liquidator invited all creditors of the company to a meeting to present a report on the estate of the company and guide creditors on how they were supposed to lodge claims.

He said regrettably the company, "had huge debts and very little assets with: Logistics (Salgaocar Resources Limited claim E449 million), local (RSA and Swaziland claim E129 million), other claims E126 million and assets are worth about E220 million). The Ngwenya Iron Ore Mine remains closed up until now."

Reveals missing out on Glencore's E881m potential investment in project

As iron ore prices plummeted eventually resulting in the closure of the Ngwenya Iron Ore Mine, Shan has revealed how a potential investor in the project, Glencore, who wielded an E881 million investment, pulled out of the deal.

There was a dramatic change of fortunes for Shan who was on the verge of signing the long-term lease over

Ngwenya and even had global commodity giant Glencore knocking on his door trying to buy in. It has been

reported that by the end of 2014, Shan expected to be sitting on a new 30-year mining licence and a lucrative \$56.5m (R881m) deal from Glencore.

Instead, his ambitious plan to take control of iron ore assets throughout Swaziland was derailed following the closure of the mine.

Proposal

"Everything was in place for us," Rethenam said, "and suddenly everything changed."

Glencore wanted a stake in the Seychelles parent company providing the logistics, not the mine itself. The City Press reported that buried in the mountain of papers filed before the Canadian court is a "strictly confidential" three-page proposal from Glencore outlining a \$56.5m investment into SARL - provided that Shan could secure a "fresh mining licence" for the Ngwenya mine. Although SG Iron already had a seven-year licence to mine the dumps, the real long-term value lay in the main mine, with its estimated 21

million tons of high-grade iron ore reserves.

Glencore's initial proposal was to invest \$40 million through loans and pay \$16.5 million to Rethenam for a 10% stake in the Seychelles company.

Bank

"Rethenam was banking on this deal to be a life-changing event," Singhvi states in his affidavit.

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"Unfortunately, this deal fell through."

Rethenam said: "When the actual deal was about to take place, Glencore came in and said: 'Shan, we do not want to buy a share in your company. We would like to put all the money into a loan.'" The City Press fur-

ther reports that in an email dated April 4, 2014, Glencore confirmed the new proposal would see the global commodities giant investing \$56.5 million as a loan with the option to buy equity at a later stage.

"Glencore's new offer was very clear," said Shan. "They said: 'You have to use 100% of the money in the mine. We will not allow you to use any of the money for any other thing.'" However, later that month, Glencore ended its negotiations. "We had certain preliminary discussions regarding a potential investment in SARL and conducted an initial due diligence," said Glencore spokesperson Charles Watenphul.

"In April 2014, we terminated discussions due to the declining market conditions in iron ore and corporate governance concerns."

Residents from semi-urban areas cause for fill up at Manzini city cemetery

The high death rate might that has seen the Municipal Council of Manzini running out of burial space at the new Ngwane Park cemetery has been attributed by some to people from settlements within Swazi Nation Land (SNL) being buried there.

According to some concerned rate payers, burial space seems to be running out at the cemetery at an alarming rate despite that it was recently opened after the golf course cemetery closed as it was full to capacity.

In an interview with some of the rate payers, they expressed concern that this was due to the fact that even people who do not reside within the city end up buying burial space regardless of the fact that they come from chiefdoms (imiphakatsi), where such space was available.

One of the rate payers, Solomon Maseko, said they have noted with concern that Council is running out of burial space at the new cemetery.

It has been reliably gathered that some people coming from settlements such as Sichelwini, Khoza, Moneni and other surrounding semi-urban communities, end up buying burial space from Council yet they have room to lay to rest their loved ones within their chiefdoms.

The issue of burial space has been of major concern such that some relatives, especially couples, are now opting to be buried in the same grave, while others go for cremation. This, they do through their last Will and testaments and according to the burial orderlies at the cemetery, some even book graves while they are still alive and keep them covered with tomb stones.



THE UNDER WORLD: Manzini cemetery where burial space has now run out.

Swazi MTN announces drastic changes, dial 922 to feel them

By Mandla Luphondvo

Swazi MTN has announced that customers do not have to wait for a long time to have their queries addressed at their call Centre, popularly known as 922 from now onwards.

Previously, customers would have to queue for a long time before being assisted.

Also, in the past, there were cases where some customers indicated having to wait for more than five minutes before they could be assisted.

According to statistics collected last week, the average waiting time is now around 33 seconds, a phenomenal drop from a waiting period that would be often over five minutes.

Swazi MTN has actually put in place measures to ensure increased

● Swazi MTN has actually put in place measures to ensure increased service accessibility, and availability to her valued customers. For instance, the company is currently piloting a WhatsApp Customer Care line. This service option will soon be available to all internet enabled customers. The company is also improving availability especially during high traffic times such as evenings

service accessibility and availability to her valued customers. For instance, the company is currently piloting a WhatsApp Customer Care line. This service option will soon be available to all internet enabled customers.

The company is also improving availability, especially during high traffic times such as evenings.

Over the years, Swazi MTN generally experiences an increase in incoming call traffic to the Call

Centre.

In September 2015, service level was at 78%, however, by the end of February 2016, it has improved to 86.5%. The answer rate of queries addressed to the Call Centre was 84% in September last year, but by the end of February 2016, it was at 94%. These figures reflect a marked improvement in service provision.

In practical terms, this means Swazi MTN is responding to more

calls and resolving more challenges so that customers have a better experience as they use the company's information and communication services.

As we enjoy Easter Holidays, our customers are encouraged to keep in touch with us through the Call Centre, and Service Centers, particularly in case where there are challenges. Those who are travelling to other countries are advised to avoid roaming bill shocks by using their device settings such as deactivating 'Data Roaming.'

During public holidays, Saturdays, and Sundays our Call Centre is open from 8am until 8pm.

In case they need further assistance on the issue, they should not hesitate to contact us on 922, Facebook, Twitter, feedback.sz@mtn.com or send us a free SMS to 1010.

E200m for demolished structures, upgrading of Mananga Border

By Bodwa Mbingo

With government's sudden injection of E200 million towards the upgrading of the Mananga Border Post, the outlook appearance of the border will no longer be the same.

Such talk about the upgrading of the Mananga border infrastructure once emerged around the area towards the hosting of the FIFA 2010 World Cup by the neighbouring South Africa as the border was seen as one of those vital in allowing tourists and locals entry into the World Cup host state. However, during such time, the project hit a snag, bringing uncertainty to the area's community on whether such a project would eventually see the light of day.

Fast forward to 2016, Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini has rekindled their hopes that the border will finally be upgraded to fit the 2022 standards of a first world Swaziland.

This was when he included in his budget for the 2016/17 financial year that: "E200 million local funds will go towards the construction and supervision of entry and exit cargo inspection areas, including offices, canopies, parking, electrical installation and surveillance security system."

The project comes with the



ROTTING AWAY: This is the dilapidated structure that houses the immigration offices at the Mananga Border Gate. It will soon be upgraded to meet modern standards by SRA. (Pics: Bodwa Mbingo)

overall upgrading of the border's structures, construction of staff houses as well as payment for already demolished structures that housed business activities around the border. The border has, over the years, actually, allowed tourists passing through to and from South Africa to make it a laughing stock, with some taking time to stop and take photographs of the dilapidated state of its buildings that threaten to fall on them each time they stamp their passports or declare goods to customs officials.

After a visit to the post by the Observer on Saturday team, it was discovered that already a number of buildings had been demolished following agreements between the Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA), which is in

charge of the project and the affected parties.

It was announced many years ago that they would be relocated and that their building structures would be demolished. Most, when interviewed, expressed contentment with what they

agreed on with SRA save for one structure that houses a number of businesses that had been left untouched.

With the demolitions, the area already looks like it was vacated many years ago, but it is only the activity of trucks and cars that make their way to and from South Africa that shows that there is still life in the area. Of note is that this development is taking place on Swazi Nation Land (SNL) and SRA has had to deal with the area's traditional structures. Two years ago Malibeni Indvuna Mgodzi Mahlalela told the Observer on Saturday that the businesspeople initially came to the traditional headquarters to request for land on which they set up their businesses, but were told at inception that the land belonged to the state and one day they would have to vacate it.



NOT FIT FOR MONEY: A makeshift structure that houses the customs offices under SRA at the border.



IT SAYS IT ALL: A sign that shows the demolitions that are being undertaken at the border.



WAR ZONE? This picture shows some of the demolished structures leaving the place looking more like a war zone.

MVA ordered to pay mkhulu (70) after 2010 road accident

By Linda Jele

High Court Judge Mumei Dlamini has ordered the Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA) Fund to compensate a man who was knocked down and injured by a negligent expatriate.

Bhekokwakho Lushaba (70) was knocked down by a motor vehicle driven by Mary Lin on September 12, 2010.

The accident happened along the Yithi Abantu highway near Kashi when Lushaba was crossing the road.

He was extensively injured.

After the injury, he filed a claim with the Fund, but it was turned down on the grounds that he was the one who had acted negligently resulting in the road accident that injured him.

Lushaba subsequently challenged the Fund before the High Court. He was represented by lawyer Clement Dlamini in the case and MVA was represented by Sabelo Masuku of Howe Masuku Nsibande Attorneys in the matter.

He argued that the driver of the motor vehicle that he collided with was negligent and failed to keep a proper lookout, resulting in her vehicle knocking him yet he was visible.

He further argued that Lin failed to avoid occurrence of the accident when by the exercise of reasonable, she could and should have done so.

Negligent

MVA fund opposed the application and paraded Lin as its main witness. It denied that she was negligent when the accident took place. The fund said even if the court were to find that Lin was negligent, it denied that the accident was caused by the said negligence.

The Fund further submitted that even if the court were to find that Lin was negligent and her negligence caused the accident, Lushaba was also negligent in that he failed to act reasonably when an a collision seemed imminent.

During leading of evidence, Lushaba told the judge that he was waiting on the side of the road when the motor vehicle veered off the road and hit him unconscious. He claimed that he was at the KaShali intersection with the Mhlaleni-Nhlangano road when the accident happened and was from the shops. He claimed that while waiting to cross, an army truck came and joined the main road towards Nhlabeni. He said he waited for it to pass and then he would cross, but while waiting, he was hit by a motor vehicle and woke up in hospital.

He claimed that the motor vehicle had veered off the road trying to avoid hitting the army truck. He claimed that he met Lin, a female of Chinese descent and she apologised to him for the accident. He claimed that she also gave him E1 000 as an apology and paid his medical expenses.

In defence, MVA said when Lin approached the bend towards the intersection, Lushaba was standing in the middle of the road for her car to pass. She said when she passed him he entered proceeded to move and got injured by the car.

Lushaba denied that he was in the middle of the road. She, on the other hand, denied that there was an army vehicle on sight. The judge said two witnesses testified that there was an army motor vehicle and that was not rebutted by MVA fund.

Judge Dlamini conducted an inspection in loco and noted that the bend where Lin's car was when she noted Dlamini was about 100 metres away.

"There is no dispute as to the condition of the weather on the day of the accident. The day was clear. It was not overcast as attested to by Lushaba and confirmed by MVA Fund's lawyer under Lushaba's cross examination".

Swazi TV wont collapse, workers will be paid on time - ICT Minister

By Mbono Mdluli

In what will certainly come as good news to Swazi TV workers and their relatives, the anxiety of whether they will be able to get paid on time at the end of the month or not will soon become a thing of the past.

This assurance was made by Minister of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Dumisani Ndlangamandla.

He said this during the budget debate of the ICT ministry by senators. They had asked Ndlangamandla to explain why the state of affairs at Swazi TV was bad. They were concerned by reports that the property of the television station was attached and that workers were not getting paid on time.

Ndlangamandla stated that the problems that were engulfing the station had been there for a very long time.

"The government has always been allocating a certain amount of money to Swazi TV. However, the allocation of the money did not eradicate the problems that were at Swazi TV. As minister, I would not regularly monitor how

● The government has always been allocating a certain amount of money to Swazi TV. However, the allocation of the money did not eradicate the problems at Swazi TV. As minister, I would not regularly monitor how the management was running the station. I would tell myself that they were able to manage the station and overcome the challenges," Ndlangamandla said.

The minister said it was only when the station's property was attached that he began to realise the problems were so big that they needed some kind of intervention.

Ndlangamandla assured the senators that Swazi TV would not collapse under the watch of government. He said government was fully aware of the problems and was taking some steps to provide the necessary solutions.

He said the ministry of finance was working in close co-operation with the ministry of ICT to

make sure that Swazi TV workers were paid. Meanwhile, the minister assured the senators that set top boxes would be sold all over the country during the course of this year. He said the reason they could not meet deadlines was the fact that set top boxes were not readily available by the end of June last year.

This was made by the fact that the distributors of the boxes were not given any financial help by government to smoothly supply the boxes. They had to find their own source of income in order to buy and sell them to the public. The minister said the public only got to see the set top boxes in November and December last year. The minister mentioned that



ALL IS WELL: Minister of Information, Communication and Technology Dumisani Ndlangamandla.

in December this year, everyone should have switched on to the digital mode of broadcasting because by that time, set top boxes would be all over the country.

He also stated that the digital migration would also be used to intensify the campaign of paying TV licences. He said if the public had taken upon itself to pay the TV licences, Swazi TV would not be finding itself where it was.

Country short by over 99 000 metric tonnes of maize - Moses

By Mbono Mdluli

Despite the rains that are currently received in the country, the drought is quite far from over as it is expected to proceed throughout 2016.

This was revealed by Minister of Agriculture Moses Vilakati.

He said this during the budget debate of the ministry of agriculture in Senate.

The minister said the effects of the drought, which started in 2014, continued to be problematic to them as a ministry and had challenged the efforts of the ministry to increase the wage bill.

He told the senators that low levels of water, resulted to poor storage of water in local dams, poor recharge of ground water sources, low agricultural yields as well as poor pasture and vegetation cover. Vilakati said maize production had been greatly affected by the current El Nino phenomenon.

He said the domestic requirement for maize in 2015/2016 was 132 780 71 metric tonnes against an estimated production of 33 460 metric tonnes for the current season, which was the lowest since 1989.

Vilakati said this reflected a maize shortfall of 99 320 71 metric tonnes.

The ministry had already embarked on a solution for this problem.

"The ministry has embarked on irrigated maize production where currently an estimated 1 797 hectares has already been planted," Vilakati said.

He said as an immediate measure, the ministry would facilitate importation of white maize by National Maize Corporation (NMC).

Adding, the minister said cattle production was also affected by the drought.

It has induced the mortality of about 50 000 cattle as of February, 2016. This was mainly due to depleted grazing land and inadequate drinking water. Lubombo and Shiselweni regions were the most affected of the four regions that the country has. The resilience of households in rural households where livestock was a major source of livelihood worsened the condition.

Vilakati said as a relief measure, the ministry provided livestock drinking water and hay bales to affected communities and had distributed more than 629 000 litres of drinking water and a total of 1389 hay bales were provided as a joint effort by the ministry and Swaziland Dairy Board (SDB). The ministry and SDB supported small holder farmers in the production of 5 207 hay bales which were sold locally.

The decline in agricultural production and the recent food commodity price hikes has resulted in a number of households experiencing high levels of food insecurity.

Current projections, according to Vilakati, indicated that in a worst case scenario, 537 909 people would face food deficit during the 2016/2017 consumption year. The minister said currently, 320 974 people were in food deficit situation.



REVEALED: Minister of Agriculture Moses Vilakati.

Afrotim Construction on the verge of being ISO certified

By Nonthandazo Nkambule

One of Swaziland's fast growing construction company, Afrotim Construction, which is wholly Swazi-owned, is on the verge of getting ISO 9001:2008 certified, following great strides in recent months, where the company is said to be on the third stage of implementation processes required for the prestigious quality assurance certification.

This was revealed by the company's Commercial Manager, Nonhlanhla Motsa soon after the completion of a SHERQ-facilitated workshop at the company's premises in Matsapha on Tuesday.

"Afrotim Construction is definitely turning a corner and starting page as the company transforms into a corporate organisation," stated Motsa.

"To enhance quality output in the construction industry, our organisation is undergoing a transformational phase that will lead to the company attaining ISO 9001:2008 certification by August this year. This will set out how the company could establish effective quality management systems to meet our stakeholder's needs," she added.

Motsa, who said the company was now at Stage 3 of the implementation process, said a gap analysis had already been done.

"There has been a staff training to raise quality management system awareness. This has been well received by the staff that is



BUSINESS: Afrotim and STTP staff members posing after the Sherq training on Tuesday.

so motivated by the latest developments in the organization. We believe by end of this year we will be a corporate organisation, and will contribute towards the attainment of the first world status by 2022," said Motsa.

Motsa said the certification would also look into issues of safety in the work place and on site, which she described as one of the thorny issues in the local construction industry.

"Afrotim seeks to minimise and eliminate injuries, or even death, from our sites by ensuring that staff members are well trained about issues of safety at all times," she said.

The implementation of these standards, according to Motsa, would help the organisation to be

more competitive, improve on project delivery times, reduce costs of projects, and to improve morale on staff.

"From an external stand point, having ISO certification will ensure that we satisfy the demands of current or prospective customers, improves customer focus, boost international acceptance and credibility, and ensure that we expand and retain markets," she said.

She said the standard would place the company in an elite category of the construction industry and keeps the organisation prepared for any external audits and inspections. She said it also facilitated continual improvement, provided competitive advantage, and transformed operations from

detection mode to prevention mode.

Meanwhile, Motsa further stated that Afrotim's desire for this certification was also influenced by the knowledge that the standard creates consistency throughout the organisation, building around "best practices".

The standard, said Motsa, would improve business performance, lessen dependency on key individuals and provide a blueprint for controlled and disciplined growth.

Afrotim Construction employs close to a 100 permanent and casual staff. The company has a rich profile and has done projects for Micro Projects, the ministries of health, economic planning, and public works, among others.

CRIME WATCH



Sandile Nkambule

Enjoy a safe worship, exciting Easter holidays

It is that time of the year once again, where the world joins hands in commemorating the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, as we kicked off by celebrating Good Friday yesterday.

During such times, experience has taught us that crime levels normally take a hike, as criminals always pray for opportunities to strike, especially at homes where most people leave no one except dogs to keep guard since most citizens will be travelling to all directions either for purposes of worship, holidaying or to check on their relatives and friends as part of the Easter holidays.

While the Royal Swaziland Police wishes all citizens of the Kingdom of Eswatini an exciting, rejuvenating and safe Easter holidays, the service, is however, interested more on ensuring safety and security of all while away and using the country's roads.

Senior Superintendent Sibongile Kunene says as always, the Royal Swaziland Police and other security agents will be all out making an effort to ensure that members of the public and their properties are safe while gone for worship or enjoying Easter holidays.

According to Kunene, in order to ensure safety for all, members of the public have been advised to take the crime prevention measures as their first priority.

Kunene said people should avoid leaving their homes without anyone staying behind as this may lead to thugs taking advantage by breaking in and helping themselves to valuable household goods.

She warned people against leaving behind children when going to Easter services and advised that an elder person be at least assigned to guard the homestead, making special emphasis to the fact that criminals can further abuse children when found alone at home.

Gone are those days when people would switch-on the lights day and night while enjoying their holidays away and still be assured of safety.

Kunene said the nation should be warned that this has now become a signal to thugs that the homestead has been left alone as days would pass without the lights switching off adding that is advisable to task someone with switching the lights on and off during the night and during the day, respectively.



Meanwhile, Chief Police Information and Communications Officer (PICO) Superintendent Khulani Mamba said as the police, they would strongly warn the public against drink-driving over the Easter holidays as they could spend the long weekend behind bars.

Superintendent Mamba said the police would be out in full force as they were aware that this was a busy weekend for the nation, visitors and tourists.

He said while they were aware that some would be going to attend services, others were planning on having a good time over the weekend which could lead to them committing the drink-driving offence.

He said police would focus on roadworthiness of vehicles, drink driving, pedestrian behaviour, use of seatbelts, overloading of public service vehicles and excessive speeding.

"All road users are urged to cooperate with the police during the course of the operations as people navigate their way through the roadblocks and stop at check points, they must always bear in mind that the intention of the police is not to inconvenience them, but to ensure their safety this Easter and the law will definitely take its course on all traffic offenders," Superintendent Mamba said.

The following are some safety

tips members of the public should consider this Easter weekend;

- Get someone to guard your home

It is important that you leave someone to guard your property while you are away. Thieves think twice before pouncing on a property when there is someone left to guard it. This is important even when you will only be away a couple of hours during the day. Recent statistics show that thieves nowadays do not wait for the night but break into houses in broad daylight particularly when there is no one left to guard the homestead. It is even worse when it is drizzling.

- Alert your neighbours, community police that you will be away with your family

It is on record that the Royal Swaziland Police is short-staffed and lacks adequate resources. However, it helps to inform them that you will be away so that they make an effort to patrol around your residence. It is also advisable to give them proper directions to your residence. Well, this is important even when merely reporting an incident that requires them to come to your residence.

- Thugs take advantage of darkness.

Ascertain that there is enough

lighting in and around your residence. Thieves find comfort in shades of darkness.

It is also advisable to ensure that overgrowth around your homestead is always maintained so that it does not become a hideout for criminals.

Road users, especially motorists, are urged to take extra precautionary measures, and in order to do so the following can help:

- If a motorist signals of a tyre puncture, do not stop, drive to the nearest busy place or gas station before getting out.

What to do if confronted by an armed robber or hijacker

- If you are ever confronted by an armed hijacker don't resist

- Give up your keys or money if demanded without resistance

- Don't argue, fight or chase the robber. You can be seriously injured

- Never agree to be kidnapped. Drop the car keys, run and scream for help

- If you are forced to drive, consider crashing your car near a busy intersection to attract attention so bystanders can come to your aid and call the police

- Call the police immediately to report the crime and provide detailed information

- Keep all car windows closed

and the doors locked while stationary at intersections.

- Keep valuable items out of sight.

- Leave space between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you to give you room to move should you feel threatened.

- Don't talk on your cell phone, if you are distracted you will be seen as a potentially easy target.

- If approached by a stranger while in your car, drive off if possible and/or use your hooter to attract attention.

- Be on the lookout for suspicious-looking characters or vehicles and do not hesitate to report them to the police.

- Always be on the alert for potential danger, and be on the lookout for possible escape routes and a safe refuge along the way.

- If your suspicions are stirred by any person or vehicle in a high-risk area, take appropriate action. For example, ignore a red traffic light if it is safe to drive through, turn off and speed away from the perceived danger zone and call for assistance where necessary.

- If possible, avoid driving in the dark.

- If your car is bumped from behind and you do not feel comfortable with the individual/s involved in the situation, drive to the nearest police station for help.

- Never open your vehicle window or door for any stranger. If a suspicious person is near your unoccupied car, do not approach the vehicle. Keep walking to the nearest public area and ask for assistance.

Where to report crime

If you see anything suspicious please dial 999/9 or the nearest police station at the numbers below

- Manzini - 2505 2221
- Matsapha - 2518 7111
- Malkerns - 2552 83011
- Mankayane - 2538 8222
- Bhunya - 2452 6113
- Lobamba - 2416 1221
- Mbabane - 2404 4525
- Pigg's Peak - 2437 1222
- Mlaba - 2384 0173
- Matutsemi - 2501 1343
- Siteki - 2343 4224
- Simunye - 2383 8966
- Tshaneni - 2323 2074
- Lomahasha - 2323 6111
- Siphofaneni - 2344 1222
- Sidvokodvo - 2537 3016
- Lubulini - 2303 0222
- Big-Bend - 2363 6416
- Gege - 2207 8229
- Kaphunga - 2207 9222
- Hlatikulu - 2217 6222

HIS MAJESTY'S
CORRECTIONAL
SERVICES

CORRECTIONAL WHEEL



OFFENDERS ATTEND EASTER SERVICES

As the world celebrated Good Friday and Easter this weekend, inmates in all Correctional Centres also had the opportunity to join the rest of the Christians worldwide in celebrating the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ through hosting of revivals spread across all centres.

The Easter Services are conducted by guest pastors from different churches around the country while services in other centres are conducted by department chaplains.

Commissioner General Isiah Mzuthini Ntshangase says it is extremely important to expose offenders to spiritual base interventions as part of the process of rehabilitation. Spiritual therapy serves as a foundation to give offenders mental strength to develop a strong relationship with God. This gives them ample opportunity to meditate on the past experiences which caused them to offend and end up in prison.

Influencing

While this is not the only correctional measure, it plays a pivotal role in influencing offenders' behaviour towards becoming law abiding citizens through seeking voluntary reconciliation with victims and society as a whole. It motivates offenders to see the need to participate in correctional activities meant to develop them into better individuals. Ntshangase said experience had shown that most offenders who participated in spiritually based programmes while serving time, have higher chances of successful healing from offending behaviour and reintegration into society than those who did not participate.

On another note, the commissioner general has expressed appreciation to the pastors who have accepted invitation and those who have volunteered to come and preach to the incarcerated society during the Easter Holidays. He said such support would go a long way in helping the department achieve its mandate. Whilst the department's mandate includes protection, holding on terms of persons and their rehabilitation, it has been observed that visitation of offenders by either family, friends or the general public plays a big role in expediting their rehabilitation process. Being in the midst of the public while serving time makes them feel appreciated and encouraged to develop a strong desire to change from bad habits to embody a character of goodwill.

Correctional Services Chief Chaplain Bethwell Dlamini stated that Easter was the most important



PRAYING: HMCS gives offenders the opportunity to practice their different religions.



READING THE WORD: Inmates and a visiting church group during a sermon.

festival in the Christian calendar as it celebrated the resurrection from the dead of Jesus, three days after he was executed. He states that the Easter story is at the heart of Christianity. Dlamini says on Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate the resurrection of the Lord, Jesus Christ. He says it is typically the most well attended Sunday service of the year for churches.

Dlamini said they were looking forward to hosting one of the most successful Easter Services, adding

that they were expecting blessings from the various messages to be delivered by the guest pastors and chaplains to the congregation of offenders and officers. Dlamini thanked the commissioner general for giving offenders the opportunity to pray and attend the services during the holidays.

He said this would make them part of these services celebrated worldwide. The chaplaincy section is responsible for coordinating prayers and spiritual counselling



WATERY: An inmate being baptised



IN SPIRIT: Alliance Church Reverend Johannes Mazibuko preaching the word of God to inmates at the Mbabane Correctional Centre.

for services for offenders in all centres. Offenders are encouraged to attend the services to benefit from the sermons. **WHERE TO FIND US**

*Correctional Headquarters

Contacts: Tel : (268) 2404247/8, Fax (268) 24043357

*Public Relations Office

Tel: (268) 24042476

Cell: 76062522 (PRO, SRN, ACC)

Bongani Khumalo

Below is the programme for the Easter Services

CENTRE	ACTIVITY	DATE	GUEST
1.Nhlangano	Revivals for offenders	25-27/03/2016	Chaplain Moses Zwane
2.Malkerns	Service	25/03/2016	Pastor Mavimbea
3.Big Bend	Service	25/03/2016	Pastor Mhanga
4.Manzini Remand	Service	25/03/2016	Local Chaplains
5.Mbabane	Service	25/03/2016	Pastor Magagula
6.Bhalekane	Service	25/03/2016	Station Chaplains
7.Piggs Peak	Service	25/03/2016	Musa Hlatiwayo
8.Mankayane	Service	25/03/2016	Chaplain Zweli Dlamini
9.Vulamasango School	Service	25/03/2016	Pastor Nkhambele
10.Matsapha	Service	25/03/2016	Pastor Sihlongonyane
11.Mavelawela	Service	25/03/2016	Pastor Mavimbela
12.Staff College	Service	25/03/2016	
13. Criminal Centre	Service	25/03/2016	Pastor Msibi

Analysis & Opinion



UNTIL THE END

Former Justice Minister Prince David and his brother in former Speaker Prince Guduza once shared more than just a surname.

They shared wisdom.

In his capacity as minister, Prince David advised parliamentarians to adopt the culture of reading all documents that related to their work in parliament.

Prince David is a humble man. He eats protocol too. He meant more than that. We all know what he meant. He meant MPs don't read. Why would he ask them to read if they did?

Prince Guduza, another modest being, issued a similar advice or instruction as speaker to the MPs. He too lives protocol. Call him a baby if you like.

He respected the office of the speaker. He went further and respected women as creatures of God. He was so acquiescent that he never danced in his office at night waking up dozing security.

Prince Guduza was more specific. He told MPs to read all Bills brought by ministers to stimulate strong debate that would benefit the Swazi populace.

By nature most MPs don't read. They can only read the daily register they sign on that inevitably gives birth to the goodies called sitting allowances.

At times ministers get away with murder as legislators rubber stamp Bills into Acts. It is crazy how these things come back to haunt us as a country.

This then brings me to my next subject that involves reading. Sadly it also involves legislators, in particular the leaders of both houses of parliament.

Speaker Themba Msibi and Gelane Zwane who lead Senate are allegedly protesting against the Parliamentary Service Board (PSB) Act. They are alleged to be holding a view that it is unconstitutional. For now that's least of my worries.

My big worry though is how can the presiding officers say this now when they directed proceedings during the debate of such? Where were they when the debates played themselves out?

Excuse

Zwane may have been away sick when the PSB Bill was debated but surely that does not excuse her from the majority vote it got during its debate.

See now our political image as a country is being taken for a nasty ride by the speaker, Senate president and the Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini who is not making any matters easier by his little pot shots he aims at these delusional political couple.

This week once again Msibi and Zwane boycotted being sworn-in as PSB alternate chairs. Word is they are not happy with the PSB Act thus won't grace it with their presence.

Already, according to the PM, the King would soon come face-to-face with a question that relates to the separation of powers subject after the many AU structures were notified by a certain MP.



LIGHT VS DARKNESS: Senate Deputy President Ngom'yayona Gamedze and Senate President Gelane Zwane.

● I agree with those who say all struggles are essentially power struggles. They involve questions like who will rule, who will lead and who thinks better. Lately it involves how many certificates you have? That's how petty we have become. In any event all I know is that all struggles are essentially power struggles and most are no more intellectual than three rams knocking their heads together.

The PSB Act does somehow give the PM of course as minister responsible for parliamentary affairs more powers. May be that is where the feeling of 'unconstitutional' comes in. I don't know.

But then again, the Act was signed off by His Majesty. What does this say about Zwane and Msibi's protest? It's a pity that in this country we refer to culture when it suits us.

Abide

It is easy for people to expect us to abide when they tell us it's from the country's authorities. The same can't be said about them when the wheel turns.

I am certain all three waging parties are aware how to deal with such matters instead of parading their stinky differences. This is getting more than politics.

I would have thought the three would collectively or individually approach the King on the matter. Why don't they take advantage of the airtime they have with the King in their varying capacities in the country to express what makes them unhappy?

They don't need me to tell them they are embarrassing the King. If the head of government and heads of the two houses of parliament fight, publicly I might add, the King's image suffers.

The power struggle is tainting the country. That the bone of contention is a law blessed by the King complicates the whole act of Msibi and Zwane, it boggles the mind.

They are refusing to be sworn into an office created by the very law blessed by the King. What happened to their vow of allegiance they pronounced when they took

office?

Msibi and Zwane must know that it is impossible to practice parliamentary politics without having patience, decency, politeness and courtesy.

Their street fight will not bring them anything. If anything, it would cost them their jobs. They should know better. Some before them suffered same consequences.

I agree with those who say all struggles are essentially power struggles. They involve questions like who will rule, who will lead and who thinks better?

Lately it involves how many certificates you have? That's how petty we have become.

Struggles

In any event all I know is that all struggles are essentially power struggles and most are no more intellectual than three rams knocking their heads together.

Like I have said, things have gotten personal. One writer once wrote: "People who reject transcendent authority can no longer persuade one another through rational arguments; everything is reduced to personal opinion. Debates about ideas thus degenerate into power struggles; we're left with no moral standard by which to measure the common good. For that matter, how can there be a 'common good' without an objective standard of truth?"

I spoke about the two risking their jobs. I pity Zwane who has worked so hard to be where she is. She has over the years proved herself to be the authority Senate needs.

Again, it's great pity that her unfortunate sick leave gave birth to another breath of

fresh air in Ngom'yayona Gamedze, the Senate Deputy President who filled in for Zwane.

He ran the show smoothly. This is according to senators themselves who took turns to describe Gamedze as a breath of fresh air. Maturely, the senators took nothing away from Zwane.

Apart from being a breath of fresh air, I think Gamedze was an epitome of good morals. He respected women too. He also respected his office and dancing.

I would implore Gamedze to continue like that because currently he runs PSB matters until Zwane sees the light.

Could this be the end of Zwane?

I was there when Zwane took charge of her first session after a long lay-off due to illness. Senators took turns telling her how they missed her. Well, I said to myself. How, why and when? I am still looking for an answer.

I am sure by now there are things Msibi and Zwane are clear about when it comes to our unique system of governance. One strong character the system has is to give people a long rope to hang themselves.

As you read this some are yet to get the long rope and while others like Msibi and Zwane have been handed the long rope. They are already on the journey to hang themselves.

Speaking of Msibi, how dare he forgets his journey to the seat he is occupying now? It was not a dreadful journey but neither was it good. But it was a journey.

I will always say that God has a tendency to punish ill-gotten and personal decisions. To me it's pay-back time for some MPs who never persuaded Prince Guduza not to pull out of the speaker election race.

I am aware that at the time it was a question of getting more or less anything but not Guduza. I know of MPs who lobbied against the prince because they anticipated bigger positions.

It's a shame some of the MPs who lobbied for Msibi are regretting their decision because of the way he carries himself.

I am of the view that to address this problem we need two things. The three fighting individuals need to grow up. Again, show some respect to the King.

We then need to refer the issue of separation of powers to the courts who are going to give a legal interpretation of the whole thing. I am not sure if our courts have the capacity. I wonder if it would be proper for our chief justice to hear the matter because of his past involvement with Zwane who is neck-deep in the subject. The chief justice is a former Indvuna of Zwane who is a semi-life time acting chief of KONTshingila. But clearly we need an expert in constitutional law to assist the waging bulls.

If anything, the matter can be taken to the People's Parliament. You may find after all, there is nothing they are fighting over. You could find its just personalities.

Anyway, time you enjoy wasting was not wasted.

Dealing with Diabetes

WITH: Nomalungelo
GinindzaDiabetes
Swaziland PR

It's a beautiful Saturday, where we talk more about the effects of Diabetes. Today we are focusing to the most important topic which affects most relationships in this world, Sexuality Dysfunction.

WHAT IS SEXUALITY?

Sexuality not only implies sexual activity but includes the full spectrum of sexual topics which are dependent upon the medical, psychological and sociocultural aspects of a woman. Sexuality covers not only actual sexual activity but thoughts about sex, physical attributes and desire for sexual activity. Related issues include fertility and contraception.

WHAT IS SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION?

Sexual dysfunction refers to a problem occurring during any phase of the sexual response cycle that prevents the individual or couple from experiencing satisfaction from the sexual activity. The sexual response cycle traditionally includes excitement, plateau, orgasm and resolution. Desire and arousal are both part of the excitement phase of the sexual response. Research suggests that sexual dysfunction is common, but many people are hesitant to discuss it. Because treatment options are available, it is important to share your concerns with your partner and health care provider.

WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION?

- Sexual dysfunction generally is classified into four categories:
 - Desire disorders — lack of sexual desire or interest in sex
 - Arousal disorders — inability to become physically aroused or excited during sexual activity
 - Orgasm disorders — delay or absence of orgasm (climax)
 - Pain disorders — pain during intercourse

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION IN WOMEN?

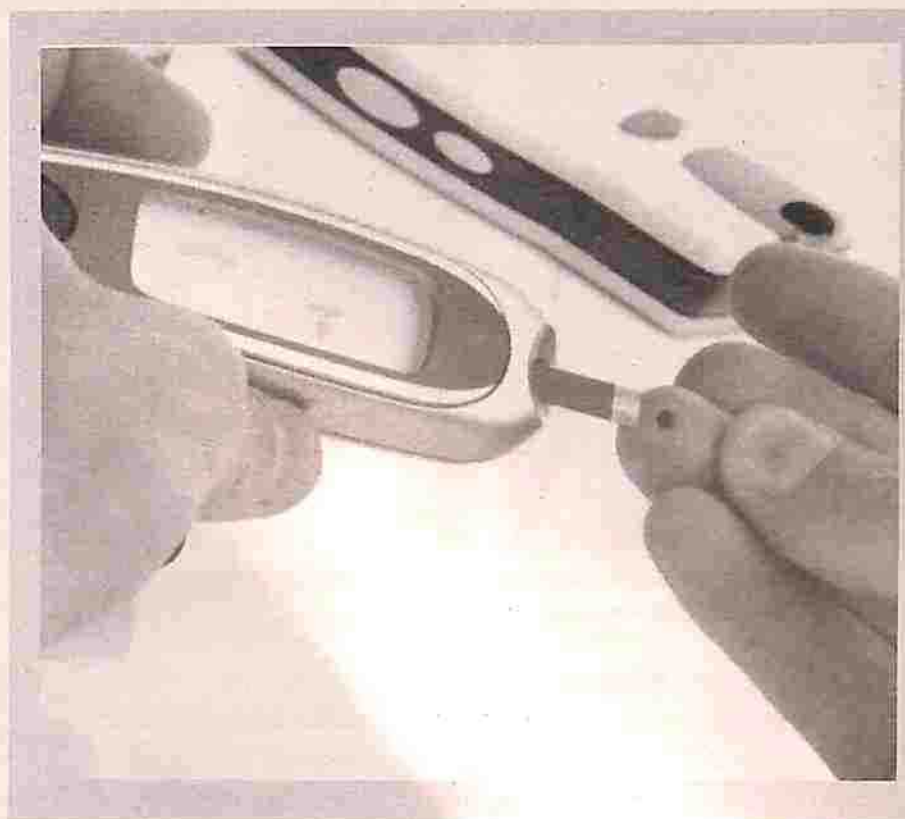
- Inability to achieve orgasm
- Inadequate vaginal lubrication before and during intercourse
- Inability to relax the vaginal muscles enough to allow intercourse
- Lack of interest in or desire for sex
- Inability to become aroused
- Pain with intercourse

HOW DOES DIABETES AFFECT SEXUALITY?

It is fairly well-known that diabetes and complications can affect the sexuality in men, but it is true for women, also. Women are starting to bring questions about sexual function and diabetes to their healthcare providers. Here are some problems that might be found in a woman with diabetes:

- Less vaginal lubrication, leading to dryness and discomfort or pain during intercourse
- Less or no sexual desire
- Lower or no sexual response, including the inability to become or stay aroused, little or no feeling in your genitals and the inability to orgasm, either occasionally or always

DIABETES AND FEMALE SEXUALITY



WHAT CAUSES PROBLEMS WITH SEXUALITY IN FEMALES WITH DIABETES

- Causes may include:
- Nerve damage
 - Less blood flow to the genital and vaginal areas
 - Hormonal changes
 - Side effects of medications
 - Alcohol abuse
 - Smoking
 - Psychological issues like anxiety, depression, stress
 - Infections
 - Conditions related to pregnancy or menopause
 - Other diseases

HOW ARE SEXUAL ISSUES IN WOMEN WITH DIABETES TREATED?

It is important to note that if you are having these issues or noticing sexual problems, you should talk to your healthcare provider. He or she will ask you about:

- Your health history
- How often the problems happen and the details of them
- Possible infections
- Other diseases
- Whether or not you drink alcohol or smoke and how often
- What type of medications you are taking
- Being pregnant or if you have reached menopause
- Whether or not you are depressed or have had any life changes
- Your doctor might do a physical examination and/or order lab tests to help the diagnosis. Your doctor might also speak about blood sugar control.

HOW ARE SEXUAL ISSUES TREATED IN WOMEN WITH DIABETES?

Prescription or over-the-counter vaginal lubricants may be useful for women experiencing vaginal dryness. Techniques to treat decreased sexual response include changes in position and stimulation during sexual relations. Psychological counselling may be helpful. Kegel exercises that help strengthen the pelvic muscles may improve sexual response. Studies of drug treatments are under way.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

What type of contraception is best for women with diabetes?

According to American Diabetes Association, there is no single contraceptive which is ideal for all women with diabetes. Each method has some disadvantages and some advantages. You and your healthcare provider should discuss the most appropriate method for you.

• **Oral contraceptives** - Combination estrogen/progestin pills are best for women who are younger than 35 years old and who do not smoke. Women with uncontrolled high blood pressure should speak to their doctors before using this form of birth control. Oral contraceptives with less than 35mg of estrogen and a low progestin dose are recommended.

• **IUDs (Intrauterine devices)** - Hormonal IUDs (Mirena®) consist of a progestin (levonorgestrel) - Recent information suggests that there is no greater risk of uterine infections in women with diabetes. Women with multiple sexual partners or with a history of uterine infections should avoid this form of contraception.

• **Barrier methods** - Diaphragms with spermicidal jelly or condoms with spermicidal foam have no medical problems associated

with diabetes but do not work quite as well as some other methods.

• **Tubal ligation** - This is a reasonable but permanent option for women who are sure that they do not want more children. There are no complications with respect to diabetes.

HOW DOES DIABETES AFFECT FERTILITY?

Poor blood sugar control is related to higher miscarriage rates during the first three months of pregnancy. Also, some women with type 2 diabetes may be overweight and/or have polycystic ovary syndrome, which may make getting pregnant harder. Again, though, these are the types of issues that women with diabetes should talk about with their healthcare providers so that treatments can be explored. Diabetes and female sexual dysfunction (FSD) tends to get less coverage than male sexual dysfunction but studies have found that the prevalence in women could be as much an issue for women as men. Sexual dysfunction in women can affect sexual desire and arousal and can also lead to pain during sex.

How diabetes can affect sex for women

Sex can affect women in the following ways:

- Vaginitis (inflammation of the vagina) often caused by yeast infections
- Cystitis (inflammation of the bladder) often a result of a urinary tract infection

Urinary Tract Infections - UTIs

Urinary tract infections may occur more often due to sugar in urine. A urinary tract infection is a bacterial infection that grows within the urinary tract - anywhere from the kidneys, the ureters, the bladder and through to the urethra.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF A URINARY INFECTIONS

Urinary tract infections are characterized by two types:

Lower urinary tract infections or Cystitis - bacterial infection affecting the bladder and the tube that transports urine from your bladder out of your body via the penis or vagina (urethra)

Upper urinary tract infections or Pyelonephritis - bacterial infection affecting the kidneys and the tubes connecting the kidneys to the bladder (ureters)

Lower urinary tract infection (affecting the bladder and urethra):

- Pain or stinging when passing urine (dysuria)
- Persistent feeling of the need to urinate
- Cloudy and foul-smelling urine
- Strong and bad smell of urine
- Abdominal pain (stomach pain)
- Back pain
- Blood in the urine (hematuria)

FOR QUESTIONS AND MORE INFORMATION
e-mail us on: diabetesswaziland@gmail.com
CELL: 7607 1889 TEL: 2505 3487

Lifestyle & Entertainment



WHEN WOMEN WORSHIP

GOLDEN VOICES JOINED TOGETHER FOR WORSHIP

PAGES 4,5

IT KEEPS GETTING BETTER WITH SHONGWE AND KHUPHUKA...

AWARD WINNING

Now you better believe this for it is for real.

There is no better way to usher you into the Easter weekend than through a melodious, inspiring and appealing rendition that Shongwe and Khuphuka's latest album provides.

Each passing year seems to be bringing a new if not completely different religious story to tell by Shongwe and Khuphuka Saved gospel group.

They have done it again. That multi-award winning gospel outfit from Khuphuka area under Hlane constituency in the Lubombo region isn't about to retire or retreat as yet in the gospel music scene.

Commemorating a 20th album release is no small feat in this challenging but entertaining industry so friends and foes alike should salute the group.

They are amongst Swaziland's if not Southern Africa's best gospel outfit and it's no strange coincidence they have multiple awards under their belt. They have mesmerised audiences locally and beyond the country's borders with aplomb.

To crown it in all; the most recent 2015 and 2013 albums attained gold disc status (in fact the latter got platinum).

Their staying power is immeasurable and insurmountable for their equals. They have raised the bar so fakes should pave the way or they would be felled in much the same force and grit executed in challenging this group. Shongwe and Khuphuka have scooped several awards over the years and their popularity extends unto Southern Africa, if not beyond.

They have scooped double platinum (over 100 000 album sales) twice, platinum four times and gold more than five times in their two decades of existence. If this is not an unenviable and unmatched feat, then none is.

Now they've hit all the right notes with the recent offering *Ungagivaphi* ('Don't Give Up'). The gist of the message contained in the title track, number two that is, is there's still a long way to go before reaching the Promised Land or one's desired destiny so throwing in the towel is unnecessary as it is unwarranted.

It is rather early so do not relent, retire or retreat but keep pressing on until you reach the desired destiny, the group argues in this track. It is a quite soothing, strengthening and soulful message being emphasised here.

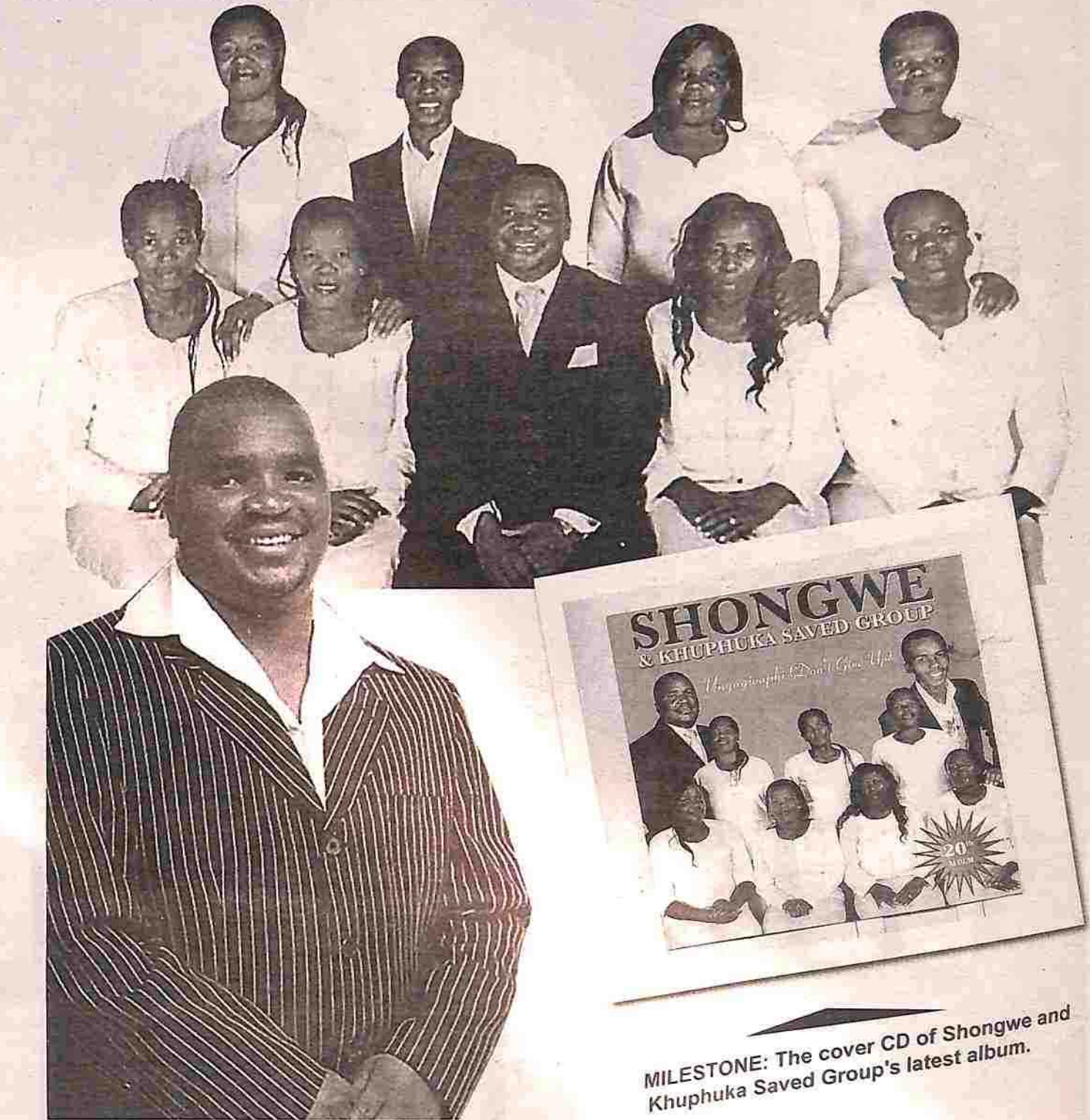
Recipe

The album is a perfect recipe for ushering you into the Easter weekend and beyond. So why not rush to the nearest music outlet store and grab yours to celebrate and commemorate the joyous holidays of the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ?

The group kicks off their rendition with (*Umoya Womlele Jehova*) *Njengendluzele*, a prayerful and appealing track, and is derived from the Holy Book (Bible) in *Psalm 42:1*. After all using reference of the Holy Scriptures in composing gospel tracks has come to characterise Shongwe's delivery as even track three (*Demi Onghivile*) is sourced from *2 Tim 4:9-10*. Do your best to come to me quickly, for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia (*NIV*).

No doubt Shongwe and Khuphuka is one of Swaziland's biggest gospel music exports as their reputation was achieved despite them hailing from the most remote of locations.

They continue their inspiring rendition in



MILESTONE: The cover CD of Shongwe and Khuphuka Saved Group's latest album.

● The album is a perfect recipe for ushering you into the Easter weekend and beyond. So why not rush to the nearest music outlet store and grab yours to celebrate and commemorate the joyous holidays of the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ?

the latest offering with the chorus remix of *Siphila Mahhala* (track five) now led by the extremely gifted Fikile Dlamini.

Opportunities

Track seven *Ithuba Ngelakho* urges brethren or the believer to push ahead and not mourn about failed opportunities as the mere fact that one is alive and well means they can be able to influence or alter their situation/destiny.

Ngenelela Jehova, track 10, appeals for the Almighty's intervention with the tribulations, trials and temptations prevalent in the nowadays mother Earth. Here Shongwe even concedes that pastors and cells (jails or solitary confinement) have not done much to

change the circumstances hence the only way out is for God to intervene.

Other tracks to sample are; *Jesu Uyingwele*, *Singayaphi*, *Memeza KuJesu*, *Isibindi*, *Izibongo Zami* and *Amazulu*. Of course the group is appreciative to the gesture extended by supporters, brethren and the nation at large through supporting them over the years.

"Our most sincere thanks go out to the corporate world and other organisations for hosting us in their roadshows and other promotional events of huge importance. This has assisted us reach a wider audience whilst also hammering home the message of reconciliation, redemption and hope," Shongwe

says.

He also concedes that it has not been easy to keep the momentum going thus far. "Prayer and strong faith in God has kept us together and ensured we remain standing to date."

Strong force

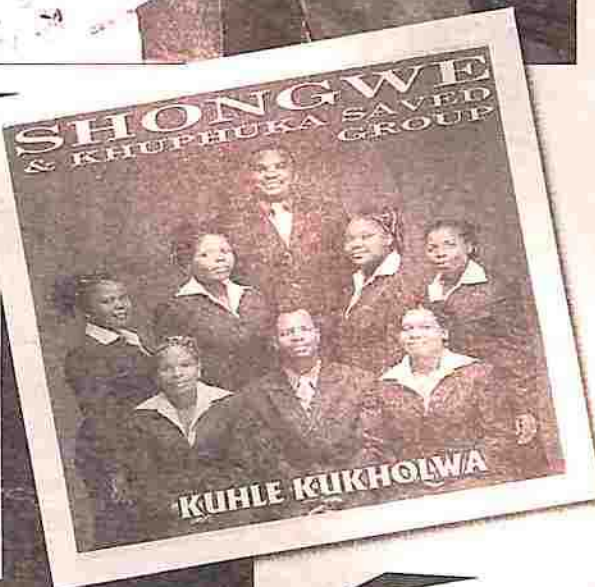
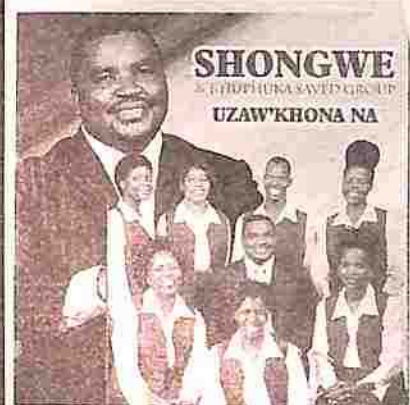
Providing the much needed back-up through instrumentation is the strong force of Shongwe himself, his son Thandwa and the dexterous Tony Dlamini.

It remains to be seen where the recent album would propel Shongwe to as the previous ones produced tracks which were to be adopted by renowned groups such as Joyous Celebration (*Kube Nkosi Moya Oyingwele-*

OUTFIT CELEBRATES 20TH ALBUM MILESTONE



Pastor Vincent Hlatshwako and Shongwe.



2011 ALBUM: Dumsani Mantimakhulu (front row) is delighted that the group has reached 20th album release. He noted that it has been turbulent and trying times for them but they remained steadfast.

REMINISCING: The 2007 and 2008 cover CDs of the group which elevated them to stardom both locally and beyond.

Ngabe Sehlulekile) or became instant hits with fans such as Namhla Ngelamancamu Dagona, Singahla Kanjani and Konke Kuhamba Kahle.

The other male member of the group Dumsani Mantimakhulu was ecstatic when informed this was her pastor's 20th album release.

"It is indeed a milestone for Rev. Shongwe and the group at large; congratulations are in order for him. This is something that should be celebrated and hailed by all since it's a rare achievement.

"We believe many more years are ahead for the group if they continue in this fash-

ion. We can't wait to join in the festivities of reaching such a landmark achievement".

Mantimakhulu noted that not many artists have achieved such a feat especially this side of the Equator but noted that this could be attributed to Shongwe's humility and reverence of the next person.

Also passing a word of gratitude to Shongwe was Pastor Vincent Hlatshwako of the Rest in Christ Ministries at Logoba who was caught unawares by the revelation.

"Hhawu! I honestly wasn't aware Shongwe and his group had reached a 20th album; this piece of news caught me by surprise. It is a huge achievement for him and

the group at large. We all should celebrate with him".

Pastor Hlatshwayo regards Shongwe as his spiritual father and mentor. After all he was once part and parcel of Shongwe and Khuphuka before taking up the calling to preach full-time. He recalls and reminisces the days they would transcend the length and breadth of the country ministering in song to the downtrodden facing varying challenges. So go ahead and knock your socks off as Shongwe takes you through the motivating, heart-warming and captivating musical journey.

(By Njabulo Dlamini)

DID YOU KNOW?

- Shongwe and Khuphuka Saved was established by its frontman and lead singer, Reverend Elias Shongwe in the mid-90s
- Rev. Shongwe is an ex-miner who quit his job following the calling to preach the Word around 1993
- He thereafter founded Light of Christ Bible Church
- Group debuted with 'My Sins' (Izono Zami) in 1997
- Worked with Sipho 'Big Fish' Makhabane in some of his albums
- Won several awards in South Africa for 'Hlala Nathi Baba' and 'Lungisela Umoya' amongst others
- One of only two only gospel music groups locally whose single album sales surpassed 100 000 mark
- Built two mutli-million Emalangeni Church structures at Khuphuka area and Logoba in Matsapha (which serves as the headquarters)
- Group has performed numerous times in South Africa, Botswana, and other SADC states. They had recently received an invitation to perform in the UK.
- Shongwe Music Productions, based in SA, markets and promotes the group's music
- Youngest keyboard player Thandwa is Shongwe's first born son.
- Albums released to date include amongst others: the debut 'My Sins' (Izono Zami) in 1997, 'Yekhi Inhlani', 'Inkazi', 'Best of Shongwe and Khuphuka Saved Group', 'Lungisela Umoya', 'Hlala Nathi Baba', 'Khethe', 'Asimbambeni', 'Wenzen' emhlabeni', 'Uzawukhona Na?', 'Kuyasiza Ukuzikhuza', 'Qiniselani Maqhawe', 'Kuhle Kukholwa', 'Amazulu Akubhekile Thula', 'Kungumusa KaJesu', 'Jehova Uvumile' in 2015 and the latest 'Ungagivaphi' (Don't Give Up).

FRESH FROM THEIR CD LAUNCH AND REBRANDING AT

GOLDEN VOICES

Cover story

This weekend means a lot to billions and billions of people out there. These people will do all they can to celebrate such significant days in their lives.

There is no exception with the newly-launched gospel group which goes by the name When Women Worship (WWW) as they will also be celebrating the life of Jesus Christ. These days obviously mean everything to them as they recently hosted a very successful media launch of the album.

Fresh from their CD launch and rebranding at Bethel Court hotel, WWW band is ready to change lives and uplift those dented souls. Their biggest goal is not to be a powerhouse in the gospel music industry but to make sure people get the message they are sending across.

These musicians who all have other projects on the side, came together for one goal, that of empowering each other as they minister the Word in song.

Coming back to the Easter holidays, these five women had a lot to say about it. Here is what some of the musicians said;

Banele Dlamini – Good Friday is when I remember what the Lord Jesus Christ did for us. It is a reminder that He paid it all and I have no reason to suffer as He has done it all for me and I'm eternally grateful to Him for such a sacrifice.

Zodwa Samboko – Good Friday reminds me that I should forgive and love unconditionally as Christ forgives my sins daily and loves me unconditionally.

Sizolwethu – This day reminds me of the day our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified on the cross for our sins. It is comforting to know that Jesus Christ is not dead but alive.

Phiwayinkosi Mabuza – It reminds us of the agape love. And the Easter symbolises the resurrection power.

Nelile – Christ's sacrifice on the cross gives us strength as we keep walking on this fellowship road. These days mean a lot to us.

The Executive Producer of the band Phiwayinkosi says they are not all about the fame or because they have it all but keen in advancing the Kingdom (of God). Mabuza is the visionary of WWW and she thanked all those who contributed towards the release of their first project.

"I appreciate the powerful backers to WWW: Nondumiso Nhleko, Mngqobi Maseko, Nothando Hlophe, Thandeka Makhanya and not leaving out the late Nomkhosi Ginindza," she said.

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU?

The visionary presented the concept to the different artist, only to find that most of them already had this in mind but never had an idea how to link with another. As much as they had succeeded in producing their own CDs they believed in the strenght of collaboration with other like-minded sisters

HOW DID YOU PULL IT OFF?

Indeed these are independent artists, wives, workers, fully committed in their different churches. They strive to pull it all together as we work through this work. Our preparations to reach the end were prolonged for that reason.

What kept us going and pushing is the fact that one had the understanding that all divine material/ treasures do not come in a silver platter. The enemy always set apart the dynamites for the world to miss some things.

DIFFERENCE BROUGHT BY WWW

The way these women were recruited differed from maybe other systems people may use. Other than the voice – few additional things were looked at. If one could take time to listen to the CD, one can pick on the voices; they are so different and unique. These voices minister to different people in various ways. The discovered common attribute is that of a spirit of ministering. Their foundation is based on true worship, which is beyond a good voice.

THIS IS NOT A BAND

If any person is affiliated to this project that means she has not abandoned her solo career, but will periodically have few of her songs in this collective CD arrangement. Should there be a need to get an opportunity to minister as a group of artists then this person can do it. Otherwise they are still invited individually to minister or perform in various platforms.

CHARITABLE

That means should at a given time arrive to a point of generating income, we would love to spare a proportion for the less privileged. Charitable spirit is, not all forums will require payment but if the team opts to visit Makhokhondela Children's home, they will be able to hear Make H's voice and her warmth freely.

CHALLENGES

This is a project that has never been seen before so if one could wish to bench mark somewhere never could we find that place. So the journey as a result was full of punctures if I can make an example of a car. Sometimes the car needed to park, think of the best



BETHEL COURT HOTEL, WHEN WOMEN WORSHIP (WWW)

JOINED TOGETHER FOR WORSHIP



● As much as they had succeeded in producing their own CDs they believed in the strength of collaboration with other like-minded sisters.

mechanic to fix then move on.

The other reason for the delay is, such projects require a solid foundation, so building a winning base is not a one night thing.

TARGETING

The project comprises of different artists (young and old) with different taste.

It's a mixture of contemporary and traditional music catering for everyone. And the CD has the old hymns, fit for the old. A pretest was done for those between 16-24 years and we picked their preference - the action songs sung by the young artists. So all levels are accommodated here.

COMPLEMENTING AND MOTIVATION

Their voices are so unique. When one sings, it's easy now to note which other voice can be an enhancer to that specific song.

Motivation – The fact that we have old and new artists, there have more interaction to learn from each other.

INSPIRATION

Inspiration is from God the Father.

It's not easy to work as a group, it's one of the reasons you delay to arrive. But we have learnt that challenges are there to be faced. Especially if one understands that there is power in unity than division. The group is interdenominational so bringing the body of

Christ together is our key mandate whether we like it or not. At the end of the day, we are the body of Christ even if our churches carry different titles. We have and still are learning to adjust, agreeing to disagree is the way to go – then we forge a way forward. Not that we have already mastered a way forward but we will go back to the Author and finisher until it forms shape.

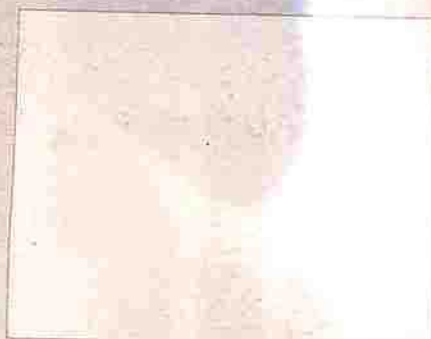
COMPOSING

Each one brings her own song as some artists are composers, and the producer Mpendulo Ndzinisa does the lending of voices and ensuring a powerful product is in the market. (By Phesheya Kunene)





POETRY CORNER



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

...By Tiara

LIBAMBE LINGASHONI

Today the sun has risen

And you are lucky to have risen with it.

Today the sun will set

And you will be lucky to set with it.

But when the sun rises again tomorrow

What will you have to remember your youth?

What will you have to show for the blood and

sweat of your mothers and fathers?

Asilibambeni lingashoni.

Bobabe mkhulu bebatsi lugotjiwa lusemanti,

Lungoma luyagamuka.

Spare the rod, and spoil the child,

With these words

I will punish you with the truth,

I will remind you that there is no shame in celibacy.

Alikho lihlozo ekuhlaleni ngentfombi.

You have been born into a world that has abandoned

morality and taken the fast lane.

A world filled with slums, disease, famine and gut-

less criminals

Do you want to wake up one morning and find a

youth less Swaziland?

Niyafuna yini kuvaka nikhandze live likhala libhunge?

Bangesheya bendlula ngetindiza mshini batsi

"ewu tindzala takangwane?"

Asilibambeni Lingashoni

You are young, gifted and Swazi

Niti tukulwane tabo babe mkhulu

Akenikhatimele kwendlula leligciwane

Ake nisukume nigcame kwendlula lombulalave.

Asilibambeni lingashoni.

DIARY OF A WORKING SINGLE MOTHER

They say birds of the same feathers flock together and I keep on asking myself what such a phrase means.

Do lost birds who finds themselves wondering with the wrong pack, have to feel less of an animal, just because of the different feathers?

Feathers fall out after all, even for the leader of the pack. So the other birds should now discriminate this now featherless bird?

So if a group of friends spend some time together, and one of them is a gold digger, they are all gold diggers all of a sudden?

Does a blind leader make the rest of his followers blind?

Since when has the world judged others, by what other folks do?

Discrimination has since taken such a bigger piece in our society. A person is now less of a human being, if he doesn't have the things that some people have.

When did we get such a pressure?

When did we start to make other people feel less of men or women because of not owning the latest cell phones? I just want to go so far away from this whole mess.

If a girl doesn't date a man with money who buys her the latest designer trends, she is told to think twice. Is love determined by how much money the men we date have? When will women encourage each other to work hard for their own money?

Damn I am not talking about working hard to impress a man in bed, so he gives more money. I am talking about



taking education seriously, get a job, start a business and buy yourself designer clothes and handbags.

Women our bodies have become the play ground for men with money, some even twice the ages of our fathers. Some of the fathers we do not even know, because they abandoned us when still in our mother's womb. See what I meant when I said we have reached the end of time?

Value

We have since lost the value for our bodies and womanhood. Mine is priceless and gosh I need more money, but I just vehemently refuse to stand at the other end of the streets half naked, waiting for any guy with money to come pick me up and do as he pleases with my body. As a woman how do you feel after a man has satisfied his lustful desires on your body? What do you see when you look at yourselves in the mirror, an angel? Of darkness maybe.

Just like money loses its value, even

down there gets worn out as the different men get in and out. I always wonder if the 'customers' will come running to you after the sugar has been lost, or they will go to the sweetest? How will you make a living then? Ever asked yourself that question?

Education has now become an option, because we now have many ways of making money and earning a living, but you tend to see its value when you are much older and have bigger responsibilities, then you start wishing you could turn back the hands of time and value education.

Wrath

There is a wrath or raging inferno ball prepared for those who sin, and if we continue to freely advertised and sex for a job is now a norm. I must have been born in another planet and adopted from an early age to earth, because all this shenanigans just doesn't tickle my fancy. This raised another question, am I an alien? (Shocked face).

Youth on the move...

In most cases than one, up and coming artists care less about the rich talent that is hidden in the streets and townships of the country. It is mainly a case of being on your own in whatever you are hustling on.

After seeing that the hustle was indeed real, Celumusa Dlamini established what he calls home for Swazi unseen talent. Being a man from the dusty townships of Nhlalango, 'Sgcemeza', as he is widely known, saw it fit to call his stable Ghettotainment (GTT). This entertainment house has its head office in Nhlalango but it has reliable connections in Mpaka and Mbabane where talent is groomed.

The entertainment stable was originally brewed in Nhlalango and Mpaka and artistically, it is home to young, multi-talented, self-motivated, creative and energetic artists.

GTT nurtures artists who aged between 15 to 35, some in school others completed.

Sgcemeza, an artist himself, says he is lucky as most of the artists showcasing many talents that usually shoot up to eight innovative abilities, namely; Dance, Drama, Music, Comedy, Poetry, Rap, Graphic Design and Disc Jockey.

"GTT is home of extra ordinary creativity in response to the King's Vision 2022," he shares.

VISION

GTT has a clear vision that of ensuring that young people grow up with opens minds on self-employment through arts and entertainment. Sgcemeza says they are also trying to reduce the dependency ratio in Swaziland by 2022 and beyond.

An example of the multi-talented artists that are groomed by the stable are Ghetto Action Dance Group which consists of five members between the ages of 18 to 25. It also has energetic and creative pantsula, bujwa, hip hop and culture dancers.

GHETTOTAINMENT: HOME FOR UNSEEN ARTS

They include Mr Nice Guy also known as DJ Lobhorako, who is a Rapper, Disk Jockey, a creative director and dancer at Ghetto Action Dance group. He was recruited in 2010.

Others are Charmiso, a graphic designer, rapper, creative choreographer and dancer, recruited in 2013. Another one is Excena, a musician, rapper, scriptwriter, actor, Film Director at Mafafabula Movie Series and he was recruited in 2012. Then there is Sgcemeza, who is a DJ and is known as Tubatsa when behind the decks, a visual artist, innovative choreographer, talent scout, events manager, dancer and founder of Ghetto Action and Ghettotainment Theatre.

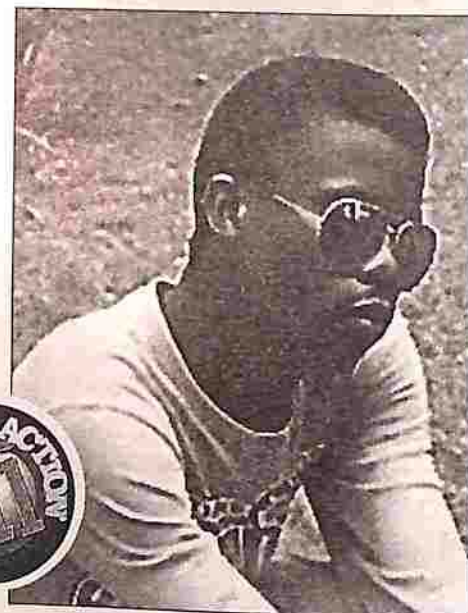
Lastly, there is a female who goes by the name Zeze. She is an actress, poetess, aspiring DJ and Pantsula dancer at Ghetto Action, she was also recruited in 2013.

HOW I STARTED OUT?

Sgcemeza says he started out as a freestyle dancer while at Mpaka doing Form Two back in 2005. He then migrated to Nhlalango in 2008, and that is where he created a dance group.

"I discovered a yearly-recruiting strategy since 2009 when I became a dance Choreographer in school, Nhlalango Central for three years. In 2011 I was voted President of JUVENILE ARTS ENTERTAINMENT ORGANISATION for a five-year term," he discloses warmly.

The experience of managing artists, hosting events, meetings with partners like PSI (Soka Uncobe), MTN (Mobile Money Launch), and



SPTC (Shiselweni Charity Cup) gave this ambitious young man more leadership skills, which he is always putting to use for the benefit of his team.

"As I was out of school during that period, I worked closely with out-of-school youth, street kids and school drop-outs. And I made sure I created more creative ways for them to embrace their different talents and groomed them while trying to channel them into the right path," Sgcemeza concludes.

(By Phesheya Kunene)

Blockword Puzzle

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

Innovative Cars Word Search

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

AUDI
ALFA ROMEO
BEETLE
BENTLEY
CADILLAC
CONCEPT
CITROEN
CORVAIR
FERRARI
JAGUAR
JEEP
LEXUS
MASURATI
MERCEDES
MGA
MINI
MODEL T
MUSTANG
PORSCHÉ
PRIUS
RANGEROVER
QUATTRO
ROLLS ROYCE
VOLVO

WIN WITH SWAZI OBSERVER AND LESERATO EVENTS

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

NAME:

CELL:

Cartoon Corner

Baby Blues



Blondie



Hagar the Horrible



SOAPIE WATCH | SOAPIE WATCH | SOAPIE WATCH | SOAPIE WATCH



Wednesday, 30 March

Qondi is in despair as she battles with a guilty conscience. Siphokazi and Phumelele quarrel about love. Mabuyi stands up for herself.

Thursday, 31 March

Suspicion and rumours of witchcraft poison Bhubesini. S'bu makes up his mind about a troubling issue.

Friday, 1 April

Ngwebedla makes dangerous allegations against Mpiyakhe. Iris decides to help with the lobola negotiations. Qondi visits Fezile in hospital.

Monday, 28 March

Qondi struggles to come to terms with what she has done. Meanwhile, Mabuyi is wondering if she should confess her secret to Sbu.

Tuesday, 29 March

Death seems like a better option for Fezile Khumalo. S'bu, having made up his mind, learns that not everything - or everyone - is as they seem.



Monday, 28 March

Ranthumeng finds his life increasingly entwined with Phoko's and he doesn't like it one bit. Tension in Mulalo's house mounts between Teboho and Shonisani. Nenzhelele is brought to book and Mashudu is laid to rest. Ndalomo confronts Matshi about her plan to ruin Nthabeleng.

Tuesday, 29 March

Thandaza sneaks out of the camp to go and see Vusi. Ndalomo tells Nthabeleng he is going to take Matshidiso down. Nenzhelele makes a full confession to the police.

Wednesday, 30 March

Pheko spots someone who looks like Thandaza and follows her. Ndalomo initiates his revenge on Matshidiso. Teboho attempts to get Mulalo's attention by inviting Mulalo's political rival to dinner at their house.

Thursday, 31 March

Pheko finds Thandaza. Ndalomo links Nomarashiya to Matshidiso's crimes. Mulalo pays off Teboho's

Friday, 1 April

Pheko investigates Thandaza's religious tendencies while Thandaza is about to turn Mam-Propheet down. Nomarashiya is threatened Matshidiso. Shonisani vows to also play dirty from now on debt to Mmbasobeni.

ISIDINGO

Monday, 28 March

Katlego and Lincoln's feud comes to a head when Sisipho is put in danger. Calvin learns that the TB scare in HD is fast becoming an epidemic. Sam becomes embroiled in a twitter war.

Tuesday, 29 March

Lincoln and Katlego should realise their toxic relationship is getting out of hand. Calvin concentrates on pulling off the lead on the TB epidemic. At ON-TV competition and jealousy plays out.

Wednesday, 30 March

Katlego's managed to extend her hospital stay, but is there enough time for her to plan her final escape? There's been another death on Shaft 8, but Jean-Marc worries that Calvin can't handle the news. Samantha tries to fix her personal relationship with Charlie.

Thursday, 31 March

The horrified Sibekos learn their child is gone. Calvin puts his love life on the back-burner to pursue a higher calling. Sam finds her first day in a new job tough going.

Friday, 1 April

Losing the support of her family, a desperate Katlego turns to an old enemy for salvation. Calvin's therapy time with Angelique is having a ripple effect. Sam's attempts to reignite her friendship with Tiffany, hit an icy wall.



Monday, 28 March

Cosmo's attempt to revive the band blows up in his face. Siya can't keep it together anymore when the woman he loves shows up. Gadafi hires protection for his family.

Tuesday, 29 March

Tau proves he has principles after all. Lesedi brings her friends to the shebeen, has a plan up her sleeve. Amo goes missing from nursery school.

Wednesday, 30 March

Tshidi is worried about making an enemy of Jack. Getty is shocked when she receives her credit card statement. Angela realises she could lose her man for good.

Thursday, 31 March

Karabo is suspicious when she can't find the report. Shock and delight when a well-known celebrity shows up at the shebeen. Siya pops the question.

Friday, 1 April

Gadafi gets paid for a job well done. Cosmo revels in being the man of the moment. A shock revelation leaves Tau reeling.

ZABALAZA

Monday, 28 March

Waka and Herbert are on a mission to pick up girls. Lindiwe is determined to stay with Ray, much to the dismay of her family.

Tuesday, 29 March

With blood on his hands, could this be the moment when Ray finally pays for all the lives he's taken? KG is arrested. Meanwhile, Lindiwe pushes Moss to forgive Ray.

Wednesday, 30 March

Ray is determined to do whatever it takes to not go to Cape Town. News of the manhunt for Syd and KG rocks the world. Despite Gasta's best efforts, she can't bring herself to warm up towards Ray.

Thursday, 31 March

Sponono struggles with her pill regimen. Lindiwe has a moment with Ray and is touched by his fatherly gestures. Will KG be found and captured?

PROMOTING DOMESTIC TOURISM

SWAZI DIRT BIKERS LEAD BY EXAMPLE



Many developing countries have managed to increase their participation in the global economy through the development of tourism.

But before we encourage others to come visit the country, it is important to promote domestic tourism. Domestic tourism is the type where people go for vacations in their own country. It is one of the three categories of tourism with the others being inbound and outbound tourism. Tourism is a principal export for 83% of developing countries, and it is the most significant source of foreign

exchange after petroleum. Driven by a passion to ride, Swazi Dirt Bikers has similar interests. As part of their passion, they ride on a regular basis on dirt roads around the country.

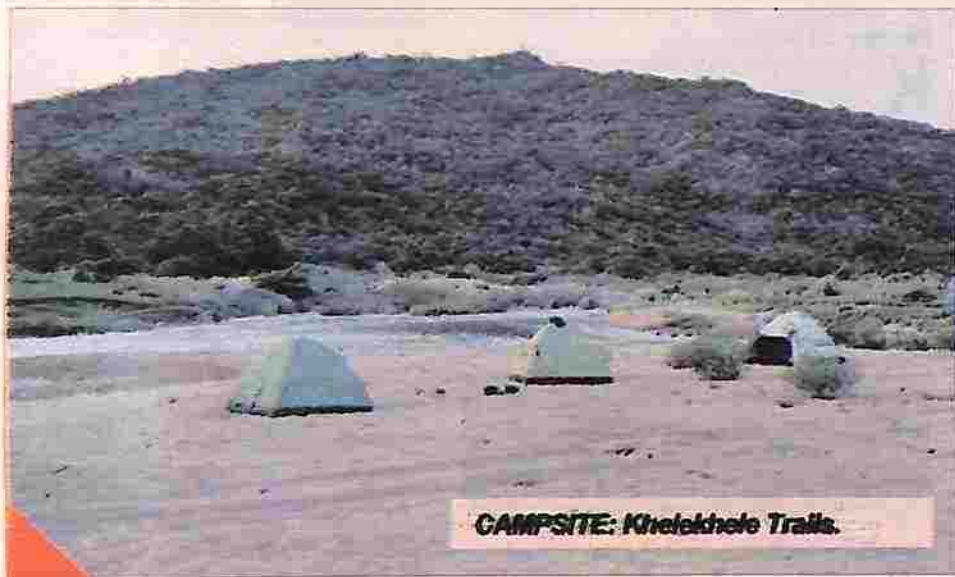
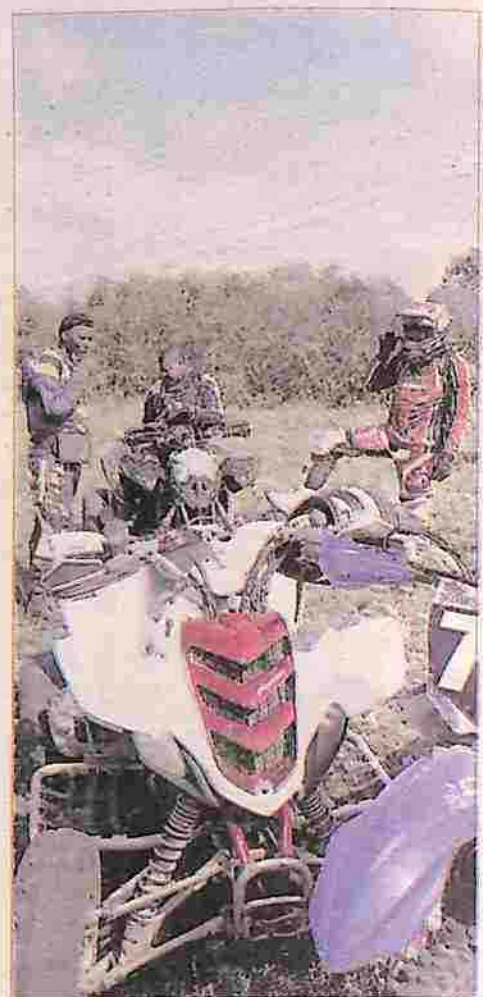
Priority

With safety being their main priority as they insist on protective gear for all who ride with them, they also have the opportunity to marvel at the beauty of the country as they ride along the mountains. Over the past weekend, the Dirt Bikers visited Khelekhele Trails where they camped for the weekend. Khelekhele Trails is close to Ngwempisi at the end of a 4 x4 track.

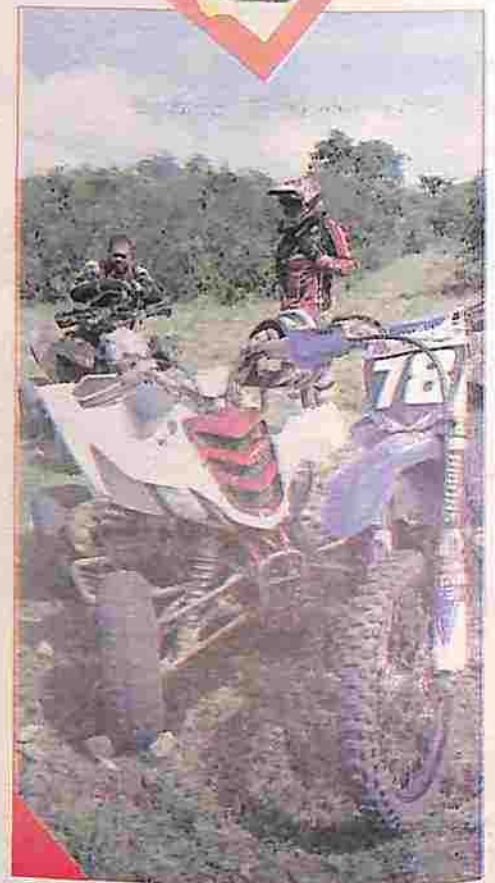
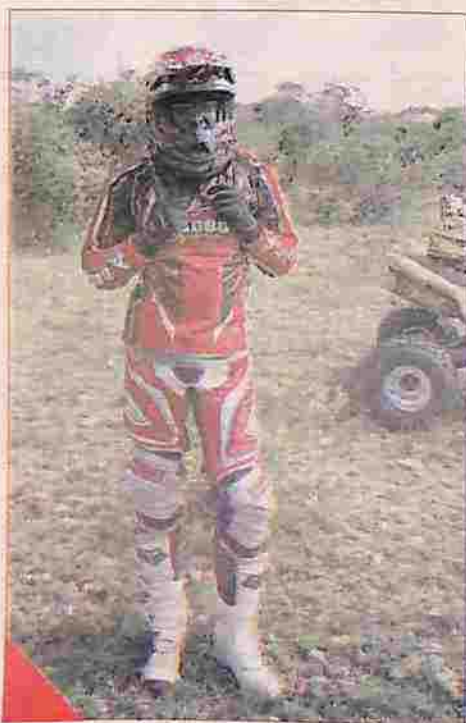
Ultimate seclusion is the ambience at this unique venue that is set on a riverine beach and offers unique accommodation.

The rustic huts comprise natural stone walls in beautiful colours and grass-covered tin roofs that blend with the surrounding countryside. The furniture is equally rustic and all the natural features of the area are incorporated to provide a very special bushveld experience. There are numerous walking trails of varying challenges and natural pools of clear running water for a cooling swim.

(By Howard Mavuso)



CAMP SITE: Khelekhele Trails.



LIVE SMART, BE ACTIVE, EAT WISELY

WITH:

Ministry of
Agriculture Home
Economics
Section



If pineapple is known as the “king” of fruits, guava is considered the queen. Many of you may have tasted this mouth-watering treat or have at least seen or heard about it. Guava is very common in Swaziland.

It is a somewhat round or pear-shaped seasonal fruit, and is light green, yellow in color on the outside when it is ripe. Guava also has white or pinkish flesh and lots of small hard seeds enveloped in very soft, sweet pulp. It is eaten raw (ripe or semi-ripe) or in the form of jams and jellies.

What makes guava special is that protecting the fruit does not require excessive use of chemical pesticides as in the case of grapes, apple and other so-called “exotic” fruits. It is one of the least chemically treated and sprayed fruits.

HEALTH BENEFITS OF GUAVA

It's no wonder guava is called a “super fruit.” Compared to the same amount of pineapple, guavas contain 30 more calories per serving, but three times the protein and more than four times the fiber. All that fiber makes guavas a great “regulator,” while helping to protect the colon by reducing the risk of cancer-causing toxins and chemical build up; the fiber actually binds to the toxins and helps move them out of the body.

While pineapples provide 131% of the daily value of vitamin C in a serving, guavas offer 628%. Guava should be eaten with the skin, like an apple, imparting even higher concentrations of vitamin C. Eating fruits rich in this vitamin helps the body build up resistance to infection, including infectious diseases.

Guavas contain vitamin A, essential for maintaining healthy mucus membranes and skin; folate, great for pregnant women to help prevent neural tube defects.

Smaller amounts of other vitamins in guava deserve mention: pantothenic acid, niacin, vitamin B6 (pyridoxine), vitamin E and K, and the minerals magnesium, copper, and manganese.

However, consume guavas in moderation because they contain fructose, which may be harmful to your health in excessive amounts.

Improves your immunity: Guavas are one of the richest sources of vitamin C, containing four times the vitamin C content present in oranges. A single, medium-sized guava offers two times the daily requirement of vitamin C, a vitamin that is closely associated with improved immunity and protecting you against common infections and pathogens. The role of guavas in immunity is also attributed to its anti-inflammatory action and its ability to inhibit inflammatory molecules like prostaglandins released in autoimmune conditions like rheumatoid arthritis.

Helps improve vision: Even though, guavas are not as rich in Vitamin A as carrots, they still are still a very good source of the nutrient. Vitamin A helps keep your

eyes in good condition, and also helps improve your vision. Night blindness is one of the diseases associated with a Vitamin A deficiency.

Good for pregnant women: Guavas contain folic acid, or vitamin B-9, which is recommended for pregnant women since it can help in developing the baby's nervous system and protect the newborn from neurological disorders.

Helps you relax: Magnesium present in guavas helps in relaxing your nerves and muscles. In today's stressful times, consuming a guava to combat stress and relax is certainly a good idea.

Good for your brain: Brain is one of the major organs of our body and keeping it healthy should be on our priority list regardless of how intelligent we consider ourselves. Guavas contain vitamin B3 and vitamin B6, also known as niacin and pyridoxine, which helps in improving blood circulation to the brain and relaxing your nerves.

Beats toothache: Guava leaves can be consumed as an excellent home remedy for toothache. They have a potent anti-inflammatory action and a powerful healing and antibacterial ability that fights infection and kills germs.

Cough and cold: juice of raw and immature guavas or a decoction of guava-leaves is very helpful in relieving coughs and cold by reducing mucus, disinfecting the respiratory tract, throat and lungs, and inhibiting microbial activity with its astringent properties. Guavas also has one of the highest quantities of vitamin C and iron among fruits, and both are proven to be preventive against colds and viral infections.

Scurvy: Guava can outdo many other

fruits, including orange and other citrus fruits, in terms of its concentration of vitamin C. A deficiency of vitamin C can cause scurvy, and proper intake of vitamin C is the only known remedy for that dangerous disease.

Thyroid Health: Guavas are good source for copper, which is an important part of regulating thyroid metabolism by helping to control hormone production and absorption. The thyroid gland is one of the most important gland in the body for regulating hormones and organ system function, so guavas can help balance your health in many ways.

SELECTION AND STORAGE

Guava are a delicious fruit whose juice has, on occasion, been referred to as ‘the nectar of the gods.’ Don't just get caught up on the juice, whole guava can be a sweet snack that will make you feel like you're in paradise even when you're sitting in your cubicle. In the market, buy fresh fruits featuring intact skin without any cuts, bruises, or patches.

Mature, yet green fruits may be stored for two to five weeks under ideal, regulated temperature. Over-ripe fruits may keep well inside the refrigerator only for few days. Store any guava you don't eat. You can wrap uneaten guava halves in plastic wrap and store them in the fridge for up to four days. If you don't think you will eat the guavas within four days, you should freeze your guava. Frozen guavas can stay in the freezer for up to eight months.

PREPARATION AND SERVING METHODS

Wash them in cold running water in order to remove any dirt or insecticide residues. Fresh ripe guava is best enjoyed with its skin. Remove any floral remnants (sepals)

at the apex, and then trim either ends with a sharp knife. It can be cubed, or sliced into, as in apples.

HERE ARE SOME SERVING TIPS:

- Eat fresh guava as it is, to enjoy its natural flavor and unique taste.
- Guava fruit juice is a popular delicious drink in many parts.
- Sliced guava-cubes are a great addition to fruit salads.
- It is also often used in dessert preparations.
- The fruit is also extensively used to make candies, preserves, jellies, jams, marmalade, etc.

Spicy Guava Salad

- 2 to 4 medium-sized guavas
- Half teaspoon roasted cumin powder
- Half teaspoon red chili powder
- A pinch of masala
- A few sprigs of cilantro or coriander leaves, finely chopped
- Lemon juice to
- Salt to taste

Procedure:

- Chop the guavas finely or into bite-sized pieces, depending on how you want it. Ensure that guavas are not too ripe or too raw.
- Transfer the chopped guavas into a bowl.
- Add the masala, red chili powder, cumin powder, and salt.
- Add finely chopped coriander leaves.
- Squeeze lemon juice over it and give it all a good toss till everything is mixed well.
- Serve immediately.

“A few guavas in the season keeps the doctor away for the whole year”

Contact me:
Xolisiwe Simelane: 2404 7231/ 2404 6363

GUAVA ‘THE QUEEN OF FRUITS’



THE PODIUM

WITH: Sibusiso Dlamini



I guess it is forgivable, if not acceptable for one to get lost in the vacation mood that our politicians seem to be in.

From their body language to their stinking attitude that they always rub in our faces; with that, one can bet their last and dear lilangeni that all this is just a bad dream that will be over as soon as you wake up.

Or that this is just one of those things that the media exaggerates and goes overboard with literally something that will be over in a matter of days.

It would be nice or perhaps even great if that was the case with the current situation we are faced with. That this is just a nightmare we are faced with as a country, and considering the fact that we are a praying country, this will simply go away.

This is what has been cultivating the culture of not caring and lack of urgency amongst the citizens. Everything shall pass; there is no hurry in Swaziland.

I for one have never been a fan of these nonsensical statements that have unfortunately elevated to be motto's of masses of citizens in this Kingdom.

This is also the main reason why people do not seem to understand that these are bad times in the Kingdom. Or that they are so badly lost in denial that they choose to ignore it even when they see it in action.

I mean, I thought the situation was now clear to all and sundry that it is this is crunch time and so it's time to take action. Whether the action is unpopular or does not seem to please a lot of people; those decisions have to be taken if we are to survive.

Notice

This is the time where everyone has to take notice that we are not just writing metaphorically anymore, but realistically.

Well, if you think I'm putting ink to paper just because I want to fill up space, then this shall perhaps refresh your memory – In January, we were hostilely welcomed to the New Year with the 25% transport fee hike, inflation galloped from 4.9% to 7.3% in a space of only three months, bank interest rates hiked from 6.25% to 6.5% and finally, Minister of Finance Martin 'Gobizandla' Dlamini tabled the much anticipated budget speech that had a E7 billion deficit.

Now through all this, bear in mind that we have done absolutely nothing about it. We have talked about belt-tightening till our mouths had froth and still nothing. Maybe we still have cross belts on and will see the belt-tightening business later, I don't know. The problem is that this has been going on for so long and I just feel or should I say know that we will sing this song and not act on it.

That's what politicians are good at anyway. They literally specialise in making empty promises. They expect us to pay them handsomely with our hard earned money, yet they don't produce.

As the executive director of the Coordinating Assembly of Non-Governmental Organisations (CANGO) Emmanuel Ndlangamandla said, they should take a look at the scripture. I am not sure which verse it was but it read as "to whom much is given, much is required". I am pretty sure none of them are familiar

REALITY HAS STRUCK



Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini.

● This is the time where everyone has to take notice that we are not just writing metaphorically anymore, but realistically. Well, if you think I'm putting ink to paper just because I want to fill up space, then this shall perhaps refresh your memory – In January, we were hostilely welcomed to the New Year with the 25% transport fee hike, inflation galloped from 4.9% to 7.3% in a space of only three months, bank interest rates hiked from 6.25% to 6.5% and finally, Minister of Finance Martin 'Gobizandla' Dlamini tabled the much anticipated budget speech that had a E7 billion deficit.



with this verse.

Sad

The sad part though is that although we have realised, or is it just me?, that the calibre of politicians that we have will not take us anywhere, we as the public are not ready to change.

Issues

We are not ready to roll up our sleeves and work hard. We are not ready to change our perceptions regarding certain issues. We are simply not ready to face this war.

I don't know who we think will fight this

war for us? I don't know where or how we will get a saviour?

All I know is these are hard times for the country. All I know is that there are thousands of families that are sleeping on empty stomachs due to the El Nino phenomenon. All I know is that there are young people who are not going to attend University, because they refuse to let someone who is sitting in some plush office to determine which career they should choose.

Torture

All I know is that there are throngs of elderly people who so wish that they could lose their lives and thus save themselves from the torture called life – more so when you need to survive with a meagre E240 for three months.

It's a pity, it's sorrowful and the worst part is that a lot of people are on holiday, so to speak. The message is reality has struck, and the worst part of all, we do not seem to notice this.

Thank you.

Untipping The Societal Scales

WITH: Dumisa Dlamini



Women by their very good character are excellent adherents to nature, an entity that never allows vacuum.

Whenever and wherever there is space, women will fill it. If marriages were to follow biblical, traditional and legal protocol, all women, married, would be submissive to their husbands irrespective of their birth stations, socio-economic life and opportunities availed to them. The sad and realistic imbalance is that they don't. No woman today is happy to bend to a man she calls her husband unless she is truly desperate. The non adherence to the law of submissions has, unfortunately coerced husbands to coy away from their authoritative duties and their wives fill that vacuum. They truly call the shots in the house. *Aphetfwe emadvodza latindlini, nasemakhaya, kalukhuni phela* and their wives derive the power from somewhere and once begotten, they can tell the man what to do, when to do it failing which they would gladly send him to hell. Scales wonders where in the world do women get the power and guts to call the shots right in the house their husbands reside and send them helter skelter!

History and Theology have it that the weakest man living is one who falls in love with a woman. Whilst that may appear to be responding to the demand of nature, a man who excessively loves a woman especially the one he is married to gives her power to manipulate him. *Uyati umfati uma umtsandza kakhulu* and uses that to her advantage. She sulks, nags, demands and even orchestrates a quarrel so that he does what she wants. She would have, of course, studied him carefully and spotted his weakness, cravings or likes *esuke avale lomfombo wenjabulo* until her demands are met. That is why in most bedrooms *babe akayi eLondon angavumi make*. Sex is now used as bargaining power in the bedroom after which she would tell you what to do. She would have long realised that *udvumisa kakhulu* once given to feed unto the Honey Pot and even display signs of *kulahlekelwa yingcondvo* when locked therein.

Confrontation

Now these creatures with an odd leg shortest of the three are very intimidated by confrontation with a woman they are married to. They try to avoid all the confrontations, emotional wars and become subdued. That is the time she comes on top and directs the marital life in the house. *Awukhoni kunumuza* when you excessively love your wife! A woman who seats in an executive position of employment is most likely to earn and have more money than her husband. In most hours of the day through out the year *vele nje uyawaphatsa emadvodza*. Coming back to the house, she dismally fails to see her husband as a partner and automatically treats him like a subordinate. This is what she does with the men at work who report to her, she tells them where to go and not to, what to do and desist from. *Akakwati nje kuphatfwa yindvodza* hence when she gets home, her husband has no power to restrict her moves, orders and demands. Her executive position comes with monetary power. One woman LaManana owned a very successful

business franchise which brought her home, at times, way past godly hours. She would murmur her wishes for the husband to hear, *"Kube nginemuntfu longitsandzako ngabe ungifoba tinyawo"* Out of inferiority complex, the man started to rub her feet, her back and further run her a bath. Eventually *kwasekumsebenti wakhe lobabe*. She would come late, throw her feet on the cushion and shout, *"Maye ngidziniwe"*, to which he would jump and give her a massage. Often times he was expected to rub and go that far and not further depending on her moods, which at times could be pretty foul. If truly happy, there would be permission that he goes and rub provocative zones that would ignite fire and action in the house. There was never sex in the house unless Madam Business mogul allowed it.

Authoritative

These authoritative women can be very bully and undermine to their husbands. She would never, for anything consult him. Not that she does not need a man to share a masculine perspective of things with her. Rather, *awusiyo indvodza lacabanaga kutsi kukhona lekwatiko* notwithstanding the fact that you are her husband. She may get into a very huge business venture and partnership *ungati wena* because she does not regard you worthy. Scales can bet you a dime, society has seen women driving huge, shiny automobiles and many would

have concluded they have been bought by their husbands. Nay. She talks to her employer and/or the bank after which she would come to the yard *ngengcumangcuma ye AUDI Q7*. The husband is expected to congratulate her on the acquisition or else he would be accused of being jealous and hard hearted.

Good

If you know what is good for you, say your congratulations keep your peace and stick to your Toyota Corolla or smoking FORD something. You never question a woman on her huge property acquisition without fishing for trouble. For her farm, vehicles, property in town and huge bank balances, no married woman wants her husband's filthy hands and demented mind fiddling in there.

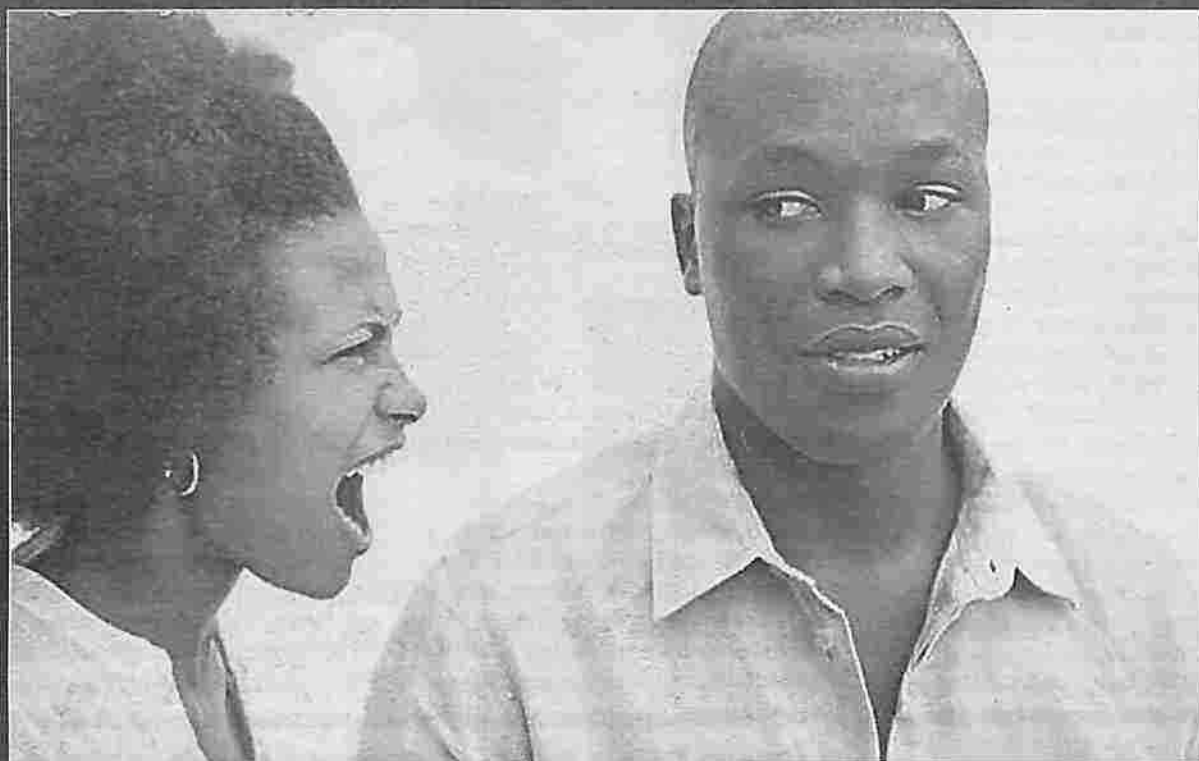
However, she would use the very position of her affluence to call shots in the house and get the husband running. Scales has it of a woman in the village who had quite a healthy herd of cattle and huge flock of goats and sheep. She wanted them to be looked after very well and deliberately registered them under her husband's name, who absolutely had nothing for a man. *Abetelusa ke vele lobabe letifuyo* and took them to the dipping tank every week. However, he had absolutely no say in the manner they were disposed, *kwakutsengisa lomake*. She would go in the morning *edibhini*, sell a beast or two, collect the

money and go back home, *ashiye "umfana" wetinkhomo* behind. Even if a beast were to be slaughtered for whatever purpose, she would let all the man gather in the kraal *bese uyeta utokhomba leletawuhlathwa* and not the husband. Everyone eMgangadvo knew that Matotoba *kwakuludlwaphu lolwelusako nje*, all the cattle in the kraal *talaMbuyisa*. A woman who calls the shot in the house has the children by her side, especially the boys, who have very little respect for their father. After all, they are living in mummy's house; they drive her cars and spend her money.

Daddy is only a beggar who comes with a cap in hand begging their mother, his wife if he could have this or that. One such man was banned from ever attending funerals in the village especially for his kinsmen for they had long suspected that beneath his necktie *kwanundvodza lehluphekako*. They wanted to apply some *Bantu Science* therapy and uproot the food poisoning. Each time he asked *kuya eMakhava* the woman would shout at him, *"Uhambe ungabuyi, kute futsi imoto yami lohamba ngayo la."* The women own everything in the house and got to call all the shots!

Catch Scales, if you can at
Dumisamlangeni@gmail.com

HOW DOES YOUR WIFE GET TO CALL THE SHOTS IN THE HOUSE?



● History and Theology have it that the weakest man living is one who falls in love with a woman. Whilst that may appear to be responding to the demand of nature, a man who excessively loves a woman especially the one he is married to gives her power to manipulate him. *Uyati umfati uma umtsandza kakhulu* and uses that to her advantage.

PET OBSERVER

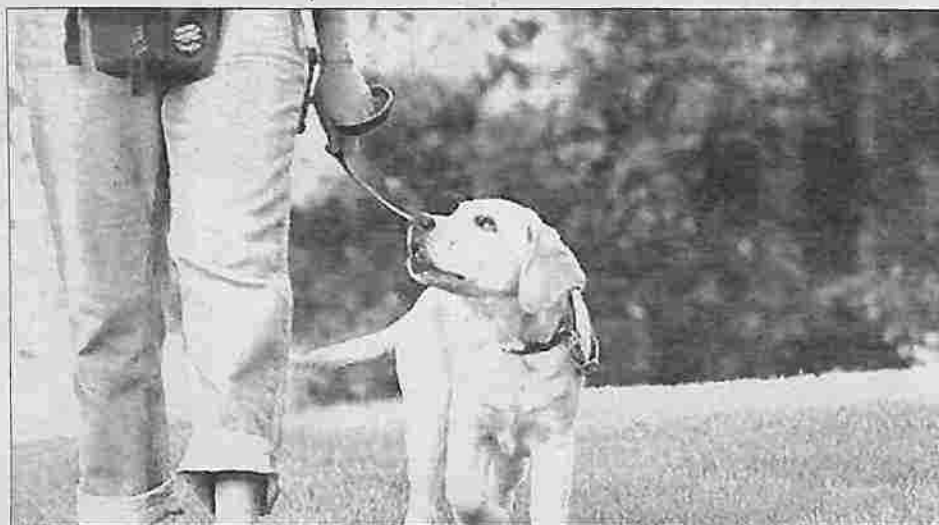
HILLARY HAGUE
SWAZILAND ANIMAL WELFARE
SOCIETY (SAWS)
FOR VACCINATED AND STERILISED
PETS PHONE

MBABANE 2404 3446
MANZINI 2505 6231

A successful walk begins before you leave the house. The prospect of a walk will make your dog excited and he will not be receptive to commands. So, you must leave the house calmly with you in control.

- Call the dog to you, do not go to the dog to put the lead on. Have him sit calmly then put on the lead.
- Your dog has to go out the door and/or gate after you. If the dog leads you out of the house, he will lead you for the rest of the walk.
- Take your dog to the front door and/or gate and open the door. Make him sit quietly for a few seconds. You decide when to leave, not him. You exit first.
- Until the dog is well behaved, the collar should be far up on the neck near the base of the skull, giving more control. Or leave the collar as normal and pass the clip end of a soft lead through its handle loop to form a sliding loop. Use that as the collar-and-lead, keeping it high on the neck.
- A body harness is not recommended for walking dogs. The harness goes around the strongest point on the dog's body making it difficult to control him.
- The lead should hang short and loose.

HOW TO WALK YOUR DOG ON A LEAD



There should be no tension in the lead. Ever.

- Pull your shoulders back, stand up straight and relax. Dogs can sense tension or lack of confidence.
- Walk at a good pace.
- If the dog pulls, tug the lead quickly up and to the side throwing him off balance, then loosen the lead immediately. If he pulls again stop, have him sit, take deep breaths, relax and then move on. Repeat as often as necessary. Persistence in the beginning will

reap rewards.

- Do not call to the dog when you start walking again, just start walking. Pack leaders don't call. They expect to be followed.
- If you pass a barking dog or other distraction, keep moving forward. If your dog pays attention to the distraction, give a tug on the lead to avert the attention back to the walk. If the tug does not work you can also use your foot, not to kick the dog but to touch him on the rump enough to snap his atten-

tion back to you. Or prod him in the neck with your fingers held like a claw. The prod is not to hurt, it is to divert his attention back to you.

- Timing is everything. You must correct the dog at the moment his distraction occurs otherwise it escalates.
- If you have a high energy dog or if the walk time is short, put a small weight in a dog backpack, equally balanced on both sides. The dog will get a better workout, and it will slow him down a bit.
- If you are going off to work for the day, the dog should be walked before you leave the house. This will put him into a rest mode while you are gone. Dogs should also be walked before they eat, fulfilling the dog's instinct to work for food.

LEAD OR NO LEAD

If there is a quiet, safe place to walk your dog off-lead, that is the best exercise of all. Use positive motivation (dog biscuits) to train your dog to return to call and walk at heel. Then you can remove the lead, give the "explore" command and let him run off on his own. A happy dog is a loyal dog is a good guard dog.

Swaziland Standards Authority

By: Ntobeko
Dlamini

SWASA Marketing
and Communications
Officer



Consumers have a right to expect that the products they buy will work properly without any risk of causing illness or injury.

Manufacturers, distributors and suppliers have the responsibility to ensure that their products meet satisfactory levels and will not cause harm to the consumer when used as intended.

The pursuit of high quality is at the top of the agenda for most businesses to ensure they deliver on their responsibility and most organisations are looking towards product certification. Product certification plays a key role in ensuring that products and services are safe and of a high quality. The purpose of product certification is to help prevent unsafe or risky products from entering the market and thereby exposing industry to increased risk of liability.

Product certification is a means by which a third-party provides assurance that a product, process or service conforms to specified requirements such as standards and regulations. Therefore, the overall aim of certifying products, processes or services is to give confidence to all interested parties especially consumers that a product, process or service fulfils specified requirements. Product certification authorises a manufacturer, through a licence, to use a prescribed certification mark

PRODUCT CERTIFICATION

● Your "Passport to the Market"

on a product, thus assuring buyers or customers that the product conforms to the specified requirements. These certification marks are normally affixed on the product or its packaging indicating that the product is certified.

PRODUCT CERTIFICATION MARKS

Certification marks have played and continue to play an important role in the product safety process. Certification marks prove that the manufacturer's products have met applicable standards with regards to requirements related to safety, quality or performance. The use of certification marks is often the end result of extensive product testing, evaluation and surveillance to ensure that the product continues to meet the requirements for certification.

The use of product certification marks is a valuable marketing tool which sets your products apart from those of your competitors and demonstrate your organisation's commitment to quality. The consumer is guaranteed that they are buying a safe product which has been independently verified by a third party certification body. In Swaziland, businesses and enterprises can have access to product certification services through the Swaziland Standards Authority (SWASA). SWASA has a certification mark known as the *Ligcebesha Mark*, which represents the highest form of endorsement a product can achieve.

WHY CERTIFY YOUR PRODUCTS

A very frequent concern is simply whether a

product is what it appears to be. Products and services are like promises. Business customers, consumers, users and public officials have certain expectations about products and services relating to features like quality, safety, reliability, compatibility, interoperability, efficiency, effectiveness and environmental sustainability. Addressing these concerns and expectations through product certification yields benefits such as:

- users and consumers are able to make better decisions about products in the marketplace;
- by demonstrating conformity, suppliers may more effectively achieve market acceptance;
- Demonstration of due diligence to ensure products meet the relevant criteria for quality;
- Ability to break into new markets and maximise the potential of existing markets;
- Enables the product to stand out from the competition with a clearly visible mark representing quality.

Product certification provides confidence for those with an interest in fulfilment of requirements and product certification provides sufficient value thus enabling suppliers to effectively market their products. Product certification facilitates trade, market access, fair competition and consumer acceptance of products on a national, regional and international level. Success and quality go hand in hand, so in today's fast paced world, the company with the competitive edge emerges successful.

BENEFITS OF CERTIFICATION

In today's competitive business environment, effective management systems are indispensable. Companies want to be confi-

dent that they are doing business with an organisation that can deliver goods and services in a timely manner and that meet their needs. But does the organisation have the systems and infrastructure in place to conduct business effectively? Can it deliver what it promises? Through product certification, these are some of the key benefits that an organisation would stand to gain, such as:

Winning Consumer confidence through certified products results in increased market share and consumers' ability to identify the products that conform to quality standards thus making quick decisions in favour of quality products.

The product is presented with a better image in both national and international markets resulting into: mutual recognition schemes where countries recognise each other's products thus easing entry into regional and foreign markets; easy acceptance and promotion of new products in the markets; and safeguarding the image and reputation of the manufacturer.

Protection against unfair competition from inferior products on the market through: easy identification of the products that conform since they carry the Quality Mark; government and international bodies and NGOs rely on certified products for their purchases; and government is making it a requirement for local purchases to be certified.

The Certification Scheme provides technical audit of product quality and process control procedures. This means that the Manufacturer gets technical advisory services and information at little or no cost that would otherwise be obtained at very high cost.

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HEALTH FEATURE



Tired and pale? It must mean you're low on iron — that's what many of us believe, anyway.

Around six million prescriptions for iron tablets are issued each year in England and Wales, and iron is one of the biggest-selling over-the-counter supplements among women, according to market analyst Mintel.

Little wonder, given that the supplement-makers push the message that iron can help if your energy is waning. But perhaps we shouldn't be so quick to try a supplement, or even make quick fixes to our diet, such as including fortified cereal in it.

This month, researchers at Imperial College London found that concentrations of iron similar to those in standard tablets prescribed by doctors can damage cells in blood vessels.

While the researchers stressed this in no way means people who have been prescribed these tablets should stop taking them, it's the latest in a line of studies suggesting that too much iron and crucially, the wrong type of iron, could be harmful and implicated in all manner of health problems, from heart disease to gout.

TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING

We all need iron. Its main job is to help make red blood cells, which transport oxygen around the body. That's why iron deficiency can cause anaemia (where there aren't enough red blood cells), which makes us feel tired and breathless.

Typically this happens when iron stores are depleted by heavy periods or bleeding in the body, for instance, from a stomach ulcer.

The recommended daily intake is 8.7mg for men and 14.8mg for women (who need more to make up for periods). A typical daily iron supplement contains 15mg and an 8oz steak has around 6mg.

Iron is absorbed in the gut and stored in cells around our bodies for when it's needed. It's well known that high doses can irritate the stomach lining because the gut can't absorb that much iron in one go.

'Taking more than 20mg can cause problems, typically stomach pain and constipation,' says Alison Clark, of the British Dietetic Association.

Some people have medical conditions that put them at particular risk. For instance, patients with the genetic disorder haemochromatosis build up dangerously high levels of iron in their blood, leading to symptoms such as joint pain and extreme fatigue (treatment involves regularly removing blood, the same as with a blood donation).

Because iron is toxic to our cells long term, untreated iron overload can damage the liver and heart and raise the risk of cancer.

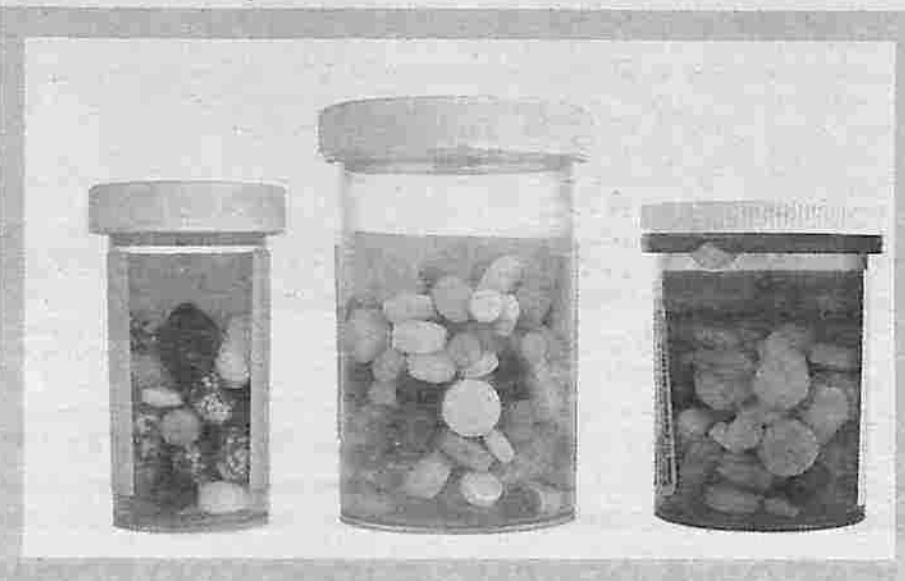
The conventional view has been that because the body has all kinds of clever mechanisms to regulate how much iron we take up from our diet, iron overload will never be a problem for healthy people.

But some research now calls this into question. In the latest study, published in the journal PLOS ONE, scientists treated human endothelial cells (which line our blood vessels) in a lab with a solution of iron. They gave the equivalent amount of iron that would be found in a person's blood after taking one prescription iron tablet, around 65mg.

Within ten minutes, the scientists could see the cells' repair systems had been activated, suggesting damage. This means the cells in our body may be much more sensitive to iron than previously believed, says Dr Claire Shovlin, a specialist in clinical and molecular medicine at Imperial, and one of the study authors.

■ CONSTANTLY FEELING WORN OUT? LOOKING PALE?:

FIVE REASONS YOU SHOULDN'T REACH FOR IRON PILLS



'Previously, we thought the relevant doses for injury to blood vessel cells were much, much higher,' she says. 'Our study raises the question as to how much iron we should really be taking.'

IS ITS BAD FOR THE HEART?

Questions about the effects of iron date back to the Eighties, when Professor Jerome Sullivan, a pathologist at the University of South Florida, started looking into why women don't tend to have heart attacks until after the menopause, whereas they start to happen in men from their 30s.

He proposed that the effect was down to women's depleted iron stores due to menstruation — in other words, lower iron levels may have a protective effect on the heart.

Since then, the hypothesis has been supported by several studies showing better health outcomes in people who regularly have blood removed — for instance, through donating blood — compared with those who don't, says Dr Shovlin.

Higher iron levels have also been associated with greater damage to the heart muscle after a heart attack.

In 2000, researchers at Kurume Medical School in Japan injected high levels of iron into healthy men, and noted high levels of a marker that suggested blood vessel walls were not relaxing as they should. The theory is that excess iron may contribute to atherosclerosis — furring and narrowing of the arteries.

We actually need only around 1mg of iron a day. The reason the recommended daily intake is set so much higher is because we can absorb only about a tenth of the iron we consume, explains Dr David Das, a consultant gastroenterologist and specialist in iron disorders, recently retired from Stepping Hill Hospital in Stockport. After that, any excess is excreted. 'If we need any more — during pregnancy or puberty, for instance — the body will absorb a little more,' he says.

We also store some iron in our cells for future use, replacing red blood cells, for

instance. But because it is otherwise very toxic, the body locks iron up in other substances, typically proteins in the liver and in the blood.

'But if these protein storage spaces become full, a tiny amount of "free" iron enters the blood,' says Dr Das. 'This leads to cell damage, scarring, organ failure and even cancer.'

The mainstream view is that this is a problem only in people with specific iron disorders. But some scientists now believe this kind of free iron could be more prevalent. (Ascertaining this, however, is difficult, as normal blood tests measure only stored iron levels, not free iron.)

Douglas Kell, a professor of bioanalytical science at the University of Manchester who led a major review of more than 2,000 studies on iron, published in 2009, believes that free iron could play a role in a number of chronic diseases. 'There's a great long list of diseases — from Alzheimer's through to atherosclerosis — that are accompanied by raised levels of free iron in the body,' he says.

FRUITS, VEG KEEP IRON IN CONTROL

Rheumatoid arthritis, where the immune system attacks the joints, is one of many conditions Professor Kell suggests is linked to excess iron.

Sufferers are often anaemic, yet free iron is found in higher than normal amounts in the synovial fluid that cushions the joints.

Free iron could also have a role in age-related macular degeneration, a cause of sight loss in older people, as higher levels of iron are known to be deposited in the retina with age.

Professor Kell also believes excess free iron could have a role in gout. It's thought uric acid, a waste product which builds up and causes gout pain, could be a response to iron overload — uric acid binds with free iron.

But where is this free iron coming from? One suggestion is that inflammation in the body somehow unlocks it from its stores.

As for treating it, Professor Kell suggests a group of drugs known as iron chelators —

more commonly given to people with known diseases that mean they absorb too much iron — could treat a much wider range of conditions. These bind to free iron and stop it misbehaving. But what we eat could also help. Many compounds in foods — typically antioxidants in fruit and veg — are natural iron chelators. This may explain why antioxidants in green tea and blueberries, for instance, are so good for us, says Professor Kell. 'A lot of the compounds known to be good for you are things that can bind free iron.'

SHOULD I WORRY ABOUT MY PILLS?

Dr SHOVLIN stresses that no one should stop taking iron that has been prescribed by a doctor.

'Very many people do need extra iron,' she says. It could be, however, that the standard dose is set too high for some people.

'There are some — those with diseases such as kidney failure, for example — who cannot absorb iron well, and this may be why high doses were recommended.'

'However other people prescribed iron — for example, after having a baby or because of heavy periods — will have fewer problems absorbing it and may manage with lower doses. We should do a study on these otherwise healthy people, to find out what dose they really need.'

Dr Shovlin says that when treating patients with anaemia, she usually prescribes a medium-sized dose — 'somewhere between the typical supplement dose of about 14mg and the usual prescription dose of 65mg'.

HAVE A STEAK, NOT A SUPPLEMENT

Dr DAS says he would avoid prescribing iron supplements as it's more important to work out the cause of the iron deficiency.

'My personal view is that if someone is iron-deficient, the best treatment is red meat — I would always try that first. Because the type of iron in red meat, haem iron, is very easily absorbed by the gut.'

However, research shows that for most people in the UK, their main dietary source of iron is fortified foods, such as cereal and bread. Yet the type of iron used in fortified foods and supplements is not so readily absorbed by the gut. Dr Das adds that fortified food is not really necessary anyway as the average western diet is rich in iron, even for vegetarians. While she agrees that red meat is an excellent source of iron, Alison Clark suggests you stick to two or three portions a week — no more than 500g in total — because too much is associated with increased cancer risk. Other good sources of iron are beans, pulses, dried fruit and leafy green vegetables.

All the experts agree that no one should be taking extra iron without seeing a doctor first.

Well red: Steaks are ideal because the type of iron in red meat, haem iron, is very easily absorbed by the gut.

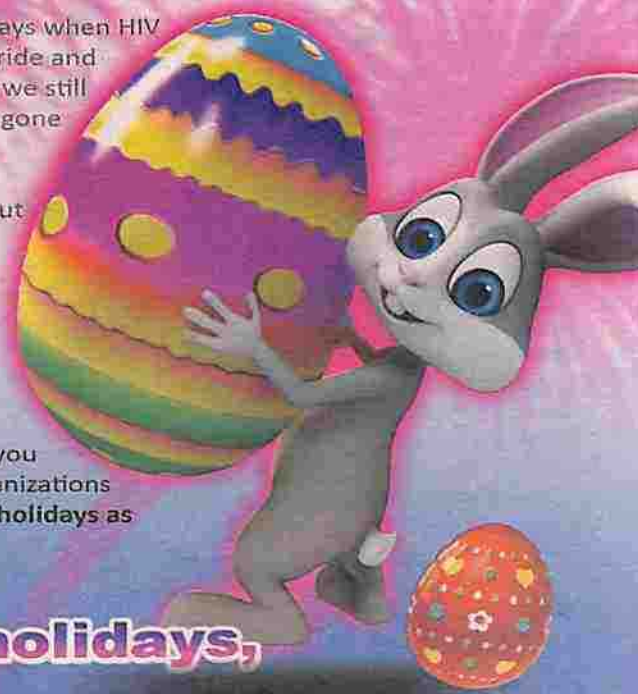


WATCH OUT!! BE SAFE...

Africa at large and in particular Swaziland as a country comes a long way in dealing with HIV, from the days when HIV as a virus and AIDS the disease were not well separable in human minds, the country has made great stride and seen great achievements from the early nineties to date. Nonetheless while we celebrate these strides, we still have a big individual responsibility not to let our guards down especially because while the country has gone this far, there's still far to go in maintaining the gains as well as accumulating more.

Having said that it is important to note that times like the Easter Holidays are a time for fun and going out on vacation for most people, hence it is also vital to remind one another on the importance of a health and HIV safety 'toolkit' while travelling within or outside the country. Some are on treatment which needs to be taken at specific times, it is emphasized that if so, one takes enough stock of their treatment, preferably taking more to cover beyond the vacation days. Also within the toolkit it is important to have HIV prevention tools, especially condoms.

The holidays are a good time to do more on HIV prevention, good time to go to the nearest clinic or provider to check and know your HIV status. Services will be available within most organizations and if you are in an organized group, like church Easter conventions or any gathering you can call some of the organizations to find out how you can get assistance with HIV testing services. The important thing is to make these holidays as HIV safe as possible, while enjoying our time.



**Be safe getting into the holidays,
be safe coming out.....**

Don't forget to also connect on
cyber space with us via twitter @LLcares or @new_start206.



For more information and updates please call 2518 7676/5 or 2505 3082

MICRO FINANCE EDUCATION A DRIVING FORCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMICS TODAY

WITH: George
Choongwa



The links between microfinance and the Millennium Development Goals must be emphasised because both spheres overlap in the crucial domain of worldwide poverty reduction.

The overlap is such that one could argue that progress on goals is conditioned on the opportunities microfinance can open up for the poor. Likewise, closer attention to microfinance outreach to the poorest of the poor would accelerate progress. The deadline for the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, 2015, is fast approaching. If microfinance has anything of significance to contribute, now is not too soon to ensure that this potential is realised. This report highlights those areas of microfinance that can be geared to the Millennium Goals.

EVALUATING THE IMPORTANCE OF MICRO FINANCE

The current debate among academics and microfinance professionals on whether or not microfinance has made a difference to the lives of poor people is active and even heated, with some wondering whether microfinance is good for the poor. This would come as a surprise to the millions of poor people in virtually every developing country who benefit from microfinance. This report sheds light on why this is so.

If microfinance is to accelerate Millennium Goal achievement, the degree and nature of donor and public sector support for microfinance must change. Where adequately resourced, properly designed and carefully tar-

geted, microfinance can add a significant amount of amount on its own. However, reforms are needed if microfinance is to meet the needs of the extreme poor, too.

THE NEED TO PROMOTE PUBLIC - PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

In particular, public-private partnerships (PPPs) would ensure adequate resourcing and targeting. Donors have a special role to play, and a comparative advantage, in the gearing of microfinance to Millennium Goals, including: taking care of any goal-specific product and service design expenses, as well as of client and microfinance professional training. Together with client welfare services that are a prerequisite to active involvement in credit-based transactions, addressing those microfinance programme expenses that should not fall on to the shoulders of the poor, especially not the poorest of the poor.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MICRO FINANCE FOR POVERTY REDCTION

The relationship between micro finance and poverty reduction is a multifaceted and complex one. Income, asset, social and environmental poverty and pro-poor economic growth are linked together. Improvements in the environment, quality of life, added income, enhanced asset accumulation, and growth in social capital are associated with increased access by poor people to microfinance.

A long history of scheme reviews shows that poor people engage in microfinance because they value the way in which providers:

- (a) Deliver means by which they can borrow against future savings to access sustainable and usefully large (i.e., productive) loans;
- (b) Offer interest-bearing and 'safe' savings accounts;
- (c) Provide less costly money management arrangements and

(d) Offer more effective social capital support systems arising from better organised community groups, locally based social welfare interventions and stronger, grassroots based social development organisations. Poverty reduction trends come from a combination of these sources, even where the initial gain in earnings cannot be immediately identified as the direct result of more work at current wage rates or increased earnings from the sale of goods produced at higher prices.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POVERTY REDUCTION AND MICRO FINANCE

The evidence of the relationship between poverty reduction and microfinance is unequivocal for the vast majority of practitioners and microfinance users: microfinance gives poor people greater control over their lives, typically leading to higher earnings, greater asset accumulation and lower vulnerability because of better risk management. Microfinance practitioners appear to encounter little evidence to challenge their assumption that the results of greater outreach to the poor are improvements in nutrition, health, planning, education retention rates, life choices and gender relations. The hard evidence, however, is not as unequivocal. In part this is because research tends to confine their assessments of the positive consequences of microfinance to those that lift clients above the poverty line, dismissing positive outcomes that leave microfinance clients better off but still poor, that is, living below the poverty line. Poverty line research also dismisses the importance of changes to household and individual balance sheets, in the process diminishing the importance of asset accumulation for sustainable poverty reduction and economic resilience.

MICRO FINANCE IMPACT ASSESMENT

Studies are deficient because it is so difficult

to separate the short- and long-term impacts of microfinance on income, asset accumulation, quality of life, risk management, access to social capital and diversity of equity and justice outcomes. The reality of life in poverty is that relapse is so easy, even for an economically poor individual makes the right decisions and does the right things. Today's positive outcome can easily be negated by the effects of tomorrow's misfortune, or the unexpected consequences of bad public policies, and over which microfinance providers or their clients have no control.

The subjective evidence showing that microfinance is a necessary if not a sufficient condition for sustainable escape from poverty is strong. It is not difficult to identify communities where microfinance has enabled children to stay at school longer, where age of marriage for young girls has been significantly increased, where female clients behave differently because they have been empowered to do new things and take greater charge of their lives.

Giving poor people greater 'real' choices enables microfinance to add to the quality of life and the certainty with which participants can plan ahead for themselves, their children and their communities. It is also clear that the longer clients remain with a given microfinance scheme, the greater is the benefit derived from involvement. Prima facie, the evidence is that progress toward achievement of the Millennium Goals is more significant in countries where microfinance penetration is greatest (much of the contents in this article are borrowed from the United Nations Human Settlements Programme 2011).

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Southern African Research Foundation for
Economic Development - SARFED
Nurturing sustainable growth

Focus on SA scene

Oscar's family member pleads with Masipa

JOHANNESBURG - Justice spokesperson Nathi Mncube told *The Citizen* a letter addressed to Judge Masipa had been noted.

"As you know, our justice system is such that Judges cannot give consideration to any submission to the court if it is not done within the confines of the Criminal Procedure Act," Mncube said.

"Secondly, Pistorius is legally represented and his legal representative has a legal obligation to represent their client to the best of their ability and we believe they will do just that.

"Lastly, the right to freedom of speech is guaranteed and enshrined in our Constitution. Judges have the legal obligation to promote and uphold this right."

Mncube said censoring public opinion would "certainly go against this obligation."

A letter pleading for leniency convicted murderer Oscar



OPEN LETTER: Judge Masipa.

Pistorius may have been sent directly to Judge Thokozile Masipa ahead of his sentencing on April 18.

The letter, alleged to be signed by supporters of the disgraced paralympian, is also apparently signed by a Pistorius family member.

Pistorius killed Reeva Steenkamp by shooting four bul-

lets through his locked bathroom door.

Pistorius' culpable homicide conviction by Masipa was overturned last year by the Supreme Court of Appeal which found him guilty of murder, and referred the case back to Masipa for sentencing.

A concerned citizen - whose identity is being withheld for the writers safety - who found out about the letter is believed to have queried the matter with the Supreme Court of Appeal registrar in an email.

The registrar responds tersely under no circumstances should the letter be sent to Masipa.

"We do not underestimate the serious impact of the offence upon Miss Steenkamp's loved ones," the letter begins.

"We fully acknowledge their loss and we extend our sincere condolences and collective hope for their future healing" and goes on to say, however, this was his

first offence, he had no criminal record, and the State had brought no "substantiated evidence to the courts to support the unfounded, but widely expounded theories of domestic violence and anger issues.

"Furthermore, no such evidence was found during the 30-day psychological assessment, carried out on the instructions of the Court."

It goes on to say: "Mr Pistorius was, and is, an inherently good man. However, following the events of the 14th February 2013, Mr Pistorius' true character was obscured by means of a relentless and systematic assassination of his character. False allegations were leaked to the press and circulated on a global scale without restraint."

The Justice Depart has not yet commented on the matter, and the Pistorius family spokesperson appears to be out of reach.

The Citizen

DA says request to call Guptas to account snubbed

JOHANNESBURG - The Democratic Alliance (DA) wants the Guptas hauled before Parliament.

On Thursday, the party demanded action on a request it sent a week ago to the chairperson of the portfolio committee on public enterprises, "to summon the Guptas to Parliament and demand an explanation for their undue influence on our state-owned entities (SOE)", had not been acknowledged.

"It is as unacceptable as it is telling that our initial request to summon dated 18 March 2016 has been ignored," said the DA.

"The African National Congress (ANC) in Parliament is evidently protecting its cronies to save face in the midst of mounting claims of state capture at the hands of the Guptas."

The DA's comments came after the *Mail and Guardian* "revealed that high-ranking ANC figures are embroiled in a business network spanning across our major SOEs", including Eskom, Transnet, the Passenger Rail Agency of SA and Telkom.

The were, the opposition party said, ANC Deputy Secretary-General Jesse Duarte, mineral resources minister Mosebenzi Zwane and former finance minister Des Van Rooyen. *Times Live*



MONEY BAGS: Guptas.

Vytjie Mentor calls for an independent prob

JOHANNESBURG - Vytjie Mentor, one of the whistle-blowers in the 'state capture' scandal, supports the establishment of an independent judicial commission of inquiry into the allegations.

She also supports the establishment of a special ANC national conference.

However, she wouldn't comment on the process that has been announced by ANC secretary-general Gwede Mantashe - in which ANC members have been urged to take information and allegations regarding the Gupta family and 'state capture' to Luthuli House for investigation.

Her comments yesterday came after the controversy that erupted after she and Deputy Minister of Finance Mcebisi Jonas revealed that the influential Gupta family had offered them Cabinet positions. And Themba Maseko, former head of the Government Communication and Information System, told the *Sunday Times* that President Jacob Zuma personally phoned him in 2010 to ensure that he met with the Gupta family.

The Guptas have denied the claims.

In her latest Facebook post on Thursday, Mentor said she supported an independent judicial commission investigation into an "improper relationship" between the Guptas, Zuma, and others.

A similar proposal was previously made by the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation and a group of 25 former umKhonto weSizwe veterans.

City Press

'ANC not for sale'

JOHANNESBURG - Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa issued a stern warning on Wednesday night to those attempting to use their deep pockets to influence leaders within the ruling party.

"The ANC is not for sale. The ANC refuses to be captured... Those who want to capture the ANC and influence it... you have come to the wrong address," he said.

His statement comes after questions arose about President Jacob Zuma's close relationship with the Gupta family last week. The wealthy family had reportedly exercised undue influence by offering senior ANC members Cabinet posts. During the ANC summit for academic and business, Ramaphosa told attendees the ANC had set up a structure that was going to tackle the issue of state capture. He said a people were already streaming into ANC secretary general Gwede Mantashe's office with information.

"That structure has already started work. It is lodged in the office of the ANC Secretary General on the 6th floor of Luthuli House.

"People are now streaming in. They are coming in and they are going to put issues on the table," he said. However, said Ramaphosa, ANC members who claim to have been approached with such offers must present concrete evidence.

"Now we are dealing with it in a structured manner in an ANC way, moving away from headlines."

He said the party's national executive committee would then debate the evidence, address the allegations and move forward.

"People may have had their own notions of what should happen post-NEC. What we know is that we are dealing with matters thoroughly with critical analysis in a structured and disciplined way." *News24*

'ANC will have more blood on its hands'

JOHANNESBURG - "There will be no safe Easter for the people of Port Elizabeth's Northern Areas," lamented one of the city's mayoral hopefuls on Friday.

The Democratic Alliance's (DA) Athol Trollip said the African National Congress (ANC) "will have more blood on its hands" after "police minister Nathi Nhleko has broken his February 22 promise to deploy the police and the army" the gang-ridden area.

"This desperate community has been begging for assis-



MORE BLOOD: Athol Trollip.

tance in their fight against gangsterism and crime, which has fallen on deaf ears in the ANC government.

"Instead, minister Nhleko

has done an about-turn on previous commitments like the ANC in Nelson Mandela Bay, joining to the list of endless broken promises."

This came after Nhleko revealed, while visiting the area on Thursday to launch Operation Lockdown, that the army would not be deployed as he had vowed a month earlier.

Said Trollip: "The gangsterism crisis in PE's Northern Areas needs rapid intervention and political will, both of which will not materialise under an ANC government."

Times Live

White control of business will end - Ramaphosa

JOHANNESBURG - Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa has promised black business that government will spend billions on Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) in the coming years.

"We are going to intensify BBBEE. We are going to sharpen our teeth and determination when it comes to unemployment. We expect that our black industrialists will have up to R24 billion made available to them to redefine the way business is done in our country," he said at an ANC summit for academics and professionals in Johannesburg on

Wednesday night.

Ramaphosa encouraged black business to bring their ideas to the ANC. He then asked them to open their wallets to support the party's local government elections campaign. Ramaphosa said the time of white business monopolies was over. Government was hell-bent on making sure blacks owned and managed the economy. "For far too long this economy has been owned and controlled by white people. That must come to end. For far too long, this economy has been managed by white people. That must come to an end. "Those who don't like

this idea - tough for you. That is how we are proceeding," he said. Ramaphosa said government was obsessed with empowering black South Africans. "In some cases we have become fanatical about it. It is in this area that we know we will be able to plant seeds of further economic growth in our country," Ramaphosa said.

The ANC's relations with business and academics were essential to speeding up the party's efforts to change the country. Academics and professionals had started the ANC and had been agents of change during the country's history, he said. *News24*



NEWS IN BRIEF

Malawi fit for Extended Credit Facility

LILONGWE - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has declared that Malawi is on track to revive the Extended Credit Facility (ECF) programme due to good management of domestic finance since September 2015. The ECF, a tool for medium-term financial support, was approved in July 2012 and is aimed at low income member states such as Malawi, local newspaper Nyasa Times reported. Oral Williams, the Fund's Chief of Mission to Malawi, expressed the IMF's appreciation for the hard work that the Malawian government had put in to get the programme back on track.

AFP

UN, Malawi try to transport HIV tests

JOHANNESBURG - Malawi and the UN children's agency are experimenting with drones to speed up HIV testing for infants. Mahimbo Mdoe, a UNICEF representative in Malawi, says drones will solve the challenges that health workers face in reaching remote parts of the southern African nation. Mdoe says 10 000 children in Malawi die every year of illnesses related to HIV, which causes AIDS, and that nearly 40 000 children were born to HIV-positive mothers in 2014. The UNICEF spokesperson in Malawi, Angela Travis, says initial testing has been completed.

News24

Zim pupil killed by anti-aircraft fire

HARARE - A pupil in Zimbabwe has been killed during his school assembly by a bullet accidentally fired from an anti-aircraft gun 7km away, it was reported on Thursday.

Another child was seriously injured in the tragic incident, which happened on Wednesday, the last day of term, according to the state-controlled Herald newspaper. Both children were from Delamour High School in Darwendale, about 60km north-west of Harare.

News24

Congo's leader hails his re-election

BRAZZAVILLE - Republic of Congo President Denis Sassou N'Guesso hailed his re-election as "the real will of the people" on Thursday, one day after a leading opposition candidate accused him of cheating. Sassou N'Guesso's first-round win with 60% of the vote was announced on state television just after 03:00, though election officials had provided provisional results to journalists earlier in the week. The results must now be validated by the Constitutional Court. "I will always be at the side of the people," Sassou N'Guesso said in brief remarks after the early morning announcement. He has ruled the Central African country since 1979, though he was out of power for five years beginning in 1992 after losing the first multi-party vote.

Reuters

Man pleads guilty to killing US official

NEW YORK - A Malian national who escaped from prison twice after being charged with killing a US Defense Department official and wounding a US Marine during a 2000 carjacking in Niger pleaded guilty on Thursday to a charge of conspiracy to commit murder. Alhassane Ould Mohamed admitted fatally shooting William Bultemeier, a Department of Defense attaché, as Bultemeier left a restaurant in the Niger capital of Niamey on December 22, 2000, and wounding Marine Staff Sergeant Christopher McNeely, who came to Bultemeier's aid. AP



Zimbabwe's army distances itself

HARARE - Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA) has distanced itself from the attempted bombing of President Robert Mugabe's Gushungo dairy farm in Mazowe, near Harare, said a report on Thursday.

According to New Zimbabwe, the leading investigator Superintendent Nyambo Viera indicated that one of the army bosses, Major Mashava, had denied ever issuing instructions to bomb Mugabe's dairy farm.

In February, one of the suspects, a 'military spy', Borman Ngwenya, claimed that the failed bombing of

...from failed Mugabe dairy bombing



NO ONE TAKES RESPONSIBILITY: President Robert Mugabe.

Alpha and Omega dairy farm was a military operation.

Ngwenya told the court that

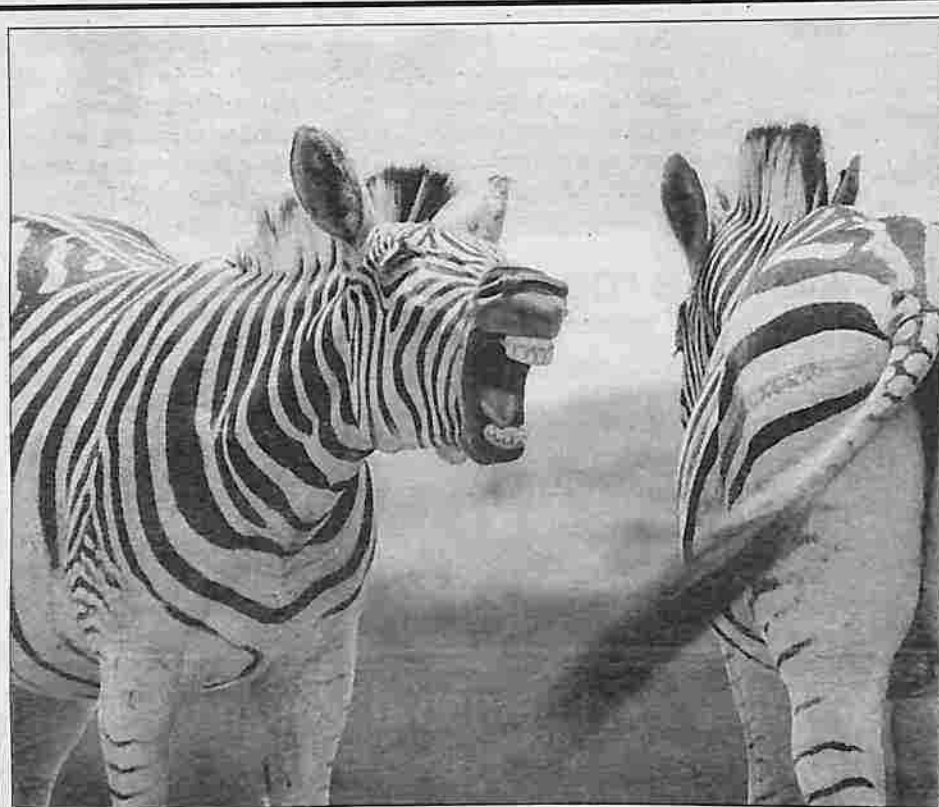
he often informed his military bosses about the operations.

Ngwenya was one of four men who were arrested on charges of plotting to bomb Mugabe's dairy farm outside Harare in January.

Reports claimed that the four men were members of a 'fringe political party' called the Zimbabwe People's Front (ZPF).

The leader of the party, Owen Kuchata, was slapped with a nine-year jail sentence after he pleaded guilty to the charges.

News 24



LOL: A zebra looks like it's sharing a joke with a friend in the Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Game Reserve, Kwazulu Natal, South Africa. (CATERS NEWS)

Egypt's Sisi reshuffles cabinet

CAIRO - President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi reshuffled his cabinet, appointing 10 new ministers including ones for the finance and investment portfolios as Egypt struggles to revive its economy.

Banking veteran Amr el-Garhy was appointed finance minister and Dalia Khorshid, formerly of Orascom Construction Industries, as investment minister, the presidency said in a statement.

The changes were announced a week after the

central bank devalued the pound as import-dependent Egypt faces a dollar shortage.

Sisi also appointed four new deputy ministers - one for the planning minister and three deputy finance ministers for treasury affairs, tax policy, and fiscal policy.

Mohamed Hossam Abdelrehim was appointed justice minister, filling the role which had been vacant for 10 days since former minister Ahmed al-Zend was sacked after making comments seen as blasphemous.

Other appointments were ministers for justice, antiquities, the public sector, labour, irrigation, civil aviation, transport, and tourism.

The tourism industry was badly hit after a Russian airliner was blown out of the sky over the Sinai peninsula in October, killing all 224 people on board. Islamic State said it planted a bomb on board the aircraft.

The civil aviation ministry also came under criticism for airport security lapses.

Reuters

'Nigerian troops free 800 Boko Haram hostages'

BUJA - Nigerian troops have freed more than 800 people held by Boko Haram Islamist fighters in multiple villages in the country's restive northeast, the army said Thursday.

All the hostages were rescued in Borno state with 520 recovered in Kusumma village on Tuesday after a confrontation with Boko Haram fighters, and a further 309 from 11 other villages under the Islamist group's control.

"The gallant troops cleared the remnants of the Boko Haram terrorists hibernating in Kala Balge general area," army spokesman Sami Usman said in a statement, adding that 22 'terrorists' were killed.

Three Islamists were killed and one was captured alive during the second raid on the 11 villages.

Usman said items recovered included arms, axes and a motorcycle.

The military operations came on the same day that Boko Haram abducted 16 women, including two girls, in neighbouring Adamawa state.

"We received report of the kidnap of 14 women and two girls by gunmen believed to be Boko Haram insurgents near Sabon Garin Madagali village", said Adamawa state police spokesman Othman Abubakar.

Locals said the hostages were seized in the bush while fetching firewood and fishing in a nearby river under the escort of two civilian vigilantes assisting the military against the Islamist insurgents. Reuters

Africa 'vulnerable' to natural disasters

LONDON - Asia has the largest number of people exposed to natural disasters, but African countries are the most vulnerable to them, largely because of political instability, corruption, poverty and inequality, a new global assessment shows.

India has a billion people at risk, with China, Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Philippines, Japan and Pakistan also ranked among the 10 countries with the most people exposed to natural hazards, according to data compiled by Verisk Maplecroft, a UK-based risk management company.

In all, 1.4 billion people in South Asia are exposed to at least one major natural hazard, from severe storms to flooding and earthquakes, researchers said.

But the list of countries most vulnerable to disasters - in terms of their ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from them - is topped by African nations, particularly conflict-plagued South Sudan, Burundi and Eritrea.

"Recent or prolonged conflict can erode societal resilience," warned Richard Hewston, an analyst with Verisk Maplecroft who led the development of the natural hazards data.

Much vulnerability in Africa and elsewhere is the result of poor governance - including corruption - and an inability to implement policies to reduce disaster risk, Hewston said.

"For example, in India and Pakistan, to some extent, there are building codes in place but they are very weakly implemented. You see construction going on, on the sides of landslide-prone mountains or in flood plains," he said.

"In theory, there's urban planning," he added. "So clearly corruption is an issue."

Reuters



Were Brussels jihadis trying to make RADIOACTIVE BOMB?

BRUSSELS - The Brussels terrorists may have been plotting to make a radioactive bomb after it emerged 11 nuclear power plant workers have had their site access revoked amid fears of 'insider help'.

Jihadi brothers Khalid and Ibrahim el-Bakraoui had secretly filmed the daily routine of Belgium's nuclear programme chief, before they blew themselves up at Brussels airport and on a Metro train.

It is thought the brothers' spying operation was possible preparation for a kidnap plot to force him to let them into one of Belgium's two atomic facilities. However, it is likely they switched targets to the less well-guarded airport and Maelbeek Metro station after



authorities became suspicious.

It emerged last night that 11 workers at the Tihange nuclear power plant, 40 miles south-east of Brussels, have had their access badges withdrawn - leading to speculation the bombers may have been seeking insider help.

Seven of the passes were withdrawn last week, and last Friday additional soldiers were deployed

to protect the plant, which has three reactors.

If the terrorists had struck there, it could have caused a catastrophe. The plant lies in a heavily populated area about 50 miles from each of Belgium's borders with Germany, France, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. One Belgian plant is only 90 miles from Kent.

Alternatively, the brothers could have been plotting to steal nuclear material to make a dirty bomb.

Claude Monique, who investigates threats to Europe's nuclear sector, told NBC News: "The terrorist cell naively believed they could use him to penetrate a lab to obtain nuclear material to make a dirty bomb."

The heightened security at the facility, and the police raids on ISIS boltholes last week which led to the capture of Paris terrorist Salah Abdeslam, may have prompted the bombers to switch their targets to Brussels airport and Metro station, where they killed 31 people and injured 270 others on Tuesday.

Daily Mail

Pope Francis washes asylum seekers' feet

ROME - Pope Francis has washed and kissed the feet of Muslim, Orthodox, Hindu and Catholic refugees, declaring them children of the same God.

His gesture came after the Brussels attacks, which he denounced as a 'gesture of war' and condemned arms makers as partly responsible.

The Pope's comments came during an Easter Week Mass with asylum seekers at a refugee shelter in Castelnuovo di Porto, outside Rome.

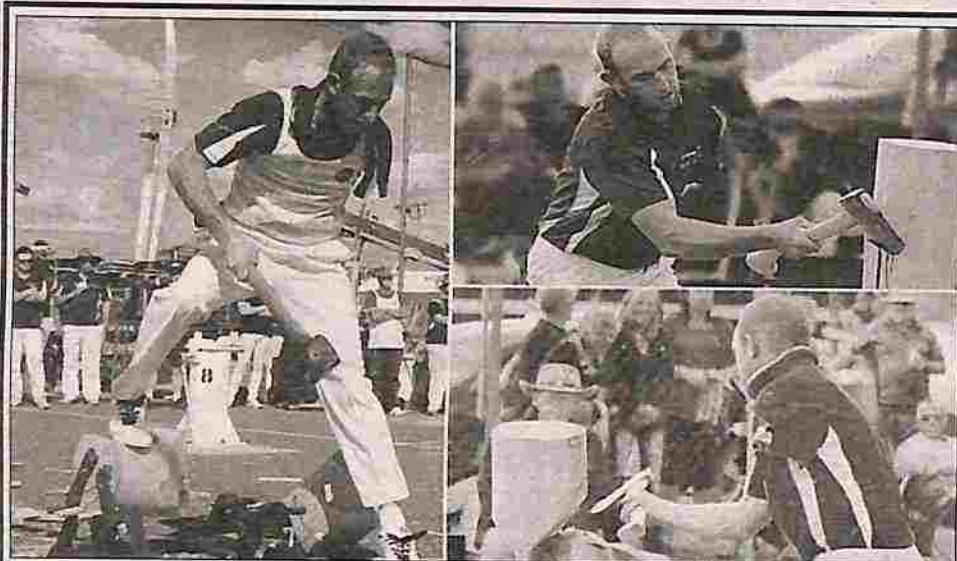
The Maundy Thursday rite re-enacts the foot-washing ritual Jesus Christ performed on his apostles before being crucified 2 000 years ago.

Meanwhile other Christian communities held re-enactments of the crucifixion, violent flagellation ceremonies, parades and pilgrimages.

Marking the start of Easter, the global celebrations take on varying forms according to local Christian customs and ancient traditions.

In the Philippines, Catholics have been photographed prostrating in front of a chapel as they are whipped in a flagellation ceremony.

The capital Manila is also hosting street plays featuring actors playing the role of a tortured Christ and Roman soldiers. *Daily Mail*



HACKING: A video footage shows one-arm axeman Nick Fredriksen hacking through a log with staggering speed at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, the world's top woodchopping contest. After first picking up an axe at four-years-old, he lost his arm in an accident with a hay baler when he was eight, forcing him to learn to chop with one hand. The 30-year-old has been competing in the sport for 20 years and said he wants to get more people involved - but it's hard when they assume he lost his hand competing. (*Daily Mail*)

Why IS William still fascinated with his old flame Jecca?

NAIROBI/LONDON - Many a young man meets a girl he does not marry, but whom he cannot quite get out of his system. Courtship and romance are followed by a life-long affection, together with nagging thoughts of what might have been.

Some will wonder if these were the emotions stirring deep within Prince William when he abruptly announced that he was flying to Kenya for the Easter weekend, in order to attend the wedding of his old flame Jecca Craig.

Before Kate Middleton came into the prince's life, the conservationist's daughter was frequently

described as his 'first love', who became so close to him when they were teenagers that they reportedly entered into a 'pretend engagement'.

Five years ago, the willowy Jecca was a guest - along with her then boyfriend - at William and Kate's grand royal wedding, but when she ties the knot today with Professor Jonathan Baillie, a Canadian-born world authority on threatened species for the Zoological Society, the prince will be attending alone.

Some might say this is simply William celebrating the nuptial bliss of an old friend.

Daily Mail

Trump refuses to rule out using nuclear weapons against ISIS

NEW YORK - Donald Trump has refused to rule out using nuclear weapons against ISIS following the terror attack in Brussels that claimed 34 lives.

Defending the comments in an interview with Bloomberg, Trump said he didn't want to talk at length because 'the enemy is watching', adding 'at a minimum, I want them to think maybe we would.'

The remark is likely to provide fuel to Clinton's campaign as she has referred to the need for 'steady hands' in combating terrorism - implying that The Donald cannot be trusted with weapons such as America's nuclear arsenal.

Trump said: "I'm never going to rule anything out - I wouldn't want to say. Even if I wasn't, I wouldn't want to tell you that because at a minimum, I want them to think maybe we would use them."

"We need unpredictability. We don't know who these people are. The fact is, we need unpredictability and when you ask a question like that, it's a very sad thing to have to answer it."

"The enemy is watching and I have a very good chance of winning and I frankly don't want the enemy to know how I'm thinking. But with that being said, I don't rule out anything."

Daily Mail

NEWS IN BRIEF

Number of US drones will nearly triple

NEW YORK - An estimated seven million drones will fly in US skies by 2020, nearly tripling the number expected to be in circulation by the end of the year, the Federal Aviation Administration said Thursday. Unmanned aircraft systems will be the most dynamic growth sector within aviation, the agency said in a report, which forecast that some 2.5 drones million will be in use by the end of 2016. How the civilian drone market evolves, however, will depend on future security and regulatory measures put in place by the US government, the FAA said, emphasizing that 'unprecedented milestones' were already set in 2015.

AFP

12 die as minibus collides with truck

LYON - Twelve people were killed when the minibus they were travelling in collided with a heavy truck late Thursday in Allier, central France, local authorities said. The minibus was travelling from Switzerland to Portugal when the accident happened just before midnight. "The twelve passengers of the minibus, who were all Portuguese, are dead," a statement from the local authority said.

Afp

Cruz-Trump spat takes nastier turn

WISCONSIN - Ted Cruz branded Donald Trump a 'sniveling coward' as the feud between the Republican presidential contenders over their wives took a nastier turn. After an earlier and vague threat to 'spill the



beans' about Heidi Cruz, Trump stoked the spat on Twitter when he retweeted side-by-side images of Cruz's wife, with an unflattering grimace, and his wife, Melania, in a glamorous pose. "No need to spill the beans," said the caption. "The images are worth a thousand words." On Thursday, Ted Cruz, campaigning in Wisconsin, was livid. *Reuters*

Man chooses 'I am a thief' sign over jail

GIRARD - An Ohio man chose to wear a sign proclaiming he's a thief rather than go to jail after stealing a television. Greg Davenport pleaded no contest this month to a theft charge for stealing from a Wal-Mart in December. A judge gave Davenport, 44, the sentencing option of 30 days in jail or wearing a sign saying, "I am a thief. I stole from WalMart." Davenport has to wear the sign in front of the store eight hours a day for 10 days of his choosing.

Afp

Australia slams Japan Antarctic hunt

SIDNEY - Australia on Friday branded Japan's killing of 333 whales 'abhorrent', saying there was no scientific justification for the Antarctic hunt. The Japanese fleet set sail for the Southern Ocean in December despite a worldwide moratorium and opposition led by Australia and New Zealand, using a loophole in the ban that allows for lethal research. On Thursday, Japan's Fisheries Agency announced enough whales had been killed for 'scientific research' as the boats returned to port. "The Australian government opposes so-called 'scientific' whaling clearly, absolutely and categorically," Australian Environment Minister Greg Hunt said in comments emailed to AFP. *AFP*

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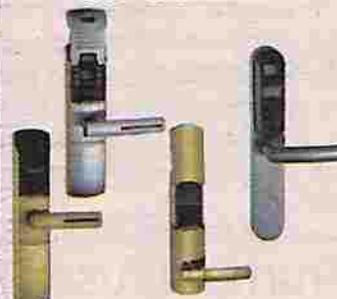


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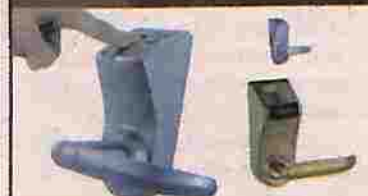
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11 DEATHS



Family, friends and relatives of the Mothers Union and congregation of the Lubombo Anglican Parish are notified of the demise of **Doris Dlamini (Nee Dunn)**. There will be a short prayer on Friday 25 March 2016 at her home in Siteki from 7pm. No night vigil. The burial service will be held at the Anglican Church in Siteki, starting at 8:00am on Saturday 26 March 2016. Announcement by the Family.



Relatives and friends of **Minah Ntombinkulu Tsabedze (nee Dlamini)** of Ekudzeni are notified of demise. Funeral at Ekudzeni on Sunday 27 March 2016 after a night vigil on Saturday. Announcement by her daughter Mumsy Rose Shiba. Rest in Peace Mkholo Lonsundvu.



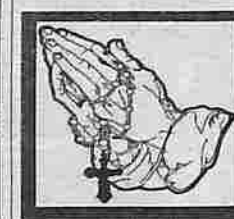
Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani ba **Ntombi Tsabedze**, Make Mngometulu e Bethany kuMahlanya kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Kwatiswa nalabekhonta nabo kaLobamba lomdzala Miracle Center. Utawufihlwa ngemgcibelo mhlaka 26 March 2016 emva kwemlindzelo ngalesihlanu ekhaya lakhe e Bethany kaLobamba lomdzala. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumyeni wakhe Moses Mngometulu.



Kwatiswa tihlobo, bangani nalabekasebenta nabo kutsi Make **Magareth Makhosazane Ngcelele Dlamini** lobekangu Thishela lomkhulu eKhalakahle Methodist Primary School kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Utawufihlwa ekhaya lakhe kaLanga, sitieshi kaMawelela mhlaka 26 March 2016 emva kwemlindzelo mhlaka 25 March 2016. Kutoba nenkonzo yesikhumbuto mhlaka 24 March 2016 ekhalakahle Methodist Primary School nga 1pm. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumyeni wakhe Patrick Boy Dlamini.



Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani kutsi **Bhutana Vilane** lobekatiwa ngaShisanyama kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Kwatiswa bekhakhakhe kaMaziya, bakaSimelane nebakaSukati kanye nebakagogo wakhe kaMamba. Umlindzelo ungemgcibelo mhlaka 26 March 2016, afihlwe ngelisonfo mhlaka 27 March 2016 ekhaya kubo eMagengeni. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumndeni.



Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani ba **Emmelinah Nciphile Mzileni** (ulaMbamali) kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Kwatiswa baka Mzileni, baka Mbhamali nebakagogo wakhe kaMatse



Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani ba **Patrick Dlamini** kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Inkonzo yesikhumbuto ingemgcibelo Ekutsimuleni Lutheran nga 2pm ngemgcibelo mhlaka 26 March 2016. Ufihlwa ngelisonfo mhlaka 27 March 2016 ekhaya Embelebeleni emva kwemlindzelo lotawuba ngemgcibelo. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumndeni egameni lemndeni.



It is with great sadness that the Dlamini family announce the demise of **Siphwe Nkosephayo Dlamini (laMdluli)**. A funeral service will be held at her matrimonial home kaVelezizweni esiteshini kaZule on Monday 28 March 2016 after a night vigil on Sunday 27 March 2016. Announcement by Dlamini family.



Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani ba **Emmelinah Nciphile Mzileni** (ulaMbamali) kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Kwatiswa baka Mzileni, baka Mbhamali nebakagogo wakhe kaMatse

nebelibandla lakhe le Apostolic Church ngephansi kwemfundisi Appollo Maphalala. Kulindzelwa mhlaka 26 March 2016 ekuseni ekhaya Enyakeni eceleni kwemphakatsi. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumndeni waka Mzileni.



Relatives and friends of **Nobile Kunene** are notified of her death. Funeral at Kuphuka on Sunday 27 March 2016 after a night vigil. Announcement by her father Abraham Kunene. Rest in Peace Vusamuti.



Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani ba **Siphwe Patience Mzileni** waseSihhohweni eMbekelweni, BakaHlala kuMatsapha eMahlabatsini kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Ufihlwa ngemgcibelo mhlaka 26 March 2016 eMbekelweni. Kute umlindzelo. Inkonzo yekumpheketela itocala nga 5:30 ekuseni. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngu Ncamsile Mnisi egameni lemndeni.

JOB 13:15

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I will surely
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Argentina fight back to sink Chile

SANTIAGO - Lionel Messi's return sparked Argentina to a 2-1 win over Chile in Santiago on Thursday, breathing new life into their South American qualifying campaign for the 2018 World Cup.

Messi, who had missed the first four games last year with a knee injury, laid on the 24th-minute winner for defender Gabriel Mercado after Angel Di Maria had cancelled out Felipe Gutierrez's opener for Chile.

Argentina, beaten finalists at the last World Cup in Brazil, moved up to fourth in the 10-team group on eight points from five games. The top four qualify automatically for Russia with the fifth-ranked team going into an intercontinental playoff.

"We had to win in whatever way we could," Messi told broad-



Angel Di Maria.

casters TyC Sports. "I was glad to be back to help this group of players who fight for every point to the death."

Chile, who had beaten Argentina in the Copa America final in Santiago last July, took the lead after 10 minutes when

Gutierrez took advantage of poor defending at a corner to head past goalkeeper Sergio Romero.

The home side dominated the opening quarter of an hour as Argentina struggled to find their feet but the tide turned when Di Maria curled a right-footed shot past Claudio Bravo for the equaliser 10 minutes later.

Argentina then pulled ahead when Messi won a tussle for the ball inside the box and lifted it over to right back Gabriel Mercado, who hooked the ball home past Bravo.

Chile drove forward in the second half searching for the equaliser, keeping Messi in check and Argentina on the back foot.

Fabian Orellana forced a diving save from Romero, substitute Mauricio Pinilla hit the side netting and Alexis Sanchez hit a

90th-minute free kick over the bar but the home side were unable to break through.

The defeat leaves Chile in sixth place on seven points, six behind leaders Ecuador, who needed a stoppage-time goal by Angel Mena to rescue a 2-2 draw at home to Paraguay.

The draw ended a run of four straight wins for Ecuador but they remain the only unbeaten team in the group.

Joining Chile on seven points are Colombia, who got an injury-time winner from Edwin Cardona to beat Bolivia 3-2.

Peru moved above Bolivia into eighth after Raul Ruidiaz struck a 94th minute equaliser as the hosts fought back from 2-0 down to snatch a 2-2 draw against winless Venezuela in Lima.

Reuters

Ikechi Anya's early goal gives Strachan's men confidence

PRAGUE - On a night when their lurid pink away shirts drew some adverse comment, Scotland attracted admiring glances in other ways — with a scoreline that proved an unexpected sight for sore eyes.

Czech Republic head for the Euro 2016 Finals in France this summer where Spain, Croatia and Turkey await. Mercifully for Pavel Vrba's side — if not for Scotland — Allan McGregor won't be there.

The Hull goalkeeper was an outstanding performer here. Seeking a new blend for the World Cup qualifiers, Gordon Strachan could take heart from a raft of cautiously promising displays and a winning goal which prompted a hint of deja vu. The strong sense we had seen it somewhere before.

In Dortmund 18 months ago, perhaps, when Ikechi Anya scurried on to a perfectly weighted through ball from a strike colleague to claim his first international goal.

That night the assist against the world champions came from Steven Fletcher and it was enough to persuade Strachan he would do as a centre forward.

The impact of Ross McCormack's strength, passing and vision here will become clear in the coming months. This much we can say: the Fulham man, last capped in March 2014, did himself no harm at all.

If the pink shirts took a well-deserved pounding on social media, the players themselves drew favourable reviews. Games like this don't tell you a great deal. But the return of Robert Snodgrass from injury is a huge boost to the Scots.

Asked for the biggest positive, Strachan was to the point.

"The win," he said. "We had a slow start in the first half when the Czech Republic played very well. I think we allowed them to play."

The group is quite new working together and they took things we'd been working on in training quite literally by getting into nice positions defensively instead of going and closing people down.

"But once we sorted that out in the second half, and passed the ball a bit better, then it became a different game."

The match was 10 minutes old when, with pretty much the first attack, £11 million man McCormack showed great upper body strength and determination to outmuscle the strapping defender Tomas Sivok to a bouncing ball inside the Czech half. *Daily Mail*

Simon Church's late penalty salvages a draw

LONDON - Few would have laid money on Wales and Northern Ireland playing a warm-up game for the European Championship finals when qualification began all those months ago. As such, this meeting of home nations in Cardiff was something to be celebrated.

Michael O'Neill and his Northern Ireland team will head home happy, that's for sure.

This was a decent result for the Irish and one that could have been even better. A 59th-minute Craig Cathcart goal gave them a lead they held until Simon Church converted an 89th-minute penalty conceded by Gareth McAuley. For the Irish, their nine-game unbeaten run now matches that of Billy Bingham's 1986 World Cup team.

Wales and manager Chris Coleman, on the other hand, can only hope for a return to more recognisable form when



CONVERTING: Wales defender Simon Church converts from the penalty spot to make it 1-1 in the dying minutes of the contest. (*Daily Mail*)

Gareth Bale and Aaron Ramsey come back a little closer to the tournament.

England's group opponents this summer will head to Kiev for a game against Ukraine next week with some improving to do. Without Ramsey and Bale, Wales were always likely to lack a little sharpness.

The partnership of Coleman's two stellar players behind lone centre forward Hal Robson-Kanu has done so much to take them forward and on Thursday night all three

were missing.

The home team still looked to stretch Northern Ireland here, though, in an attempt to provide service to understudy striker Sam Vokes of Burnley.

Occasionally it looked as though it may work, especially when George Williams or David Cotterill had the ball in midfield. O'Neill's Irish are a canny side and their three central defenders provided adequate protection for goalkeeper Michael McGovern on the whole. *Daily Mail*

Aritz Aduriz cancels out Lorenzo Insigne opener

MADRID - It was a night when those in blue in two different countries could take heart from the hallmarks of an Antonio Conte team.

Italy hustled and pressed with intent on the pitch, making life difficult for Spain and offering hope that Conte's organisation and attention to detail may yet give the Azzurri some hope of success at Euro 2016.

Meanwhile, in the VIP seats, further evidence of the bond which is clearly forming between Conte and Chelsea.

Daniele Conte, brother and agent of the Italy boss, was seen deep in pre-match conversation with Gary Staker, a backroom official from Chelsea who speaks Italian.

When Lorenzo Insigne fired the home side into the lead, Elisabetta Conte, wife of Antonio, turned to Staker and



CONGRATS: Spain's striker Aritz Aduriz (right) is congratulated after scoring the equaliser against Italy in Thursday's international friendly match. (*Daily Mail*)

they both punched the air.

This caused quite a stir. Staker may be a humble player-liaison officer at Stamford Bridge — and has family from the north of Italy which may explain his presence in Udine — but this did not stop the television crews chasing him down the aisles.

It was a surreal sight. Staker first shot into the public eye

when he was catapulted from his role as a club steward at Chelsea to work as Claudio Ranieri's translator.

He has since moved into the realms of player liaison. He will have little influence at board level, but he works for Chelsea and here he was, mingling with the family of the man tipped to be the next manager at the Bridge. *Daily Mail*

WEEKLY FIXTURES

26 March 2016

Afcon 2017 Qualifiers

13:00 Mauritius v Rwanda
14:30 Seychelles v

Lesotho

15:00 Burundi v Namibia
15:30 Congo DR v Angola
16:30 Cameroon v South Africa
19:00 Cape Verde v Morocco
20:00 Burkina Faso v Uganda
21:00 Senegal v Niger

Internationals

18:00 Russia v Lithuania
18:30 Austria v Albania
18:30 Poland v Finland
19:00 Hungary v Croatia
19:00 Azerbaijan v Kazakhstan
21:45 Germany v England

World Cup qualifying - South America

02:35 Brazil v Uruguay

Tomorrow

Afcon 2017 Qualifiers

16:00 Kenya v Guinea-Bissau
16:00 Mozambique v
Ghana
16:00 Botswana v Comoros
17:00 Benin v South Sudan
17:30 Congo v Zambia

Internationals

20:45 Romania v Spain

Broos positive ahead of first game in charge

JOHANNESBURG - Hugo Broos takes on his first assignment with the Cameroon national team with an Africa Cup of Nations qualifying double header against floundering South Africa.

Former Club Brugge and Anderlecht boss Broos was the surprise choice to replace the sacked Volker Finke last month and inherits a team sitting top of qualifying Group M after two matches.

Victories over Mauritania and Gambia in their opening games have put Cameroon in the box seat to reach the 2017 tournament in Gabon and Broos is encouraged by his early impressions of the squad.

"My first contact with the team has been good," he told a news conference.

"The difficulty now will be remembering the names and faces of the players! I met with the group and there are no additional injuries."

One man who will be missing for Broos' bow is Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting, who pulled out of the squad through injury.

"Last Saturday Choupo-Moting was on the Schalke bench in the league," complained Broos. "Afterwards he called me to tell me he's injured."

"I wonder how Schalke can put an injured player on the bench."

But Broos is confident of being able to field a competitive team for the first of two clashes with South Africa in Limbe on Saturday, before the reverse fixture is played three days later.

"We'll put out a team that is ready and will fight to the last minute," he added. "Then we'll see - this is football."

For South Africa, the fixtures could be pivotal to their chances of qualification. They have reached all but two of the last 11 AFCON Tournaments, but sit bottom of the group in serious danger of crashing out.

Only group winners are guaranteed to progress, with the two best runners-up of the 12 groups that consist of four teams also making the tournament.

goal.com

UNITED TARGET ZLATAN

LONDON - United bosses have made Ibrahimovic one of their main summer transfer targets.

The 34-year-old will be a free agent in June after failing to agree a new deal with Paris St-Germain.

He is keen to end his career in the Premier League and it is understood United are willing to offer him a short-term deal worth £24m.

United executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward hopes to tempt Ibrahimovic with two-year deal worth a staggering £250 000-a-week.

Ibrahimovic is also a target of Arsenal and Chelsea, but United are willing to blow them out of the water and flex their financial muscle.

The deal on offer would

make Ibrahimovic one of the highest-paid stars in English football.

A club source said: "The team needs a major injection of talent and some superstar additions."

"Zlatan fits the bill. He might be getting on a bit but he can

still do it at the highest level and would be worth the risk in terms of big wages because no fee is involved."

The news is also another strong indication that Louis van Gaal is heading for the Old Trafford exit at the end of this season. Van Gaal has clung to his job for months, despite overseeing another disappointing campaign at the helm. But Van Gaal and Ibrahimovic have a mutual dislike for each other after falling out during their time together at Ajax in 2004. Ibrahimovic is unlikely to agree to join United if Van Gaal remains in charge.

Daily Mail

WANTED:
Zlatan
Ibrahimovic.
(AP)



Morata encourages Arsenal, Liverpool bids

LONDON - Arsenal and Liverpool have been given encouragement in their bid to sign Spain striker Alvaro Morata after the 23-year-old admitted English football could best suit his style of play.

Real Madrid are planning

to exercise their right to resign Morata from Juventus this summer for £24 million but will then look to sell him to the highest bidder.

Morata has been a success at Juventus scoring 26 goals 10 this season. However the striker is eyeing a switch to

a less tactical league where he could think his style would thrive. Speaking to Marca, Morata said: "I am happy in Italy but Germany and England are both countries where my style of football could be better suited."

Daily Mail

Johnson will not be stripped of England caps

LONDON - Disgraced former Sunderland star Adam Johnson will not be stripped of his 12 England caps.

Johnson has been sentenced to six years in prison for kissing and grooming a schoolgirl. His barrister claimed in court that Johnson would be stripped of his international honours. But the Football Association will not demand the return of his caps.

Within hours of Johnson being found guilty of sexual activity with an underage girl earlier this month, all pictures

of him in an England shirt were taken down at both Wembley and St George's Park.

The FA do not plan to issue a statement



relating to

his defence counsel's claims at Bradford Crown Court. But they are adamant that no FA official has or will be making the demand.

Players rep Gordon Taylor admits Johnson is unlikely to play football professionally again.

The PFA chief says the ex-Sunderland winger's chances of a comeback are 'very remote' and he has 'damaged the reputation of football'. AP

DISGRACED:
Adam Johnson.
(AP)

Academy players made to attend social media workshops

LONDON - Players as young as 11 are being taught the pitfalls and perils of social media at the Premier League's top clubs.

Former Sunderland and England winger Adam Johnson has paid the price for grooming a 15-year-old girl, a large part of his case involving exchanges of more than 800 messages with her on WhatsApp. Youngsters are now being given professional guidance as to how they should act online.

Fulham have used shock tactics and hired internet safety experts to set up fake social media accounts — pertaining to be young, teenage girls — to try to catch out their young players. Several of them have fallen foul, and been warned. Matt Himsworth, founder of Himsworths Legal, is a media law expert and is hired by clubs including Manchester City, Liverpool and Chelsea, to provide group or one-on-one sessions at their academies to explain the harsh

realities of topics ranging from grooming and revenge porn, to private messaging and hacking.

Himsworth, 36, works with player groups ranging from the Under 12s to the Under 21s. He is an expert in this field — his past clients include Fernando Torres, Michael Owen and Andy Carroll — and admits that social media is becoming a growing issue. "We tell them the horror stories and the risks," he told Sportsmail.

Daily Mail



MATSAPHA
Municipality

PUBLIC NOTICE

HEALTH REPORTS

Matsapha Town Council, as a Local Authority, has a legal mandate to maintain a healthy Environment for its citizenry. In this respect the Local authority is obliged by both the Public Health Act No. 5 of 1969 and the Urban Government Act No. 8 of 1969 to keep and maintain a safe and habitable healthy environment for all residents within the Matsapha urban boundary.

The Town Council therefore requires all business premises and workplaces to be, at all times, maintained in clean and sanitary conditions and to prevent any pollution of the environment or food product produced therein. It further requires all business operations to prevent the occurrence therein of any nuisance or condition that could be injurious or dangerous to health arising from the construction and occupation of unhealthy premises or overcrowding, or from the condition or manner of use of any factory or trade premises; or the erection of premises on unhealthy sites.

To that extent Matsapha Town Council calls upon all owners and/or occupiers of business premises and workplaces within the Matsapha urban area to ensure that the premises upon which they conduct their business have obtained valid and Favourable Health Reports/Health Clearance Certificates. The Health Clearance Certificate is proof of compliance with the Public Health Act and related legislation.

The Health Clearance Certificates should be obtained not later than the 31st March 2016, failure to comply will lead to the Local Authority acting as per the provisions of the Public Health Act No.5 of 1969 Section 27 (1)(2).

For clarification please contact: +268 2518 6637/8285

SABELO M. MASUKU
ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGER

THE KINGDOM'S INVESTMENT HUB

Matsapha Town Council @matsapha

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BAFANA HAVE BENEFIT OF FORMER BROOS RECRUIT

JOHANNESBURG - Anele Ngcongca will give his teammates the inside track on the strategy of Hugo Broos, the new Belgian coach of Cameroon, when Bafana Bafana meet the Indomitable Lions in today's Africa Cup of Nations qualifier in Limbe.

South Africa need a win in Cameroon, then again in Tuesday's return match at Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban, to revive their hopes of qualifying for Gabon 2017, having registered just a single point from their first two matches.

Ngcongca, Bafana's stalwart right-back and one of South Africa's best imports to Europe of the last 10 years, was taken to Belgium's Racing Genk by Broos in 2007 and played his first season there under the coach.

Loan

The defender, enjoying a season on loan in France's Ligue 1 currently with Troyes, said Broos's game plan should suit Cameroon, who are known for their imposing, physical style of play.

"Hugo is a capable coach. It's a long time since I worked with him, but I know what strategy he uses," Ngcongca said.

"He's a typical Belgian coach who plays with three attackers and two defensive midfielders, and of course a No.10. He likes big players with a strong mentality." *Times Live*

KAIZER CHIEFS FACING COMPETITION FOR MEKOA

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs have been linked with a move for Maritzburg United left winger Deolin Mekoa, however, they face competition from other PSL teams for his services.

A source close to the winger has revealed that there are two other PSL sides keeping tabs on the situation, namely Orlando Pirates and SuperSport United.

"He is doing very well for Maritzburg but I don't think he will be with the team in the new season, though it will also depend on which team signs him," said the source.

"Apart from Chiefs,

SuperSport and Pirates also want to sign the player. However, his focus at the moment is to help the team avoid relegation before thinking of a move," the source concluded.

The Team of Choice have sunk to the bottom of the PSL table, with University of Pretoria a point ahead of them, although Maritzburg have a game in hand.

Mekoa has scored one league goal this season, made 17 starts and two substitute appearances, and missed out on just two games throughout their entire league campaign so far.

Soccer Laduma



SAFA CEO BEMUSED ABOUT BEING FINGERED IN MATCH-FIXING MUDDLE

JOHANNESBURG - South African Football Association (SAFA) CEO Dennis Mumble is bemused at having been named in reports as being implicated in the association's 2010 match-fixing scandal, having been the official who initially reported the matter to FIFA.

Former SAFA heads of referees Steve Goddard and Adeel Carelse were last

week suspended by global body Fifa's Ethics Committee for two years for their role in a match-fixing saga involving five Bafana Bafana friendly matches in the build-up to the 2010 World Cup.

Vowed

Ex-SAFA CEO Leslie Sedibe received a five-year ban and R311 000 fine, but has vowed to fight both. Goddard in weekend

reports named Mumble, the team manager of the 2010 Bafana squad, as having more to answer for in the fixing saga. Both Goddard and Carelse have claimed to be whistle-blowers.

Comment

Mumble reiterated he cannot comment on any aspect of the match-fixing saga, which emerged in a FIFA report released in 2012.

Times Live

SAFA, SAA clarify their new sponsorship deal

JOHANNESBURG - The South African Football Association (Safa) and South African Airways (SAA) have clarified the sponsorship deal announced.

The sponsorship agreement secures the South African national carrier as the official airline for Bafana Bafana for a period of five years.

Following a news conference to announce this deal the parties said they wanted to clarify the reach of the partnership.

Announcement

"After the announcement yesterday of the partnership between Safa and SAA, the two partners would like to clarify that whilst SAA acquired sponsorship rights for Bafana Bafana, the value



CLARITY: SAA Chairperson Dudu Myeni, SAFA NEC members Mzwandile Maforvane, Dennis Mumble and Bafana coach Shakes Mashaba during the South African national soccer team sponsorship announcement.

in kind sponsorship for Safa/Bafana Bafana will allow Safa to spread the benefits across to all National Teams - thus fulfilling

aspects of Vision 2022 in developing the game of football at all levels," said the statement.

The Citizen

Zongo yet to show his best - Johnson

JOHANNESBURG - Platinum Stars head coach Gavin Johnson believes that the PSL is yet to see the best of the mercurial Masibusane Zongo.

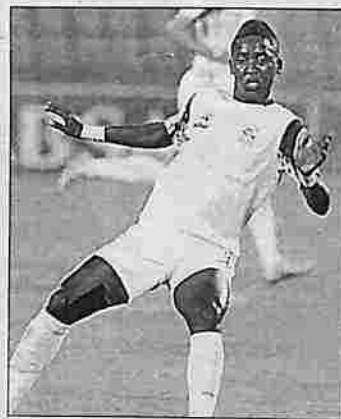
The talented 25-year-old has not enjoyed a smooth sailing career to date, and is currently at his sixth club, having failed to find regular game-time at any of his previous teams.

But he seems to be finding his groove under Johnson at Platinum Stars, and has featured in 16 league games this season, the most he has managed in a single campaign in his career so far.

Happy

The Mthatha-born player certainly seems settled and happy at Stars, and Dikwena coach Johnson has high praise for the winger's game-breaking qualities, and believes he will get better and better as time progresses.

"I think what he shows you and what people see on the pitch is only five percent of his potential. The 95 percent of Zongo has not



UNTAPPED TALENT: Masibusane Zongo.

been seen as yet," he told the clubs official website.

"I do not think Zongo realises how powerful he is in the football game, however I do think he realises what he can do for himself in the game.

"Those have been my challenges to try to get him where he can think on those terms and then play football.

The Citizen



NO PEACE: The late Senzo Meyiwa.

Keeping quiet pains my heart - Senzo's father

JOHANNESBURG - The father of the late Senzo Meyiwa, Samuel, has spoken about his concerns on the slow progress in the investigation into his son's death.

Meyiwa, who was a goalkeeper for Orlando Pirates and Bafana Bafana at the time of his passing, was gunned down at the home of his girlfriend, Kelly Khumalo, in Vosloorus in October 2014. Up to this day, no one has been sentenced for the incident that robbed the nation of a special talent.

The late football star's father has confirmed to the Siya crew that the Hawks have joined the investigation in an attempt to speed up the process.

Slow

"It's (the investigation) been very slow. Things remain the same and there is nothing much that has happened," Samuel Meyiwa said. "There is hope for progress because the Hawks have also joined in to try and speed up the process. I trust those people (the Hawks) very much. They (murderers) have to be arrested. As the family, we will only be happy when they are arrested. This silence, after what has happened, is hurting. There were about six people in the house (when Senzo was killed) and not even one of them wants to speak. What makes me angry the most is that Kelly keeps saying that she loved Senzo. If she loved him, why doesn't she get involved to assist me to find the murderers? Life goes on for her." *Soccer Laduma*



NO MORE: Dutch icon Johan Cruyff.

JOHAN CRUYFF DIES AGED 68

BARCELONA - Dutch icon Johan Cruyff has died at the age of 68.

Cruyff, who represented Holland 48 times as well as starring for Ajax and Barcelona during a glittering career, passed away on Thursday after his battle with cancer.

A statement on his website read: "On March 24, 2016 Johan Cruyff (68) died peacefully in Barcelona, surrounded by his family after a hard fought battle with cancer. 'It's with great sadness that we ask you to respect

the family's privacy during their time of grief."

Cruyff, who won three European Cups and eight Dutch titles with Ajax, was diagnosed with lung cancer last October.

Statement

In February, he released a statement insisting that treatment was going well and that he believed he would make a full recovery.

It read: "After several medical treatments I can say that the results have been very positive, thanks to the excellent work of the doctors, the affection of the peo-

ple and my positive mentality.

"Right now, I have the feeling that I am 2-0 up in the first half of a match that has not finished yet. But I am sure that I will end up "

Cruyff's son Jordi, who had a spell with Manchester United between 1996 and 2000, paid tribute to his father last Saturday - Father's Day in Spain - via Twitter. "In Spain it's Father's Day! Thanks for being who you are and teaching me life's values, my role model @JohanCruyff." *Daily Mail*

Barcelona fines list revealed:

GERARD PIQUE STUNG FOR £5 000 OVER LATENESS

MADRID - With Barcelona hunting the treble for the second successive season, it is no surprise to learn that manager Luis Enrique enforces a strict code of conduct upon his players.

An interview in Sport with Barcelona delegate Carles Naval recently revealed that Enrique fines his players €200 (£159) if they are late to training and €400 (£318) if they are late for a match. The second time a player is late for training, the fine is doubled and the second time they are late for a match, the fee is quadrupled.

Sanctioned

Now, the Spanish publication is claiming to have a list of which players have been sanctioned the most and way out in front is defender Gerard Pique on €6 200 (£4 924).

Neymar is second, but has been fined €5 000 less than his team-mate Pique on €1 200 (£953).

Adriano is third on the list with an accumulative fine total of €1 000 (£794) and Arda Turan is fourth with €600 (£477). *Daily Mail*



MY TWO CENTS: Bernie Ecclestone.

BERNIE ECCLESTONE BACKS DRIVERS' CALL FOR F1 SHAKE-UP

NEW YORK - On another day of masochism in Formula One, Bernie Ecclestone has agreed that the sport's governance is 'obsolete' and, as if to prove the point, he wants to stick with the derided qualifying format for another race.

Only a few days ago Ecclestone described the knockout qualifying format as 'crap' and suggested its debut appearance at Melbourne last weekend would also be its farewell.

The 11 teams agreed to ditch it, leaving only the FIA - the supposed rule-makers - and Ecclestone to agree to see it off before the next round of the World Championship in Bahrain a week from tomorrow. But now the 85-year-old has said: "They're going to do what I proposed, which is leave things as they are for this race. After that we will then have a good look and decide whether what was done was the right thing to do, the wrong thing to do, does it need modifying, does it need scrapping?"

Agreed

Ecclestone agreed with a letter signed by the Grand Prix Drivers' Association in which they denounced the paralysis at the top of the sport. In a letter of his own, he replied: "It is not always easy to agree with you but you are correct in stating that the decision-making process is obsolete and ill-structured. We must, as you have stated, urge the owners and stakeholders of Formula One to consider restructuring its own governance".

Daily Mail

Colombia snatch away victory over Bolivia

COLOMBIA - Colombia beat Bolivia 3-2 in La Paz with Edwin Cardona grabbing a late winner for the visitors.

James Rodriguez opened the scoring for Colombia when he brought down a pass from Carlos Bacca and slotted home an angled drive. Five minutes before halftime the roles were reversed and Bacca latched on to a Rodriguez pass to put Colombia in the driving seat.

Juan Arce got one back for Bolivia from the penalty spot after 49 minutes but Alejandro Chumacero grabbed the equaliser with a spectacular strike before Cardona stole victory.

The result gave Colombia their first win since the opening match and left Bolivia joint second bottom of the



VICTORY: James Rodriguez helped his side to their first win in a World Cup qualifying match since their opening game. (*Daily Mail*)

table with three points from five games. Chile are at home to Argentina and Peru face Venezuela in Lima later on Thursday.

Qualify

The top four sides qualify automatically for Russia 2018 and the fifth go into a playoff.

Elsewhere, a stoppage-time goal helped Ecuador rescue a 2-2 draw at home to Paraguay in World Cup qualifying on Thursday, preserving their record as South America's only unbeaten side and keeping them top of the 10-team standings in the race to Russia. *Daily Mail*

Turkey 2-1 Sweden:

Republic of Ireland's Euro 2016 rivals sunk by Cenk Tosun brace

INSTANBUL - Republic of Ireland's Group E opponents Sweden were beaten by two super strikes from Turkey hot shot Cenk Tosun on Thursday night.

The Besiktas striker latched onto a header from midfielder Ozan Tufan and unleashed a fierce left-foot strike into the net for the opening goal in the 32nd minute.

Sweden then took control in the second half to earn a deserved 74th minute equaliser from Andreas Granqvist, who scored from close range.

Both sides had their chances to earn a winner but it was Tosun who proved the decisive figure nine minutes from time, heading home Selcuk Inan's cross past goalkeeper Robin Olsen.

Daily Mail

Taras Stepanenko strikes to reward hosts' experimentation

CHORNOMORETS - Taras Stepanenko's first-half goal earned an experimental Ukraine side a hard-earned 1-0 win over Cyprus in a free-flowing friendly at Chornomorets Stadium on Wednesday.

The home side, without a few key injured players, took the chance to tinker with their line-up with an eye on the forthcoming European Championships and were rewarded for their first-half domination with Stepanenko's 40th minute winner.

The Shakhtar Donetsk midfielder followed up to finish from close range at the far post after Cyprus keeper



GOAL: Taras Stepanenko (centre) wheels away after scoring the winner in Ukraine's 1-0 victory over Cyprus. (*Daily Mail*)

Constantinos Panayi had saved Roman Zozulya's header.

Chance

Cyprus, whose striker Nestoras Mitidias spurned a great chance in the 20th minute with

a weak finish, created a few excellent openings in the closing stages with Nikos Englezou sending a shot just wide and Piers Soteriou hitting the post. Elsewhere, Two-time defend-

ing champion Spain began its preparations for the European Championship with a 1-1 draw against Italy in a friendly on Thursday. Wales also drew 1-1 against Northern Ireland, thanks to a last-minute penalty from Simon Church, while the Czech Republic began its preparations with a 1-0 home defeat to Scotland.

Iceland lost to a team which failed to qualify for the tournament as two goals in four minutes from Nicolai Jorgensen helped Denmark win 2-1.

Malta's match against Moldova and Estonia's against Norway ended goalless. Greece beat Montenegro 2-1.

Daily Mail



2017 AFCON QUALIFIERS



SWAZILAND 1-1 ZIMBABWE



FROM BEHIND: Zimbabwe captain Willard Katsande trying to mark Sihlangu's Felix Badenhorst while the referee closes in during the AFCON 2017 qualifier match at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. The game ended in a 1-1 draw. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



SOCCER FEVER: A Zimbabwean fan having fun.



INTRODUCTION: Zimbabwe players being introduced to the DPM Paul Dlamini by their captain Willard Katsande.



NET: Sihlangu's goal scored by Felix Badenhorst.



CLEAR: Mxolisi 'General' Lukhele clearing the ball away from Knowledge Musona.



GADLA SWAZILAND: Sihlangu's goalscorer Felix joined by Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa, Xolani 'Chocco' Sibandze and a ballboy in celebration.



DONE DEAL: Sihlangu celebrating their goal.



AND THEN: Elisha Muroiwa and Njabulo Ndlovu fighting for the ball.



HAND SHAKE: Sihlangu's captain Siyabonga Mdluli introducing his teammates to the deputy prime minister.



YES: Zimbabwe supporters celebrating their equalising goal.



GABON HERE WE COME: Some of the Sihlangu supporters celebrating the lone goal.



2017 AFCON QUALIFIERS



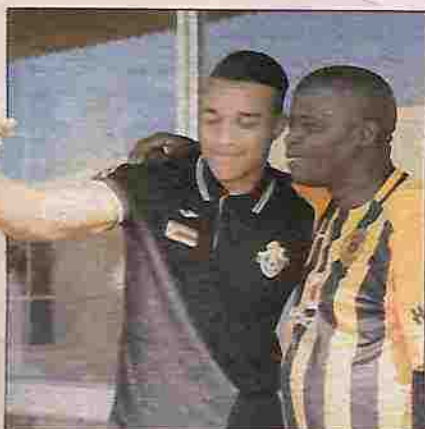
ZIMBABWE ARRIVES IN SWAZILAND



WE ARE HERE: Zimbabwe captain Willard Katsande, Cuthbeth Malaijila, Matthew Rusike and other players upon their arrival at the Ngwenya Border Gate on Thursday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



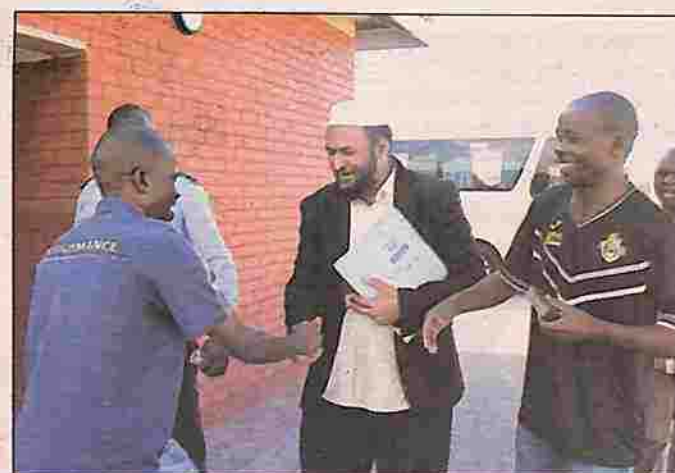
THIS WAY: A police officer directing the 'Warriors' coach at the border Gate.



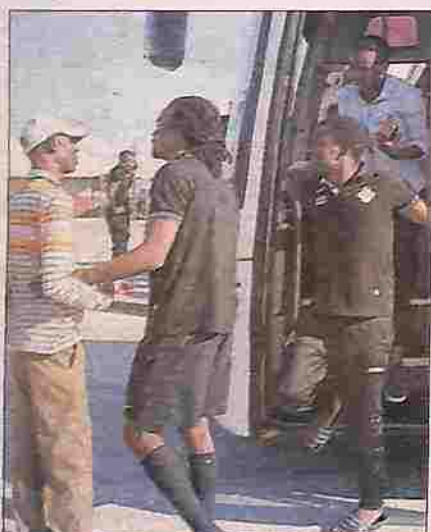
SELFIE MOMENTS: Former Kaizer Chiefs striker Matthew Rusike taking a selfie with a local Chiefs fan.



DELEGATION: Warriors coach Calisto Pasuwa, Manager Musa and Head of Delegation Felton Kamambo upon their arrival.



NICE TO MEET YOU: National Football Association of Swaziland Head of Youth Development Sonnyboy Mabuza meeting Zimbabwe national team Manager Sharif Musa and another official.



ARRIVAL: The players alighting from their bus.



ENTRY PROCESS: The players getting ready to go through Customs.



BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY: Zimbabwe players and officials familiarising themselves with the local environment.



PAPER WORK: Musa handing over their passports to a local immigrations officer.



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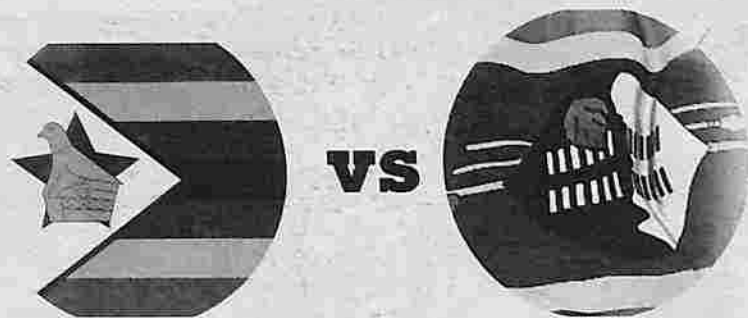
E51 TO WATCH ZIMBABWE, SIHLANGU RETURN LEG

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER – Swazi fans to accompany Sihlangu for the return leg of the AFCON qualifiers clash against Zimbabwe will pay E51 to witness the game.

The match is slated for the National Sports Stadium on Monday. Information released by the Zimbabwean Football Association is that supporters will pay \$3 (E51) for the Group L tie while those wishing to sit in the upper grand stand will have to part with \$5 (E85) and \$20 (E340) to sit in the VIP arena.

The money is E21 more than the E30 charged by the National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) to witness the first leg



played at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

Flight

Sihlangu will today leave the country by road to Johannesburg, South Africa where they will connect a flight to Harare. The local delegation will be led by NFAS executive member Elphas Ngcamphalala who has been

appointed Head of Delegation.

Qualify

The nation's pride is looking to qualify for the first ever finals of the continental football showpiece to be staged in Gabon in January next year. They are still to play Malawi and Guinea before the end of the qualifiers away and home, respectively.

MAURITIUS CONFIRMS REGION 5 GOLF CHAMPS

By Sabelo Majola

GOLF – Mauritius has since confirmed their participation in the Region 5 Golf Championships to be held in the country early next month.

This makes the number of countries to be part of the Games to be held at the Royal Swazi Spa Golf Course on April 11-16 increase to 13.

Confirmed

Swaziland Golf Union (SGU) Secretary Harry Nxumalo confirmed the news and said even though Mauritius don't fall under the Region 5 countries, they do participate on invitation, just like Kenya and Uganda.

"Preparations are going well but golfers are taking a break

for the Easter holidays. We are expecting the arrival of the countries to compete soon. I can confidently say all is going accordingly and we are geared up for the challenge," he said.

Resume

Nxumalo said the golf national team would resume preparations on the first Sunday after the Easters and their last practice match would be held on April 10.

The countries to compete during the Championships are; Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Mozambique, Namibia, Botswana Swaziland and Mauritius.

A total of eight players have been selected to represent the country during the championships.



IT'S ON: Macembe darts team during a recent darts tournament presentation.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO MACEMBE EASTER TOURNEY

By Sibusiso Masilela

PPOOL – All roads lead to the annual Macembe Easter tournament to be hosted by the Manzini Regional Pool Association (MRPA) in Malkerns.

The champion of this tournament will take home E750 cash prize while the second and third place finishers will walk away with E500 and E250, respectively.

MRPA Chairman Muntu Dlamini invited pool players in the country and supporters of the sport to come in great numbers.

"The tournament begins today (yesterday) until Sunday. Players are encouraged to pay the registration fee of E50 and they can register with Mdziniso and Madlikiza at the venue. The teams are also urged to keep time to ensure smooth running of the games," he said.

Great

He said they were looking forward to a great tournament, which he said was aimed at uniting players from all the four corners of the country during the Easter holidays. "We are hoping to witness top shelf action and a high level of competitiveness throughout the games," he said.

THE PRIZE BREAKDOWN

● **Champion**
E750 Trophy + gold medal

● **Runner up**
E500 trophy + silver medal

● **Third place**

E250 + Bronze medal

● **Fourth prize**
E150

● **Position 5th to 8th**
E50 each

CYCLISTS READY FOR LESOTHO MTB CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Sabelo Majola

CYCLING – The team to represent the country in the 2016 African Continental Mountain Bike in Lesotho declared their readiness to compete in the competition.

One of the cyclists Mduduzi Zwane said he was looking forward to the games and was confident of raising the country's flag high during the MTB challenge.

Zwane, who recently attended a development programme organised by the World Cycling Centre Africa in Namibia alongside Sabelo Mngomezulu, said he would implement all he learnt during the course at the Lesotho MTB.

The programme assisted cyclists to prepare for this race and to also develop the racing level of Mountain Bike riders in Africa.



READY: Cyclists sweating it out at a recent MTB challenge.

Aspects

"The camp in Namibia has helped equip me in many aspects of the sport. They taught us basics that don't only involve pedaling but also knowing the bicycle and things like tackling corners and many more. I will try

employ what I've learned from Namibia to come back with a medal from Lesotho.

"I can confidently say we are ready for the challenge," he said. The Championships will commence on March 30 to April 3.

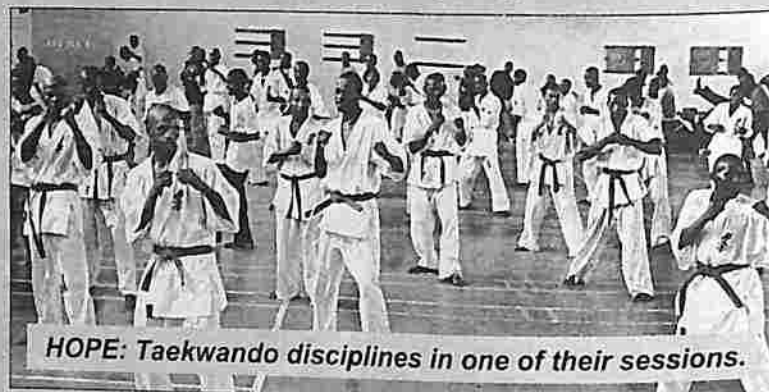
STA hoping for invitational slots in Olympic Games

By Sibusiso Masilela

TEAKWONDO – The Swaziland Taekwondo Association is hoping to secure slots to compete in the Rio De Janero Olympic Games scheduled for Brazil in August.

The association's Secretary Sandile Mchunu said they were waiting for a response from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on whether they would get slots to be part of the Games on invitation.

"We are looking to sent two female artists to Brazil if we will be granted the permission to take part in the competition on invitation. We will then rope in international experts to prepare for the Olympics as we want to compete effectively as a country," he further said.



HOPE: Taekwondo disciplines in one of their sessions.

Mchunu also stated that they have two major international competitions lined up this year, these being the World Taekwondo Grand-prix and the World Championships to be held in December.

The World Taekwondo Federation (WTF) is yet to announce the countries to be granted the hosting rights to host these competitions.

"There are two major events coming up for the national team but we are still waiting for the correspondence from the WTF on logistics pertaining the granting of the hosting rights.

"But we will continue preparing the team for these tournaments, which gives our players the much needed international exposure," he said.

SIHLANGU, WARRIORS SETTLE FOR 1-ALL DRAW

By Qondile Ntiwane

Swaziland..... (1)1
Zimbabwe..... (1)1

SOCCER – An unfortunate own goal by Sihlangu midfielder Njabulo 'D4D' Ndlovu handed the national team's opponents Zimbabwe a point after the clash between the two sides ended on a 1-all draw.

This was during the AFCON qualifiers first leg clash played at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. The midfielder failed to clear a ball on the goal-line resulting from a Knowledge Musona corner kick shot, which handed the visitors the equalising goal.

The locals were first to open the score sheet two minutes into the game through midfielder Felix 'Fela' Badenhorst who connected with a header a superb cross by Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa who was rested for Sandile Hlatshwayo in the second half.

The country's pride was, however, denied what seemed to be a genuine penalty in the first of the two minutes added time in the first half after striker 'Sikhali' was tackled from behind by a Zimbabwean player.

The Warriors enjoyed ball possession in the first half of the game but the Harries 'Madze' Bulunga-led side had other ideas as they took control of the game in the second half. But all their efforts were in vain as they failed to make use of their chances. Sihlangu could have taken the lead a minute before full time but a blazing shot by impressive Mbabane Highlanders striker Xolani 'Chocco' Sibandze from outside the box was brilliantly saved by the Zimbabwean goalkeeper Tatenda Mkuvuwa for a fruitless corner. The Swazi squad was almost punished a minute into the second half but defender Maqhawe Dlamini came to the team's rescue when he cleared, with a header, a shot from the goal line.

Sihlangu still remain at the top of Group L on goal difference as they are tied on five points with the Warriors. The team leaves the country by road today before connecting a flight at OR Tambo International Airport to Harare in honouring

● Sihlangu could have made it two a minute before full time but a blazing shot by impressive Mbabane Highlanders striker Xolani 'Chocco' Sibandze from outside the box was brilliantly saved by the Zimbabwe goalkeeper Tatenda Mkuvuwa for a fruitless corner



POINT APIECE: Swaziland celebrating their goal against Zimbabwe.

Madze rues missed chances

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER – Sihlangu head coach decried Harries 'Madze' Bulunga has rued his side's missed chances during the first leg of the 2017AFCON qualifiers clash.

The team settled for a 1-all draw against the Warriors of Zimbabwe.

The coach believes his charges could have buried the tie had they utilised their chances during the gruelling Group L encounter.

"We opted for an offensive approach in order to get the maximum points since we were playing at home.

Unfortunately we were not clinical in front of goals and got punished at the crucial stage of the first half. The opposition was not that much of a threat as we had anticipated," he said.

Going to the second leg on

Monday, Bulunga said they would go back to the drawing board and plan for the return leg game.

"We will sit down and work on our approach for Monday's game," he said.

Meanwhile, his Zimbabwe counterpart Calisto Pasuwa said his team was a bit complacent in the opening minutes of the match.

Mistakes

"We started off the match badly but then bounced back. We need to go back to the drawing board and rectify our mistakes.

We will fight for a win at home," he said. The coach praised the Swazi squad for putting up a good fight during the game.

Goals from Felix 'Fela' Badenhorst and an own goal from Njabulo 'D4D' Ndlovu ensured that the two countries share the spoils in front of over 7 000 football lovers.

the second leg clash to be played at the National Stadium on Easter Monday.

The Teams:

Swaziland

Nhlanhla, Sifiso, Sanele, Maqhawe, Siyabonga, Mxolisi, Xolani, Mthunzi

(Tony), 'Sikhali' (Sandile), Njabulo, Felix.

Zimbabwe

Tatenda, Willard, Costa, Danny, Erik, Elisha, Onismor (Evans), Matthew, Cuthbert (Nyasha), Khama, Knowledge.

Sihlangu NSC impressed with turn-out

By Sanele Jele

SOCCER – Sihlangu National Supporters Committee has applauded the nation for coming in great numbers to support the team during the AFCON qualifiers clash against Zimbabwe.

Speaking after the game at the Somhlolo National Stadium, the association's Chairman Nkosilenhle Masuku said they were not expecting such a huge turn-out considering that the game was played on a holiday.

"I was very impressed with the number of supporters at the stadium. It was almost full and to top it all they motivated the boys by singing and dancing. It was an amazing atmosphere indeed and we want to applaud the fans for this."

Masuku said he was also impressed by the performance of the players against the star studded opposition.

"They did not show them any respect inside the field, in fact they played better than the opposition and that is commendable.

Our gratitude also goes to the Harries 'Madze' Bulunga-led technical bench as we are seeing the results," he said.

The chairman further stated that those interested in accompanying the team to Zimbabwe can register with him.

"It will cost the supporters E1 000 to travel to Zimbabwe for the second leg of the game.

It is true that this announcement is late but we are hoping to have some supporters travelling with the squad. The bus leaves today at 7pm," he said.

Over E200 000 raked in as gate collections

Stories by Sabelo Majola

SOCCER – Over E200 000 was collected during the AFCON qualifiers game pitting Sihlangu and the Zimbabwean Warriors.

This means over 7 000 supporters witnessed the game played at the Somhlolo National Stadium. Supporters had paid E30 to witness the game.

The exact amount collected during the game was E214 600.

The figure was confirmed by National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) Competitions Chairman

Johannes Sibozu who praised the fans for the attendance. He urged them to do the same when the National Under-20 team hosts Namibia next week

in the African Youth Championships at Somhlolo.

"We are grateful to the fans for their support and Sihlangu didn't disappoint but put on a gallant performance. Next week the National Under-20 team hosts Namibia at the same venue and it would give us great pleasure to see the equal number of supporters attending the game and rallying behind the youngsters," he said.

Condemned

Sibozu, however, condemned the scuffle that erupted from one of the stands saying such behaviour was painting a bad image of the country.

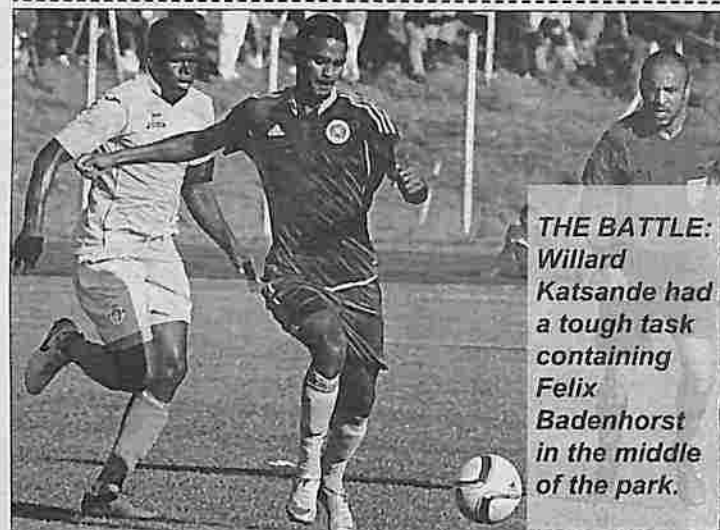
"It was disappointing to see people engaging in a fight in front of dignitaries and visitors. Such acts are strongly condemned," he said.

Zim sports minister praises Sihlangu

SOCCER – Zimbabwe Sports, Makhosini Hlongwane has praised Sihlangu for their gallant performance against the Warriors in the match at Somhlolo National Stadium.

Interviewed after the game, Hlongwane said Swazi football had improved enormously. But he sounded a strong warning that the locals will not have it easy against the Zimbabwean national when they meet for the second leg in Harare. "It was a

balanced game; both teams gave each other a tough time. I must say that Swaziland has assembled a team with great players and there is a lot of improvement in the standard of football in the country. I'm happy with the result but Sihlangu will have difficulty playing the Warriors at home in front of thousands of fans at the 60 000 capacity National Sports Stadium. I do believe the results will favour us back at home," he said.



THE BATTLE: Willard Katsande had a tough task containing Felix Badenhorst in the middle of the park.

We need to score in Zimbabwe – 'Xavi'

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER – Sihlangu winger Mthunzi 'Xavi' Mkhonto says the team needs to score a goal in the return leg in order to maintain the top spot in Group L.

The AS Vita player said this soon after the home side played to a 1-all draw against the 'Warriors' at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

"The game was tough but we managed to salvage a point which is key in the qualifiers. We now need to go for a kill and make sure we score in the return leg on Monday. We have an equal chance in the next

match but only need to keep on working hard," he said.

Maximum

Meanwhile Zimbabwe national team skipper Willard Katsande said they wanted the maximum points but failed to realise their objective as they were given a tough run by the home side.

"Our aim was to go top of the group but the result didn't favour us. Credit should go to my teammates for fighting hard throughout the match.

Going to the second leg we obviously we need to rectify our mistakes and punish the Swazi squad in the process," he said.



AFCON 2017 QUALIFIERS RESULTS

YESTERDAY

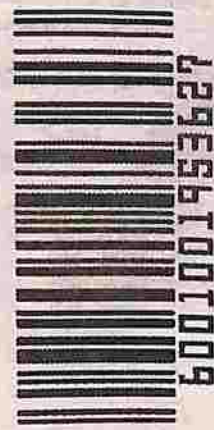
Swaziland 1-1 Zimbabwe

PLAYED ON THURSDAY

Ghana 3-1 Mozambique
Djibouti 0-1 Liberia
Comoros 1-0 Botswana
Madagascar 1-1 CAR

SPORT

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March 26, 2016

2017 AFCON QUALIFIERS:



AFCON QUALIFIERS GROUP L LOG

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Swaziland	3	1	2	0	5	4	1	5
Zimbabwe	3	1	2	0	4	3	1	4
Malawi	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1
Guinea	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1

(Malawi, Guinea game not included)

- Swaziland still leads Group L with five points.
- Sihlangu travel today for second leg clash in Harare on Monday

PAGE 43

HIGHLIGHTS

● TAKE A BOW:

**ZIM SPORTS
MINISTER
IMPRESSED
WITH SIHLANGU**

Page 43



● READY:

**LESOTHO MTB
CYCLISTS READY
FOR THE GAMES**

Page 42



Page 41

**Sidlala
Kanje!**

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