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## IT NEVER RAINS BUT POURS...

# LAWYER DUMPS JUDGE MPENDULO



STORY ON PAGE 3

...Legal eagle drops bombshell 15 minutes before sitting

## HLOBI IN COURT OVER FIRED BANKER

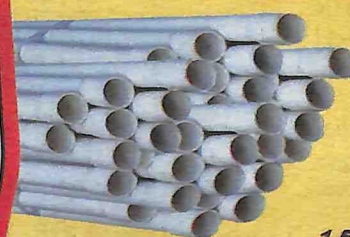
PAGE 2

## HIV+ TAXIMAN GETS E15 000 BAIL

PAGE 3



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## PM's office staff given lecture on epilepsy

By Lungelo Nkambule  
Mbabane

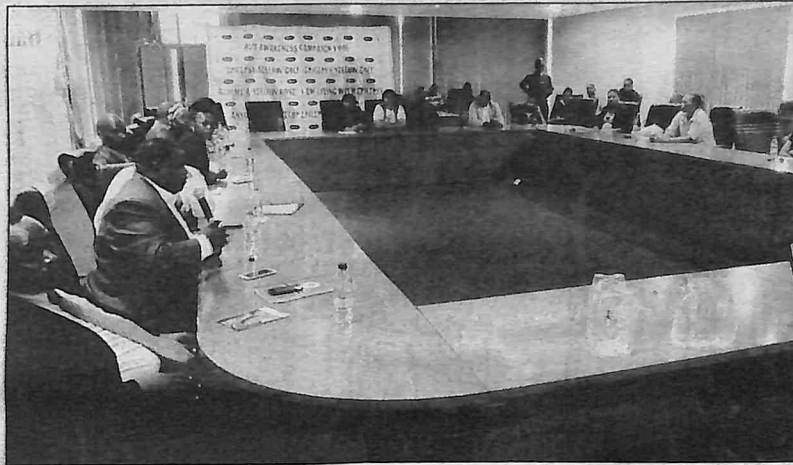
**MBABANE**—As part of their programme to educate the nation on epilepsy, the Swaziland Epilepsy Organisation (SEO) yesterday honoured an invite by the prime minister's office to promote epilepsy awareness amongst its staff.

The prime minister's office offer a wellness program in an effort to promote employee health and productivity and reduce health related costs.

The topic of discussion on the day was 'Epilepsy and the workplace.'

Across the world, over 50 million people suffer from epilepsy, a condition too often misunderstood.

Speaking at the meeting, the National Director of the organisation, Mbusomuni



**ROUND TABLE:** The National Director of the Swaziland Epilepsy Organisation (SEO) Mbusomuni Mahlalela making his presentation while the staff of the prime minister's office listen attentively. (Pic: Lungelo Nkambule)

Mahlalela pointed out that having epilepsy does not necessarily stop someone

from doing the job they want, but it simply means there are some conditions which can affect them at work.

"Whether someone's epilepsy affects their work depends on whether they have seizures, what their seizures are like and how often they happen.

### Work

"It also depends on the type of work they do, and any risks that having seizures at work might bring," he said.

The Swaziland Occupational Safety and Health Act, 2001 states that employers are responsible for making sure that all their employees are safe at work and are protected from possible dangers to their health.

In this regard, therefore, employees are encouraged to disclose their epilepsy to the employer.

In turn, employers are expected to make reasonable adjustments to the work or environment for an employee with epilepsy.

### Aware

The staff members were made aware by the different presenters from the organisation that employers cannot legally refuse to give people with epilepsy a job just because of their condition.

However, they need to consider their epilepsy and what the job involves, to ensure their safety and that of other employees.

### Ideas

The SEO also highlighted how employers can accommodate ideas of cognitive impairment associated with epilepsy and ideas of sensory impairment associated with seizures as well how fellow employees can help a colleague when they have a seizure.

## EX-MINISTER HLOBI IN COURT OVER BANKER'S SACKING

Stories by Phesheya Kunene  
Industrial Court

**FORMER** minister Hlobisile Ndlovu allegedly submitted a voucher without a signature when she sent someone to withdraw money on her behalf.

This transpired in court yesterday in an industrial matter between the Swaziland Building Society (SBS) and its former employee Seth Nkambule.

Ndlovu was leading evidence as she appeared as a witness before Judge Dumsani Mazibuko at the Industrial Court.

While being cross-examined by Happy Mkhabela of Mkhabela attorneys, who are representing Nkambule, Ndlovu was informed that the voucher her personal assistant submitted at Swaziland Building Society was without her signature and she was also without a pass book.

Mkhabela told the court these submissions were also mentioned by the applicant in court.

However, Ndlovu dismissed them by saying she had signed the voucher and that she had done transactions before at the same institution without being asked to produce a pass book.

Ndlovu said the incident left her disappointed as she was desperate for the withdrawal. She said she even left her office and went to plead with the bank officer because she needed to withdraw E3 500 urgently.

This incident unfolded in May 11, 2009 at the Mbabane branch of Swaziland Building Society.

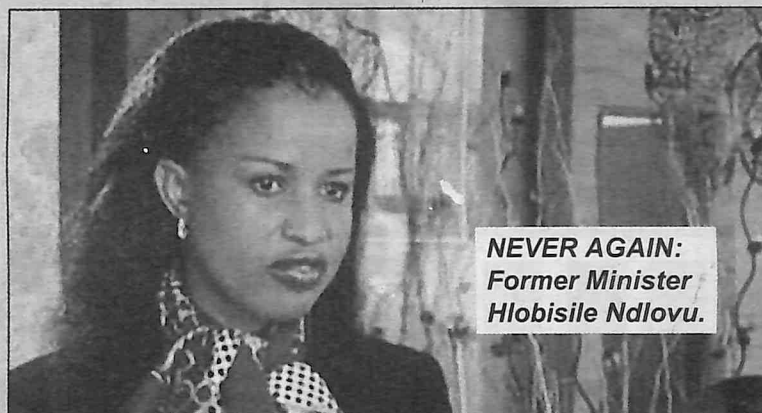
Nkambule acted as Branch Controller at the time and he was later fired for failure to follow fair and reasonable instructions of the employer.

Ndlovu further told the court she had an agreement with the institution to conduct her transactions without producing her pass book or identity card.

She said the incident disappointed her and made her take the decision to close her account at SBS.

"I did not mean to cause controversy but I closed it because I knew it would happen again hence I decided to close it and take my resources elsewhere. The incident motivated my decision as the

● Ndlovu further told the court she had an agreement with the institution to conduct her transactions without producing her pass book or identity card. She said the incident disappointed her and made her take the decision to close her account at SBS



**NEVER AGAIN:** Former Minister Hlobisile Ndlovu.

### ...I learnt my lesson - Hlobi

**THE** former minister told the court she learnt the hard way that having written agreements was vital when dealing with banks.

She said she would now make sure everything is written down each time she enters into an agreement.

She said she did not wish for things to happen the way they did. She said she was only desperate to withdraw money.

Ndlovu further told the court she

promise I was given was not being fulfilled on this particular day," she added.

Ndlovu also revealed that the male official she dealt with was cold and a man of one word.

She said he insisted that she should provide the required documents before the withdrawal could be processed.

"It was difficult to negotiate with him as he looked straight into my eyes and told me I should follow the process. I could not withdraw the money on that particular day," she said.

It is worth mentioning Ndlovu told the court she does not recall everything that transpired during the incident.

She told the court they held a civil conversation with the applicant.

informally complained about the poor service she was given to one of SBS managers, but outside the institution and she was advised to write a formal letter.

She told the court she does not remember if she did write the letter.

Ndlovu said when she opened the account she wanted to buy a house but due to the experience she decided to close the account and move her money to another institution.

Mkhabela then asked Ndlovu to produce the documents of the arrangement she had with Swaziland Building Society but the witness told the court there was none.

Mkhabela further asked if the institution used the set of rules availed for all clients when dealing with this particular case. Ndlovu said she was not aware as the arrangement strictly concerned her, not other clients.

She further said she did not know the rules of SBS. The two lawyers, Musa Sibandze, representing SBS and Happy Mkhabela, representing the applicant, asked for two weeks to finalise their written submissions. The court will then pass its judgement.

## Govt hails His Majesty on ALMA chairmanship

By Mbono Mdluli  
Mbabane

**GOVERNMENT** has hailed His Majesty King Mswati III for his new role as Chairman of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA).

Government Spokesperson Percy Simelane said this was a huge and befitting responsibility that the king has been entrusted with by African leaders.

"Our position as a country is that this is more than an honour, but a responsibility as well," Simelane said. He, however, stated that the country had so much faith in His Majesty and had no doubt that he would serve diligently in this position.

"We believe unflinchingly in the capabilities of His Majesty the King to serve diligently as he did when he was the chairman of the Preferential Trade Area (PTA), which is now COMESA," he said.

His Majesty is assuming such a position at a time when Swaziland is recognised for its fight against malaria. The country wants to eliminate this disease by 2020. Simelane, on that note, said the African Union (AU) stated in no uncertain terms that Swaziland was recognised for a sterling performance in the fight against malaria.

The King assumed this position on Monday during the 28th African Union Summit, which was held in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. The Chairmanship was assumed by Prime Minister Dr. Sibusiso Dlamini, who went there as the King's representative. His Majesty King Mswati III succeeds Chad President Idriss

Déby Itno as Chair of ALMA.

The announcement came at the ALMA Head of State and Government. ALMA presented its 2017 ALMA Awards for Excellence. Swaziland was one of seven countries recognised for significant achievements in malaria control and elimination over the last five years. Swaziland is one of three Southern African countries on track to eliminate malaria by 2020, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO). The Kingdom of Swaziland has made significant progress in scaling-up malaria control interventions, leading to a significant reduction in malaria cases in Swaziland. The Kingdom of Swaziland was the first country in Africa to introduce a malaria elimination scorecard to enhance tracking, accountability and action towards malaria elimination. WHO estimates that the country decreased malaria incidence and malaria mortality by more than 40 per cent between 2010 and 2015. Swaziland also reduced its reported number of malaria cases to 157, with five malaria-related deaths in 2015.

Swaziland is among Africa's leaders in terms of the proportion of the population protected with indoor residual spraying, with a reported coverage rate of 97 per cent.

Swaziland has also implemented a comprehensive surveillance strategy as part of its national control program. The Kingdom of Swaziland is chairing the Elimination 8 initiative (E8), which is working to strengthen regional coordination in order to achieve elimination in each of the E8 member countries and reduce cross-border malaria transmission.

### ABOUT ALMA

FOUNDED in 2009, ALMA is a groundbreaking coalition of African Heads of State and Government working across the Kingdom of Swaziland and regional borders to achieve a malaria-free Africa by 2030.

All African Union member countries are members of ALMA. The ALMA Scorecard for Accountability & Action is an important

tool, which tracks progress and drives action.

The ALMA Awards for Excellence celebrate exemplary leadership in malaria control and elimination efforts. The Awards are chosen by an independent selection committee comprised of leaders and experts in the areas of health, academia and the private sector.



# LAWYER DUMPS JUDGE MPENDULO

● Honourable Chief Justice and Commissioners, may I inform you that I have just received a faxed message from Judge Simelane's lawyer who informed me that he has since withdrawn his services as his legal representative

## COVER STORY

Stories by Sandile Nkambule  
High Court

IN a rather shocking move, suspended High Court Judge Mpendulo Simelane could not believe it when his lawyer dumped him 15 minutes before the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) could sit for his inquiry yesterday.

With both Judge Mpendulo and the initiator lawyer Zweli Jele not aware of the latest developments, they sat inside the conference room where the impeachment proceedings take place waiting for the JSC to start the day's proceedings.

It was not until the commission arrived

for the hearing, that initiator Jele stood up and informed them of the latest developments. Jele informed the commission that he received a faxed message at about 9:45am yesterday, exactly 15 minutes before the commission could sit from Judge Simelane's lawyer Siphso Simelane, to the effect that he was effectively withdrawing his services as the judge's legal representative.

### Message

"Honourable Chief Justice and Commissioners, may I inform you that I have just received a faxed message from Judge Simelane's lawyer who informed me that he has since withdrawn his services as his legal representative," Jele said much to the shock of the commission and those present at the hearing. It was at that point that the Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala who



**DUMPED: Suspended Judge Mpendulo Simelane.**

is the Chairman of the JSC asked Judge Simelane if he could shed some light on the position as regards his legal representation.

Judge Simelane confirmed that he too received a call from his attorney yesterday morning informing him of his move of withdrawing his services.

Such a withdrawal came at a critical stage as the initiator had already paraded his witnesses and had closed his case.

Simelane had indicated before the last adjournment that he would lead Judge Mpendulo from the witness stand and further parade his witnesses, a thing that was expected to have been done during yesterday's hearing.

## Judge Simelane to conduct own defense

WHEN called upon by the Chief Justice to shed some light on his next possible move following the latest developments, suspended High Court Judge Mpendulo Simelane said he will now conduct his own defence in the impeachment proceedings.

Simelane said he was not aware that his lawyer Siphso Simelane had withdrawn his services, at least not until the surprise call, 15 minutes before the hearing could resume yesterday morning.

Judge Simelane informed the commission that he now has no choice but to represent himself in the proceedings.

"Honourable Chief Justice, I have failed to secure legal services locally, I will now conduct my own defence in the matter, I even had problem before securing Simelane's services, as for his withdrawal, I am not sure why he did so," Judge Simelane submitted.

The withdrawal of lawyer Simelane came at a critical state where he (lawyer) had indicated last Wednesday before the commission adjourned that he will put his client (Judge Simelane) to the stand, and further parade witnesses.

Determined to continue without his lawyer yesterday, Judge Simelane told the Commission that they should proceed since he had no choice and was ready.

However, the Chief Justice indicated that it would not be proper and for the interest of justice, they would accord Judge Simelane an opportunity to secure the services of an attorney, or prepare himself in the event he eventually conducts his own defence.

**"Honourable Chief Justice, I have failed to secure legal services locally, I will now conduct my own defence in the matter, I even had a problem before securing Simelane's services, as for his withdrawal, I am not sure why he did so"**

## CJ castigates lawyer Siphso Simelane for his conduct

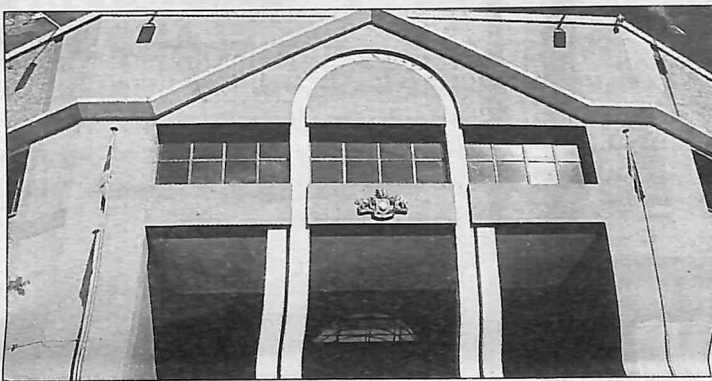
WITH Judge Mpendulo Simelane's Lawyer dumping him 15 minutes before the Commission could sit yesterday, the Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala castigated Siphso Simelane for his conduct.

The Chief Justice who is the Chairman of the Judicial Service Commission, said for lawyer Simelane to communicate with his client within the dying minutes of the start of the impeachment proceedings, is nothing but unbecoming to say the least.

"Mr Jele please call him and inform him that he should report here within an hour, the conduct

by Simelane (lawyer) is worrying, Mr Simelane (Judge) I will call him and express my concern in the manner he handled himself," the CJ said.

This was after the commission had advised Judge Simelane that the matter would be postponed to next Tuesday to allow him time to seek the services of an attorney or prepare himself, a thing that was done for the interest of justice. Lawyer Simelane had already argued the matter and was ready to put Judge Simelane on the stand and further parade other witnesses when he suddenly withdrew his services.



## JUDGE MPENDULO'S CHARGE SHEET

JUDGE Mpendulo Simelane is charged with abuse of office in presiding over the matter of former Chief Justice Michael Ramodibedi vs the Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA) and another, High Court case number 785 of 2013.

Justice Mpendulo Simeon Simelane is guilty of serious misbehaviour in that contrary to the integrity expected of a judicial officer, he knowingly and willfully presided over the matter involving the former CJ Ramodibedi vs the SRA, knowing fully well that he was precluded from presiding over the matter by virtue of the fact that he was conflicted

in that he had in his capacity as registrar of the High Court, made both oral and written representations to the SRA and its officials on behalf of the Ramodibedi on the same matter prior to the institution of the court proceedings.

By presiding over the matter, Justice Mpendulo Simelane acted in a manner contrary to his oath of office and with the sole intention of securing a judgment in favour of the Ramodibedi. This represented an act of abuse of office, which is serious misbehaviour within the contemplation of Section 158 (2) of the constitution of the Kingdom of Swaziland.

## HIV+ taxi man granted E15 000 bail

A taxi driver filed an urgent application at the High Court where he sought to be admitted to bail since he is a sickly person and under Anti Retroviral Treatment (ART).

\*Mabhadi Nyawo stated that the matter is of utmost urgency by virtue of the fact that he is a sickly person who is under ART and is employed as a taxi driver, hence his continued incarceration may render him unemployed and the fact that his liberty and freedom is at stake.

Nyawo together with Mduduzi Cedusizi Mdluli are currently on remand and kept at Zakhele Remand Centre.

The two were arrested for being found in possession of 43.059 kilograms of dagga while at LaMgabhi area near Bhunya.

Nyawo yesterday filed the urgent application before High Court Judge Justice Mzwandile Fakudze.

According to Nyawo, on or about January 22 2017, he together with Mdluli, were arrested by the Royal Swaziland Police (RSP) based at Bhunya for contravening the Pharmacy Act and they appeared at the Manzini Magistrate's Court two days later.

When making their first remand appearance, Nyawo said they were advised by the magistrate to move their application at the High Court since the Magistrate's Court had no jurisdiction to grant same.

"We wish to submit that we did not commit the offence alleged and also we were cooperative with the Police investigation and during trial we will maintain our plea of not guilty, I wish to state that I did not commit the offence," he said.

He further stated in his affidavit that on the afternoon of the day of their arrest, he received a call from a certain man while at Luve who said he was Sifiso and requested for taxi services as he together with his friend wanted to be picked up at Bhunya. He said he eventually found the three men at Bhunya, all of whom were carrying three bags with each of them carrying his. However, along the way, one of the men received a phone call and they later asked to be dropped off near the bus stop since the person who was to later pick them was

on his way. While they were parked at the bus stop, a police vehicle approached and he was ordered to stop his vehicle and two of the three men he was with bolted out from the car leaving him with only one and that was when the police arrested them. Upon searching his vehicle the police found the three dagga bags and was advised that they had been arrested for being in illegal possession of dagga.

"It is my submission that my continued incarceration has serious repercussions to me as I am a sickly person who is under retroviral treatment and employed as a taxi driver and I stand to lose my job, my condition will worsen because of the conditions the cells at the remand are in, my life is at great risk and I do not have a spare one," he submitted.

He further stated that he is a Swazi citizen with deep emotional and family roots in the country and undertook not to demean himself in any manner prejudicial to the interest of justice.

Appearing for the applicant in the urgent bail application was Lawyer Maqhawe Dlamini from M.V Dlamini Attorneys.

Judge Fakudze admitted Nyawo to bail fixed at E15 000.

He was ordered to pay E3 000 in cash while the rest will be in a form of surety. Nyawo together with his co-accused Mduduzi Cedusizi Mdluli both aged 24 and 23 respectively are charged with contravening Section 12(1) (a) as read with Section 12(1) (c) of the Pharmacy Act 38 of 1929 as amended.

They are alleged to have while at LaMgabhi area, acting jointly in furtherance of a common purpose and not being a holder of a permit or licence to possess dagga, did wrongfully and intentionally possess 43.059 kilograms of a poison or a potentially harmful drug while driving an orange Honda Fit registered ASD 179 CM. By the time this report was compiled yesterday afternoon it could not be ascertained whether the two had paid the bail or not.

**NB: \*Not his real name to protect family members from being stigmatised because of his status.**

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# MAN SURVIVES AS CAR IS DRAGGED BY TRUCK

By Lungelo Nkambule  
Mbabane

A 41-year-old man stared death in the face when the car he was driving was dragged by a truck.

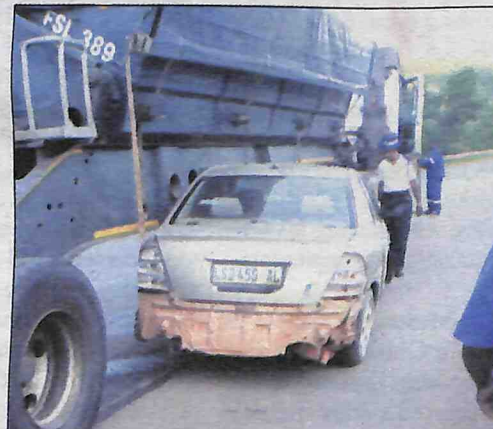
Dumsani Magagula was on his way to Nkoyoyo from Ngwenya to get chicken feed when the car he was driving was dragged by a truck he was trying to overtake on the curvy MR3 road.

The visibly shaken Magagula said he had just finished overtaking an ambulance when he saw a truck right in front of him.

"I had just finished overtaking an ambulance then just around the corner, there was a truck on the slow lane," he said. Magagula said when he was about two metres away, he realised that the truck was moving onto his lane and he tried



to apply breaks. "When I tried to slow down, I lost control of my car as it bounced off the guard rail before hitting the truck which was almost completely on my lane," he narrated.



Magagula said he then noticed something on the truck had hooked onto his car and he was being dragged. The truck driver on the other hand, blamed Magagula for the accident. Allen Nxumalo attributed the accident to over speeding by Magagula.

"One minute there were three cars overtaking, so when they had overtaken me I decided to overtake another car in front of me," he said.

He said when he was in the process of moving onto the fast lane, Magagula came at full speed and by then it was too late for him to go back to the slow lane.



"When he tried slowing down, he lost control and bumped into me," he said.

Constable Jerry Magongo who was found at the scene said they were yet to investigate the accident.

"It was a combination of driving at a speed and negligence. However, we are still going to investigate," he said.

He suspected the truck driver didn't check his mirrors as much as he should have while Magagula was speeding.



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- Manage and promote positive employee wellness culture

#### APPLICATIONS:

Written applications submitted on or before the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017, together with comprehensive Curriculum Vitae, proof of academic qualifications and relevant recent references should be e-mailed to: [careers@sec.co.sz](mailto:careers@sec.co.sz) or addressed to:

The General Manager Corporate Services  
Swaziland Electricity Company  
P.O. Box 258,  
Mbabane, H100

If you have not received any feedback within one month of the closing date, please consider your application unsuccessful.

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Further discussions shall be held with the potential preferred supplier, and should you not receive feedback within 2 weeks of the due date, consider your application unsuccessful.

For further details contact Mndeni Shabangu at +268 2416 5360 or e-mail: [mndeni.shabangu@suninternational.com](mailto:mndeni.shabangu@suninternational.com)



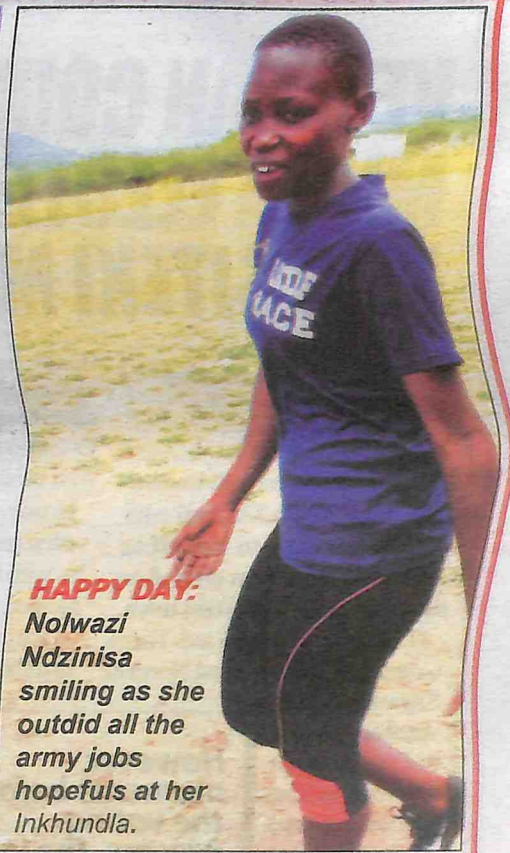
# ASPIRING SOLDIERS RUN FOR IT



**WINNERS:** Mafutseni Indvuna Yenkundla Tsotsho posing with the area's winners in the USDF recruitment Nolwazi Ndzinisa and Mhlanganiso Makhubela at the constituency yesterday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



**GIVING INSTRUCTIONS:** Senior Officer in charge of the Manzini Region recruitment, Jeffrey Simelane announcing the two winners for the Mafutseni Inkhundla.



**HAPPY DAY:** Nolwazi Ndzinisa smiling as she outdid all the army jobs hopefuls at her Inkhundla.



**DREAM SHUTTERED:** One of the aspiring soldiers in a state of disappointment as she did not make it to the top.



**LADIES FIRST:** Some of the job hopefuls who however did not make it to the top.



**TAKING ORDERS:** Hopefuls taking instructions from one of the officers during the operation.



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## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS 2016/17

Swaziland Standards Authority is a Category A Public Enterprise, established by the Standards and Quality Act No.10 of 2003. The Authority was established to provide standardization and quality services to both the public and private sector. The Swaziland Standards Authority (SWASA) invites sealed proposals for:

**Request for Proposal Tender No. 12 of 2016/17 - Corporate Governance Training for Council and Management**

Interested tenderers meeting the eligibility requirements and qualifications criteria stated in the tender documents, can obtain The 'Request for Proposals' document from the reception area of the offices of the Swaziland Standards Authority, which is situated at the 2nd Floor Smithco Building, King Mswati 111 Avenue, Matsapha. Tenderers are advised to pay E300.00 through the Accounts Office.

The following should be attached to the tenders:

- Company Profile with references
- Valid Copy of Trading License
- Valid current Tax Clearance Certificate
- Certificate of Incorporation and Form J (Stamped by the Registrar of Companies)
- Labour Compliance Certificate (with the approved signatures)
- SNPF Compliance Certificate
- SRA Registration and TIN

Completed tenders should be delivered in a sealed envelope before close of business on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017 to the:

**The Tender Secretary  
Swaziland Standards Authority  
P.O. Box 1399  
MATSAPHA**

The Authority does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any other tender.

Doc 12973



# VETERAN COUNCILLOR MVILA ELECTED NEW SITEKI MAYOR

By Wonderboy Dlamini  
Siteki

**OUTSPOKEN** and well-known Councillor Mvila Dlamini who sometimes refers to himself as 'Mugabe' has been elected as the new Mayor of Siteki town.

Dlamini, who is Ward Three Councillor, has replaced Norman Sigwane who was voted out of office in December. It was reported that councillors passed a vote of no confidence against Sigwane after accusing him of being unprofessional when handling internal matters.

This was after Sigwane walked out of a meeting when councillors were seeking clarity on some issues regarding the funding of projects.

Following a number of postponements, the councillors even-

tually held the by-elections yesterday. Dlamini's name was submitted together with that of Ward Two Councillor Mzobanzi Dlamini who is also an attorney.

However, moments before the voting process, the latter announced his withdrawal from the race which handed Dlamini (Mvila) victory.

Dlamini, who is also the eldest member of the council, has served as a councillor for the past 25 years (in five consecutive terms), and this saw him preferring to be called as 'Mugabe' during his jovial moments.

Town Clerk Sithembile Simelane confirmed Dlamini's election to the post of mayor. It is worth mentioning, however, that Dlamini will

only hold office for the next three months as the local government is expected to conduct national elections upon the end of government's calendar.

**However, moments before the voting process, the latter announced his withdrawal from the race which handed Dlamini (Mvila) victory.**

## MARATHON RUNNERS OUTSHINE 13 OTHER HOPEFULS

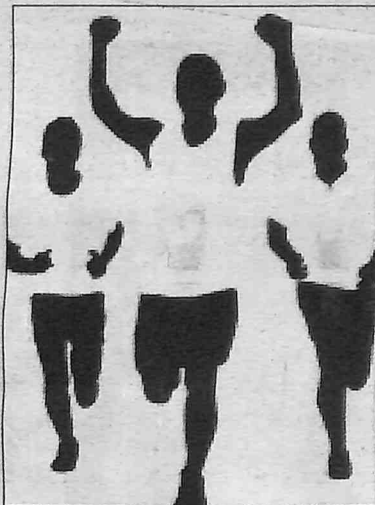
By Samukelisiwe Ginindza  
Mafutseni

**TWO Mafutseni Inkhundla youths outshone 13 other hopefuls to win top spots during the ongoing Umbutfo Swaziland Defence Force (USDF) regional recruitment exercise.**

The two, Nolwazi Ndzinisa and Mhlangano Makhubela are both marathon runners specialising in 10km and 21km respectively.

Makhubela, who is also a security guard, said he has always loved the army and wished to join the force as a soldier. "I am happy to have made the cut because even though I am familiar with long distance running, it is not easy to finish that distance at the time set," Makhubela said.

According to USDF Public Relations Officer Madoda Mkhathwa, the time set to complete the 3.2km distance was 11 to 14 minutes, followed by push-ups and sit-ups. It was a sorry sight for the remaining hopefuls when the two were announced victors, as they were



all keen to join the army.

Mkhathwa further revealed that the two and all the others who are still to be recruited have other trainings they still have to undergo.

"This was the first stage of training, they still have to go under medical check-up and other physical fitness training, which in most cases is where most fail but we are hopeful that all those who have passed the first stage

will embark well on the journey that awaits them and probably only drop out because of their own willingness," Madoda said.

There will only be two (male and female) recruits from each of the 16 Manzini Inkhundlas and the last recruitment was in 2013.

People came in their numbers at Mafutseni but most only came to be spectators than participants. There were also emergency medical officers on standby to attend to those who would encounter problems including fainting. "We are lucky that the sun was not that hot, so we were able to all finish the race without anyone fainting," one of the participants said.

Indvuna Yenkhundla Bandile Tshotsho applauded the youth who came forth as they did not only make the Inkhundla proud but also showed dedication and desire to join the army.

"They showed respect to their elders, which is something we Swazis are known for, that is a good sign for good things that a yet to follow them, everywhere they go," Tshotsho said.

## UNISWA mourns lecturer, student deaths

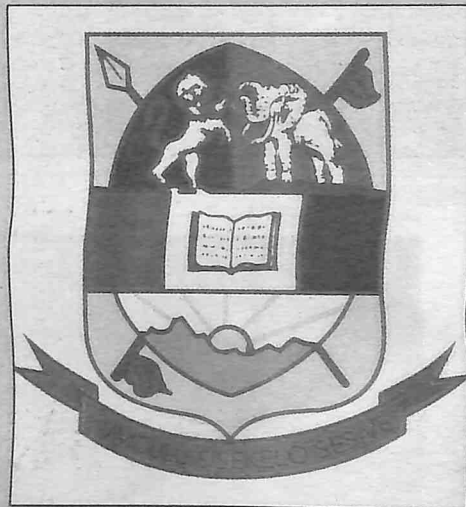
By Sifiso Nhlabatsi  
Manzini

**UNIVERSITY of Swaziland students are mourning the loss of one of their own who was involved in a car accident over the weekend.**

Khetsani Vilane, who was doing Bachelor of Sciences, was among the 18 people who were involved in an accident which saw a van overturn, killing three at Single Tree in Nhlanguano.

It was reported that Vilane was from a traditional ceremony together with some of his relatives when the accident occurred.

UNISWA Student Representative Council Secretary at Kwaluseni campus, Sphehile Simelane confirmed their colleague's death yesterday. Simelane said it was a sad day for the whole of UNISWA to receive such devastating news. The secretary asked other students to join the Vilane family, friends and classmates in mourning the loss of their loved one. He said information about funeral arrangements will be communicated to the other students as soon as the family has releases the



date. The institution has suffered a double tragedy as a lecturer who was in the faculty of Social Sciences also passed away. Dr Patrick Mkhonta is said to have passed away last week.

University of Swaziland Registrar Dr Salebona Simelane confirmed the passing away of the lecturer, saying although he is out of the country, he has received information that one of their lecturers has passed on.

## SCHOOLS HAVE ENOUGH FOOD - GOVT

By Gugu Simelane  
Mbabane

**Director in the Ministry of Education and Training Dr Sibongile Mtshali said food is available in school despite reports that school pupils are starving since government has not provided schools with food supplies for the first term.**

Mtshali said the schools' feeding programme, known as *zondle*, should have enough food.

She stated that when schools closed for third term last year the ministry of education and training delivered food to all schools to make sure that when schools open in January they would have enough food until government delivered the next batch for the first term.

She said schools that are on this programme

have to make do with whatever stock of food they had left before they closed for the festive season, close to two months ago.

Those that have far too little or nothing must hang on until the next delivery of food comprising of beans, mealie-meal and rice.

She said since schools opened just last week, they must give the ministry up until next week to supply them with the food.

She said in cases where principals were complaining about *zondle* having run out there must have been foul play. "We are aware of those instances where you find that during the end of the school term some staff members then portion the food amongst themselves," she said.

She said school authorities know that they must not waste any food resources. She said the ministry nutritionists were on top of the matter.



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#### AGRIBUSINESS ADVISOR AND HORTICULTURE SPECIALIST

**Primary purpose of the position:** The incumbent will provide agribusiness and horticulture training to farmers in rural Swaziland and link those farmers to lucrative and sustainable markets. The successful candidate will also provide business skills and financial literacy training to motivated community members of select chiefdoms.

She/he will assist TechnoServe contracted consultants to undertake value chain analyses to develop and update Industry Strategic Plans (ISPs) and present these to various stakeholders as necessary.

**Qualifications:** 3 - 6 years of relevant agribusiness experience; A degree in one of the following fields (agriculture, agricultural economics, agronomy, horticulture, soil science); Proficiency in Microsoft Office suite; Fluency in English and siSwati; Excellent facilitation, presentation, and organisational skills; Experience training rural farmers or entrepreneurs is preferred. Ability to understand and analyze business strategy, interpret financial statements, and develop budgets and work plans is preferred.

**Responsibilities:** Execute program, conduct entrepreneurship and horticulture training and identify value chains suitable for small holder farmers. Motivate, mentor and provide technical assistance to rural farmers, SME- and micro-entrepreneurs while working collaboratively with partner organizations. Administrative responsibilities include report writing and monitoring and evaluation functions.

#### SHORT TERM HORTICULTURE CONSULTANT - 3 MONTHS

**Primary purpose of the position:** By combining specialist horticultural knowledge with business acumen, the incumbent will identify and advise on suitable value chains, crops and agribusiness ventures appropriate for rural farmers, youth and women.

As well as technical advice, the role will involve business consultancy, updating existing Industry Strategic Plans (ISPs) and researching opportunities in additional value chains.

**Qualifications:** Minimum 15 years of combined relevant agribusiness and consulting experience; Advanced degree in any one of the following fields (agriculture, agricultural economics, agronomy, horticulture, soil science).

**Responsibilities:** Review and update existing ISPs and make recommendations for suitability for rural farmers. Provide expert opinion on potential value chains and suitability of the selected project sites for production capabilities.

To apply for these positions please email a cover letter, CV (not to exceed two pages), indication of salary history, and earliest available start date to [JThring@ins.org](mailto:JThring@ins.org) by 5pm Friday February 10th, 2017 Only short listed candidates will be contacted. Female applicants are encouraged to apply. TechnoServe is an equal opportunity employer.





# MANZINI NEWS

Swazi Observer, Wednesday February 1, 2017

Read The Swazi Observer every Wednesday and get exciting news about Manzini...  
...Interact with the Author on [pro@mzcitycouncil.sz](mailto:pro@mzcitycouncil.sz) or 2505 2481 or 7611 4191

## MANZINI COUNCIL FENCES ZAKHELE SPORTS GROUND, USERS SING PRAISES

The conversation around it started during the Municipal Council of Manzini's Integrated Development Plan (IDP) feedback meeting held last year. Today results are evident.

This refers to the busy Zakhele sports ground which the town council is in the process of fencing in response to a request that was made by residents during one of the IDP feedback meetings. All this means is: never underestimate the power of attending and expressing your service delivery needs in these ward-to-ward meetings.

Next time the council extends invitations to attend them, make sure you do.

Your service delivery need might be met! Well, to some, the fact that the facility has been fenced using veld span fence instead of pallisade, might come across as insignificant, but wait until you read the entire article; that is when you will begin to realise the impact that the fencing project has had on the users



**SECURITY MATTERS:** Mduduzi Nkambule, TSC secretary.

of the facility.

Council hopes that all community

members will keep an eye on the fence and guard against theft. *Enjoy the read.*

## WE'LL NOW BE SAFE FROM CAR ACCIDENTS – COP



**I'M HAPPY:** Police Officer, Khulani Mabuza, who was found at the sports ground, playing football with his colleagues and friends.

Manzini News took a drive to the Zakhele sports ground yesterday morning at around 8am and a dozen police officers and community members were already playing football at the facility.

This has become a norm for this group of health and fitness enthusiasts.

Khulani Mabuza, one of the police officers, said: "This is something that we do every morning because we want to keep fit and healthy."

The sports ground is in high demand. Hence, we always make it a point that by 9 or 10am we are done in order to make way for others.

We are so grateful to the Municipal

Council of Manzini for fencing the facility. Unavailability of the fence was exposing us to the risk of being hit by vehicles as we would often sprint out of the pitch to collect soccer balls from the nearby road. The road is in good condition, and over-speeding is not uncommon. The fence will go a long way towards minimising the risk of traffic accidents.

We also greatly appreciate availability of the football field.

It is used by thousands of people; even schools. We are sure that the council, has good plans for the facility.

In the future, it might be upgraded to a fully-fledged stadium".



**NO PAIN, NO GAIN:** These gentlemen were yesterday found at the Zakhele sports ground sweating it out as early as 8am.



**FOR THE LOVE OF SPORTS:** Machinery was found fixing the Zakhele sports field.

## 'INDEED, MANZINI COUNCIL LISTENS, TAKES ACTION'

Mbongeni Simelane, founder of the Ishibobo Academy; a non-profit making entity that brings together about 150 youths from Zakhele and surrounding areas, keeping them busy through sport, commended council for putting up the fence.

He said: "We've lost about 50 soccer balls as a result of the field being unfenced. Mind you, we only survive through donations. Before the fencing project, the soccer balls used to roll to the nearby road (Dr Hynd road – from Manzini Nazarene to the Zakhele Remand Centre), and would be hit and damaged by speeding vehicles. Some residents may have thought I was crazy when I brought a bagful of damaged soccer balls to an IDP feedback meeting that

had been convened by council and stated my case. I wanted them to comprehend the magnitude of the challenge. I'm happy that council has proved to be a good listener. In fact, she has not only listened but also taken positive action.

I also thank God because all good things come from Him. Next time, I will not hesitate to attend community meetings because the council has demonstrated that it takes our municipal service delivery needs seriously. As residents, we are well aware of the economic hardships that confront council as a result of failure pay rates by some property owners. But we are happy that she does make an effort to meet our service delivery needs with the little that she gets".



**GRATEFUL:** Mbongeni Simelane, founder of the Ishibobo Academy which keeps close to 150 children busy through sports at the sports ground.

## OH, YES! MANZINI COUNCIL HAS DONE WELL! – MRFA

The Manzini Regional Football Association (MRFA) has also applauded the Municipal Council of Manzini for fencing the Zakhele sports ground.

Sipho Dlamini, the Treasurer of Manzini Regional Football Association, conceded that teams had been losing soccer balls to speeding vehicles on the nearby road. He also concurred with other stakeholders that users of the facility had previously been exposed to road accidents. He therefore, said the fencing would help efficiently manage game time as play-

ers would not to run out of the pitch to collect soccer balls as they would be contained by the fence.

He added: "All in all, we really appreciate what Manzini council has done at Zakhele."

It shows that she is not only concerned about building roads and collecting waste, but is also passionate about the social aspect of service delivery.

We are also hoping that in future, the entire facility will be comprehensively upgraded. Perhaps, we can all make a bit of money thereafter".

**GOOD WORK:** Manzini Regional Football Association Treasurer, Sipho Dlamini praised Manzini Council for the good move.





● They do not understand why police arrest them because the bus stop is situated next to Shoprite and there were people coming from the shops to board kombis and as Public Service Vehicle drivers they have to stop for those people.



### TENDERS FOR PROVISION OF TRANSPORT SERVICES TO THE ROYAL VILLAS HOTEL

The Royal Villas Hotel is inviting suitably qualified companies to tender for the provision of staff transport (between Mbabane, Ezulwini and Lobamba) from the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 - 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

The written proposals should be addressed to the following address and be received by 16:00hrs on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017 sealed and marked **TENDER TO SUPPLY:**

The General Manager  
The Royal Villas Hotel  
P.O. Box 511  
Ezulwini

#### CONDIT.ONS

1. No faxed Tender will be accepted
2. Tender submitted after closing date will not be considered
3. The quoted price must be guaranteed for a full year from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 - 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018. A sum of E300.00 (Three hundred emalangen) to be paid on collection of Tender application forms from the Royal Villas Hotel Reception.

# DRIVERS, CONDUCTORS

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi  
Manzini

THE small town of Malkerns came to a standstill yesterday when kombi drivers and conductors clashed with Malkerns traffic police officers over pick up and drop off zones in the small town.

School going pupils and the public were left stranded as kombis ferrying people from Mankayane, Luyengo Malkerns and surrounding areas were grounded for the better part of yesterday as the drivers went on an all day strike.

The Operational Support Services Unit (OSSU), which is a police military wing, was called to disperse the rowdy conductors.

Information gathered is that the drivers and conductors are complaining that traffic police officers do not want them to use the bus stop at Malkerns, next to Shoprite Supermarket as a pick up point for passengers.

The drivers said Malkerns being a small town made it complex for them, thus they pick up and drop passengers at the designated area.

However, they said whenever they stop there they end up being handed tickets by police officers who tell them that they are breaking the law.

The angry drivers and conductors stated that whenever they stopped at the



**BLACK:** The angry public transport operators blocked all public transport vehicles that continued with business as usual ignoring a strike action at Malkerns. (Pics: Mlonzi Mpanza)

spot police pounce and chase them away.

#### Arrest

They do not understand why police arrest them because the bus stop is situated next to Shoprite and there were people coming from the shops to board kombis and as Public Service Vehicle drivers they have to stop for those people.

One driver said the police officers expect them to just leave the public stranded because they are not supposed to pick them up at that spot.

They also called for the removal of a traffic officer whom they are accusing of boasting that he was going to deal with Public Service Vehicle operators.

#### Language

The drivers and conductors even alleged that the officer used vulgar language when addressing them.

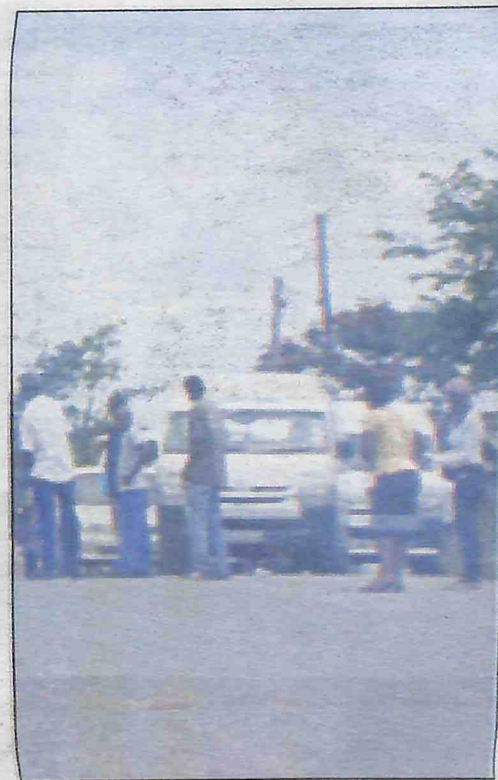
Kombis which tried to pass Malkerns with passengers were blocked and grounded as the operators made it clear that no one will work until their issue was resolved.

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**STRANDED:** Commuters were seen by the sides of the road as they had no transport to take them to their different destinations.

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# BLOCK ROAD IN MALKERNS



**STANDSTILL:** Public transport vehicles parked at Luyengo during the strike by operators yesterday.



## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST DESIGN OF CLIMATE SMART BUILDINGS

TENDER NO. : NDMA 2017/004  
TENDER NAME : DESIGN OF CLIMATE SMART BUILDINGS

Proposals are hereby invited from Registered Architects and Quantity Surveyors for the development of designs for climate smart and sustainable buildings.

### EXPRESSIONS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE FOLLOWING:

- Company profile
- Tax Compliance Certificate.
- Trading License.
- Construction Industry Certificate
- Workmen Compensation certificate
- Technical Proposal
- Financial Proposal
- Trade references (letters)

All interested service providers must collect the Tender Document at the National Disaster Management Agency Offices upon payment of a non-refundable E400 deposited at: Ned bank, Mbabane Branch, **A/C: 20000 7611 77**

Expressions must be deposited in the tender box in a sealed envelope clearly showing the project name and contract number not later than **1200 Noon, Friday 24 February 2017** at:

National Disaster Management Agency,  
Head Quarters Reception  
RHUS Office Park, Lot 195, Karl Grant Street  
Mbabane

### Terms & Conditions

- NDMA does not bind itself to accept the lowest
- NDMA does not bind itself to award the tenders
- No faxed tenders will be accepted

## REQUEST FOR TENDERS

Proposals are hereby invited from registered companies, who have the capacity to assist the National Disaster Management Agency with the supply of goods and services within the following categories.

**CATEGORY A**  
TENDER NO. : NDMA 2017/001  
TENDER NAME : SUPPLY OF FOOD COMMODITIES

**CATEGORY B**  
TENDER NO. : NDMA 2017/002  
TENDER NAME : SUPPLY OF BUILDING MATERIAL

**CATEGORY C**  
TENDER NO. : NDMA 2017/003  
TENDER NAME : SUPPLY OF TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS SERVICES

**CATEGORY D**  
TENDER NO. : NDMA 2017/006  
TENDER NAME : SUPPLY OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

### PROPOSALS MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING:

- Company profile
- Tax Compliance Certificate.
- Trading License.
- Workmen Compensation certificate
- Financial Proposal
- Trade references (letters)

All interested service providers must collect the Tender Document at the National Disaster Management Agency Offices upon payment of a non-refundable E400 deposited at: Ned Bank, Mbabane Branch, **A/C: 20000 7611 77**

Proposals must be deposited in the tender box in a sealed envelope clearly showing the Tender Name and contract number not later than **1200 Noon, Friday 24 February 2017** at:

National Disaster Management Agency,  
Head Quarters Reception  
RHUS Office Park, Lot 195, Karl Grant Street  
Mbabane

### Terms & Conditions:

- No Faxed tenders will be accepted
- NDMA does not bind itself to accept the lowest
- NDMA does not bind itself to award the tenders
- Quoted prices must be guaranteed for the year up-to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST REGISTRATION IN NDMA SUPPLIER BASE FOR 2017/18

TENDER NO. : NDMA 2017/005  
TENDER NAME : Registration in NDMA Supplier Base  
CLOSING DATE : 03 March 2017

Proposals are hereby invited from suitable qualified and interested registered companies for the supply of NDMA requirements in the following categories.

- Tents, Tarpaulin and Sponges
- Office Stationery, toners & Cartridges
- Computers and Printers
- Branding & Designs
- Accommodation & Conferences
- General maintenance

### SUPPLIERS MUST SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING TO BE REGISTERED:

- Company profile
- Tax Compliance Certificate.
- Trading License.
- Workmen Compensation certificate
- Trade references (letters)

Expressions must be deposited in the tender box in a sealed envelope clearly showing the project name and contract number not later than **1200 Noon, Friday 03 March 2017** at:

National Disaster Management Agency,  
Head Quarters Reception  
RHUS Office Park, Lot 195, Karl Grant Street  
Mbabane

### Terms & Conditions

- Quotations shall be requested from suppliers who qualify
- NDMA does not bind itself to accept the lowest
- NDMA does not bind itself to award the tenders

## Public Service Pensions Fund

PUBLIC SERVICE PENSIONS FUND  
P.O. BOX 4469, MBABANE  
Tel: 2411 9000 / 2404 8740/3 www.pspf.co.sz  
TOLL FREE: 800 2401

## PUBLIC NOTICE/ SATISO DEATH GRATUITY DISTRIBUTION BY PUBLIC SERVICE PENSION FUND

The Public Service Pensions Fund invites the following deceased members' families to meetings to be held at the following scheduled times and dates at the Pensions Building, along Mhlambanyatsi Road. Family members are requested to bring certified copies of the following: proof of identity, death certificate, birth certificates, marriage certificate(s) and any other relevant documents.

Lihhovisi letemhlala phansi (PSPF) licela tihlobo tanaba labalandzelako kutsi tivele enhloko hhovisi ngalamalanga netikhatsi letilandzelako.

Tiyacelwa kutsi tiphatse sitifiketi sekufa semufi, titifiketi tekutalwa tebantwana bemufi, titifiketi tekutsatsana, nabomatiwe bebuve (P.I.N.) ID nato tonkhe tincwadzi letingasita.

The following deceased members' families are invited to attend a meeting on the following dates:

### MONDAY 06 FEBRUARY 2017

Name of Deceased	Ministry	Empl. No.	Date of Death	Time
1. Ntshalintshali Sandile Sizwe	Correctional	9110302	08.12.2016	09h00
2. Dlamini-Munroe Jabulile L.	Treasury	3959518	28.11.2016	09h45
3. Gadlela Mandlenkosi G.	King's Office	4313641	04.12.2016	10h30
4. Ginindza Simon Mfanimpela	Defence	7188060	07.12.2016	11h15
5. Dlamini Sifiso Anson	Defence	4676254	19.12.2016	12h00
6. Dlamini Musa Zane	Police	2495402	23.12.2016	14h15

### TUESDAY 07 FEBRUARY 2017

Name of Deceased	Ministry	Empl. No.	Date of Death	Time
1. Dlamini Walter Thembela	Works	5237216	21.12.2016	09h00
2. Masuku Lindiwe Cleopatra	Police	8835985	19.11.2016	09h45
3. Mkhonta Sibusiso M.	Correctional	2620439	23.12.2016	10h30
4. Zulu Sindi Gcinaphi	Police	300015458	18.12.2016	11h15
5. Mngomezulu Moses M.	S.N.T.	2253819	26.12.2016	12h00
6. Ndlovu Ronnie Phindamandla	Defence	8856771	22.12.2016	14h15

### WEDNESDAY 08 FEBRUARY 2017

Name of Deceased	Ministry	Empl. No.	Date of Death	Time
1. Shongwe Jamaica Masiza	Health	8642877	31.12.2016	09h00
2. Dlamini Themba Vusi S.	Health	5195637	22.12.2016	09h45
3. Dube-Groening Andile Ruth	Education	6873660	15.11.2016	10h30
4. Dlamini Sylvia Nompumelelo	Health	3497421	08.01.2017	11h15
5. Motsa Gwen Nomthandazo	Education	3934694	24.12.2016	12h00
6. Simelane Sicelo Freddy	Education	7250220	01.01.2017	14h15

### THURSDAY 09 FEBRUARY 2017

Name of Deceased	Ministry	Empl. No.	Date of Death	Time
1. Shabangu-Dlamini Thobile P.	Health	300040003	09.12.2016	09h00
2. Simelane-Magugula Elizabeth	Education	9271256	16.12.2016	09h45
3. Nkambule Richman Velaphi	Education	7407783	30.12.2016	10h30
4. Nyamane Duduzile Dumsile	Education	2526012	22.12.2016	11h15
5. Nobela Gcinaphi Catherine	Education	4676120	27.12.2016	12h00
6. Nhleko Bheki Ncane	Works	8944485	05.01.2017	14h15

For more information please contact Nothando Dlamini at 2404-8740/3 or our Toll Free Number 8002401 (order # )



# HUGE INTEREST IN US EMBASSY SCHOLARSHIPS

By Gugu Simelane  
Mbabane

A number of Swazis have shown interest in the scholarships that were announced by the US Embassy over three weeks ago.

Swazis from all walks of life have since last week, been flooding the US Embassy to attend briefings on the scholarships up for grabs.

The scholarships available are the J. William Fulbright Scholarships and the Hubert H. Humphrey Scholarship for 2017-2018.

Both scholarships attract citizens from all over the world.

The Humphrey Fellowship Programme attracts accomplished mid-level professionals from around the world, to the United States for a year of study and professional development.

Senior Cultural Affairs Assistant and Education USA Advisor, Sharon Martins, speaking during a presentation held at the Mbabane National Library yesterday, said the Hubert H.



**ATTENTIVE:** Hopefuls listening attentively during the J. William Fulbright Scholarships briefing conducted by Sharon Martins, US Embassy Senior Cultural Affairs Assistant. (Courtesy pic)

Humphrey Fellowships were awarded competitively to candidates with excellent academic and professional qualification as well as a commit-

ment to public services.

She emphasized that the fellowships would be awarded to people who, amongst other specifi-

cations, are public service oriented and committed to the development of Swaziland.

"The US Embassy encourages people who will go to the US and get the experience and come back to Swaziland. We do not want people who want to go to US and never want to come back. The fellowship is a year of professional development in the US, a chance to develop oneself in their career path," she said.

## Fellowships

Martins revealed that the fellowships are available in Law and Human Rights, Trafficking in Persons Policy and Prevention, Economic Development, HIV/AIDS Policy and prevention, Journalism, STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Math), Education, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Public Administration, Environment Management, Gender Equality/Rights and Public Health.

Martins said the fellowship is a ten month non-degree academic study and related professional experience in the US for mid-career professionals.

"There will also be a one month professional affiliation, where students will choose the field they want to be attached to," she said.

She further revealed that the applicants of the fellowships will only start in August 2018. "The deadline for the applications is March 31.

Between that time and February 2018 there will be a series of interviews and test that will finally reveal those who will attain the Fellowship. By February 2018 there final results will be out," she said.

Stories by Wonderboy Dlamini  
Siteki

IT would seem Lubombo Regional Commissioner Musa 'Magic' Zwane has

finally been able to use his magic wand to broker peace between aggrieved public transport operators and the traffic police depart-

## Lubombo RC brokers peace between drivers, traffic cops

ment of Siteki.

He brought them to a round table to discuss their misunderstandings. The public transport operators have been aggrieved over the issuing of driving permits by the traffic department which they said has been an almost impossible exercise over the past few months.

The drivers were accusing some officers who are responsible for issuing permits of frustrating them whenever they went there to obtain same. They alleged that the officers would demand documents which are irrelevant to the requirements of obtaining a permit.

They reported their grievances to the assistant commissioner last week during a meeting which was held at the Lubombo regional headquarters.

Zwane was reported to have promised to work on the operators' grievances with the intention to find an amicable resolution.

Yesterday, the transport owners and drivers were back at the regional headquarters to get feedback from Zwane. Zwane reported that the matter had been discussed at length with the officers who were being accused by the operators. According to Zwane, it transpired that there were minor misunderstandings between the operators and the officers in charge.

It was also disclosed that the police had only engaged on an operation which is aimed at ensuring that only deserving persons are issued with public permits, something which is also in line with preventing unnecessary road accidents. The two parties therefore, managed to reach amicable solutions which also include that they would now convene periodic meetings where grievances and other issues would be discussed and managed. Secretary of the Siteki branch of the Local Kombi and Mini-bus Association, Mpiyakhe Shongwe said their meeting with the RC was fruitful as they managed to have a breakthrough.

Shongwe further disclosed that a number of drivers had already reported that they had since been able to obtain their permits after the first meeting which was held last week.

When reached for comment, Police Chief Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba said they have always encouraged dialogue as a way of solving any kind misunderstanding between the public and police. Mamba said police were happy to note that the public transport operators took the right step and reported their grievances which were eventually resolved amicably.

## Transport operators threaten road blockade

**WHILE** transport operators are being commended for choosing dialogue to solve their grievances over the issuing of public permits, the opposite is more likely to be witnessed today as kombi owners have threatened to block the Lukhula-Big Bend road over the transportation of U-Tech pupils by Lokuhle Bus Service.

A number of kombis which have been transporting the pupils to and from school over the past years are against the school's decision to engage the said bus which is expected to start transporting all the pupils who come from Siteki and surrounding areas.

This was a resolution made by the school to have all commuting pupils use one bus as a way of preventing road accidents which may be similar to those witnessed last year. In fact,

this is said to be a resolution made by the parents and all other stakeholders who were concerned by the number of accidents involving the children.

However, the kombi owners claim that they have signed contracts with the school which indicate that they would be transporting the pupils.

They claim that their entracts have not been terminated as yet hence, they would not allow any other means of transport to take away their business. "We have tried to manage this situation but operators have insisted that they would not allow the bus to transport the children tomorrow (today)", said Mpiyakhe Shongwe, who is the secretary of Siteki branch of the Local Kombi and Mini-bus Association in a brief response.



Kingdom Of Swaziland

## CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

### VACANCY

#### DIRECTOR - DEBT MANAGEMENT UNIT

Applications are invited from qualified candidates for appointment to the above post in the Civil Service tenable in the Ministry of Finance.

#### QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

The candidate must have:-

- A Master's Degree in Economics or MBA/CA
- A minimum of eight (8) to (10) years working experience in public debt management at a senior level
- Knowledge of financial/public service rules and regulations
- Knowledge of debt recording and monitoring system
- Good analytical communication and interpersonal skills

#### RESPONSIBILITIES/DUTIES

- To determine borrowing ceilings for Government consistent with fiscal and monetary policy requirement
- To provide reliable medium and long-term forecasts of debt servicing and interest income that feed into fiscal forecasts
- To identify and quantify exposures related to contingent liabilities including designing strategies that will allow effective management of these exposures or risks
- To interpret loan agreements and enter them into debt details entry sheets and debt management systems
- To approve withdrawal applications for disbursements
- To facilitate reconciliation of withdrawal applications with the actual disbursements on a monthly basis
- To draw disbursements plans with the implementing agencies prior to budget preparations
- To undertake frequent portfolio analysis to assess future debt service obligations and problems
- To propose corrective measures to address debt service problems
- To conduct debt sustainability analysis to assess the medium and long-term sustainability of projected borrowing levels
- To participate in the Project Appraisal Committee meetings
- To participate in the projects implementation plans
- To prepare monthly progress reports on projects implementation
- To attend to projects audit queries timely
- To set objectives of the section to provide direction and guidance
- To approve individual work plans to ensure adherence to departmental objectives
- To prepare sectional budget and plan departmental activities
- To advise on the progress of the division against planned activities
- To perform any other official duties as may be assigned by the immediate Supervisor and/or Head of Department

#### SALARY

The basic salary is on Grade F2: E503, 605 rising to E566, 812 per annum

#### APPLICATION FORMS

They are obtainable from:  
The Executive Secretary,  
Civil Service Commission,  
P.O. Box 158,  
Mbabane.

The candidate's Curriculum Vitae and copies of certificates of the required qualifications must accompany applications. Candidates must complete CSC Form B or Form C for serving officers. Candidates who do not have the above qualifications should not apply because their applications will not be considered.

CLOSING DATE: 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2017



# No report of alien armyworms yet - Govt

By GuguSimelane  
Mbabane

**WHILE** Southern Africa's is still dealing with the aftermath of the worst drought in 25 years, farmers are now battling with a new crisis: alien armyworms.

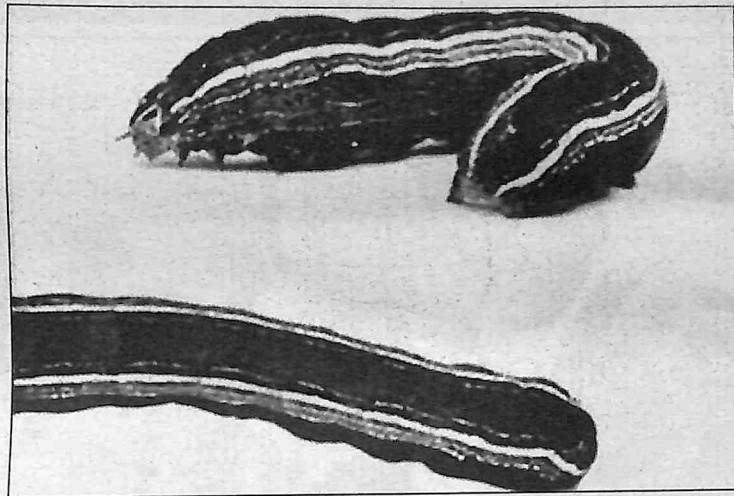
Fortunately, Swaziland has not been affected yet.

Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture Bongani Masuku said they have not received any reports from farmers about the invasion that has ravaged other Southern African countries.

Masuku, however, advised farmers to be cautious and be on the lookout for the alien armyworms in their fields.

"We may not have had any report today these worms travel fast and wide and they may be found in the country next week, so farmers need to be vigilant," he said.

The PS further recommended



that if farmers came across the alien armyworms, even in small unsuspecting scale, they should report to the nearest agriculture department.

"Once we get any report of their presence we will send our skilled teams to assess the situation and advise on the appropriate pesticides to use," said Masuku.

Alien armyworms, otherwise known as caterpillars, were first

noticed chewing through corn fields south of Lusaka, Zambia's capital, near the end of December.

Two weeks later, the farmer lost half his crop to the pest that had already invaded more than 10 per cent of farms in the country and spread to Zimbabwe and Malawi.

The fall armyworm that's native to the Americas has arrived in southern Africa for the first time, wiping out tens of thousands acres

of maize fields. For a region trying to recover from drought, the pest brings renewed fears of food shortages and inflation.

The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation said the effects could be devastating for the area if its spread isn't controlled.

The brown caterpillars, which cost Brazil \$600m a year to control, were first reported in west and central Africa at the start of 2016.

They have since jumped the equator into Burundi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi.

The fall armyworm grows to a similar size of about four centimetres.

Besides preying on crops, fall armyworms can become cannibalistic, eating competitors such as the African variety, according to a study by scientists including Goergen published in October.

The question of how the pest arrived in Africa is still not yet clear.

## Woman arrested for leaving children with neighbour

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi  
Manzini

**AS** cases of babies who are reported to be stolen by unknown people continue to rock the country, law enforcers are now out in full force to arrest those who leave their babies with strangers.

On Monday, Nothando Ngwenya (26) of Madonsa learned the hard way that leaving children at the hands of a stranger even a neighbour could land one into serious trouble.

Ngwenya was arrested by the Manzini police on January 25, and was charged with contravening the Children Protection Act in that she left three children aged two, four and seven with a neighbour.

It was stated that as a person who was entrusted to care for the children, Ngwenya neglected them and caused the children to be exposed to emotional and psychological trauma.

The accused appeared before Magistrate Sebenzile Ndlela-Kunene, and was remanded back into police custody pending setting of trial date.

Recently, a number of babies have been reported to the police as having been stolen from their parents. One of the babies around Sigwe area was found murdered while other babies were recovered however there are those that have still not been found.

## LOW SELF-ESTEEM LEADS TO ABUSE - SWAGAA

By Lungelo Nkambule  
Mbabane

**THE** need for government to pass the Sexual Offences and Domestic Bill of 2015 is become evident.

As statistics released by the Swaziland Action-Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA) show that there is a rapid rise in the cases of domestic violence.

Domestic Violence ranges from emotional abuse to physical abuse. Emotional abuse has been reported as the beginning of the abuse cycle.

The statistics released by the organisation show that 34 cases were reported during the festive season that is from December 16 to January 6.

The organisation has attributed the high cases of domestic abuse to low self esteem.

SWAGAA Communications and Advocacy Officer Slindelo Nkosi said lack of self-belief or confidence is one of the leading factors of people finding themselves imprisoned in the cycle of abuse.

However, the state also needs to keep all protective laws in place such as the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Bill of 2015 for sexual and domestic abuse offenders to face.

Nkosi said emotional abuse continues to be



on the rise amongst all forms of abuse as it was the basic and starting point of the cycle of abuse.

The perpetrator would use all kind of words to dehumanise or make their target feel worthless then eventually fall into their abusive trap.

"Every victim of abuse firstly experiences emotional blackmail from their perpetrators before moving to the next form of abuse which may either be physical, sexual or neglect," she stated.

with sexual offences and domestic violence and to provide adequate protection to complainants;

(c) Eliminate gender inequalities in relation to power and decision making and to provide protection to women and children who are the most vulnerable group in society which has resulted in a high incidence of their discrimination and abuse;

(d) Respond to the outcry on the escalation of sexual offences and domestic violence against women and children including infants, which has accelerated the HIV and AIDS pandemic, by imposing high terms of imprisonment on convicted persons.

### How the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Bill of 2015 will protect citizens

#### The Bill will:

(a) Give effect to certain rights which are enshrined in the Constitution of Swaziland Act of 2005, including the right to equal protection by the law, the right to privacy, the right to protection from inhumane and degrading treatment;

(b) Strengthen and consolidate certain common law and statutory provisions so as to adequately provide for the successful dealing, in a non-discriminatory manner,

**WORK ON YOUR SELF COFIDENCE: SWAGAA**  
Communications and Advocacy  
Officer Slindelo Nkosi.



### VACANCY

Position Title : Data Analyst  
Report to : M&E Director  
Location : Mbabane, Swaziland  
Duration : Three (3) Months

#### Job Overview

ICAP through CDC funding is supporting the epidemiology and disease control unit of MOH to develop a Pediatric HIV Case Surveillance System in Swaziland. We are looking for the services of a data analyst to support data analysis and report writing.

#### Responsibilities:

- Desk review to understand the scope and objectives of the project especially data analysis and tabulation plan
- Perform data cleaning and validation
- Conducting structured and multi variate analysis
- Populate data analysis tables
- Write results section of the project report

#### Qualifications and Experience

- At least a Master's Degree in Statistics, Social Sciences, or Epidemiology.
- Strong knowledge of (research) data management methods and Statistical Software and ample experience in managing Quantitative Datasets.
- Proven experience in statistical analysis with health datasets (preferably STATA, and or SAS).
- Evidence of publication in peer reviewed international journals.

**NOTE:** These are local hire positions and the successful candidates will be an employee of ICAP in Swaziland and subject to the local terms and conditions of employment which includes a competitive salary and benefits package

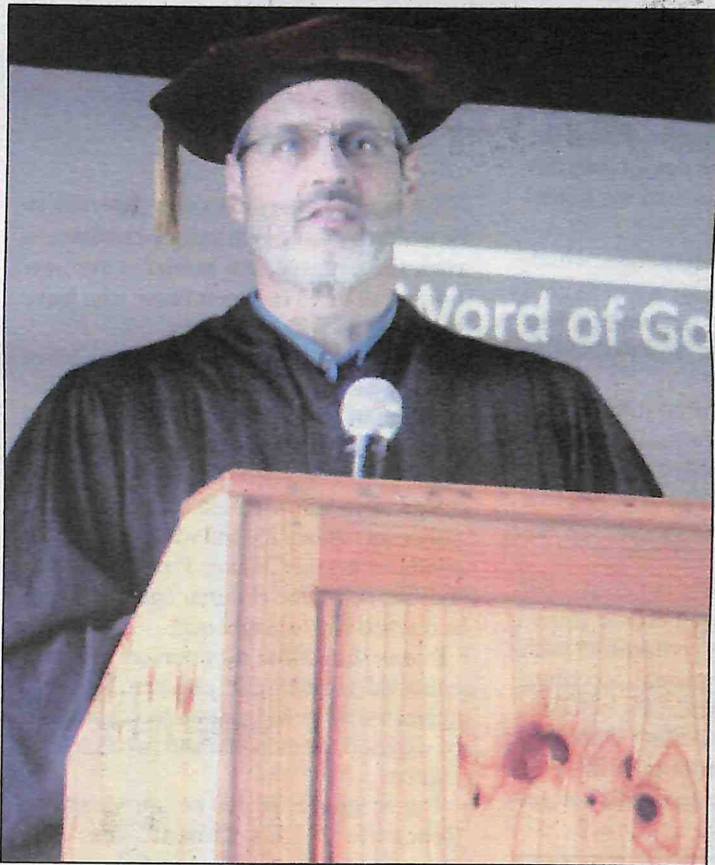
#### How to Apply

Interested applicants should send their application and resumes named after their surnames by email with a subject line for the position e.g. **Data Analyst** to [icap-jobs-swaziland@columbia.edu](mailto:icap-jobs-swaziland@columbia.edu). Closing date for applications to be submitted: Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 17:00pm.

**Please do not attach any certificates when submitting on line. Only short listed applicants will be contacted. Please consider your application unsuccessful if you don't hear from us 3 weeks after the closing date.**



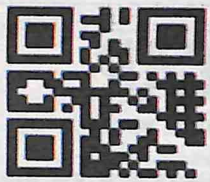
## BIBLE FAITH INSTITUTION GRADUATION



**WORD OF GOD:** Pastor Bud Diener delivering a sermon during the Bible Faith Institution graduation at Mphophoma. (Pics: Gugu Simelane)



**MINE:** Sifiso Dlamini Principal of Faith Bible College awarding Nelile Khumalo with her Diploma in Theology Certificate.



### Congratulation on appointment as a Judge of the High Court



The board, management and staff of the Swaziland Public Procurement Regulatory Agency (SPPRA) wishes to congratulate the SPPRA Board Vice Chairperson, **Her Lordship Justice Doris Tshabalala**, on her appointment to the bench.

*"We are proud of this great achievement and we are confident that you will make a significant contribution to the justice system through your vast experience, knowledge and integrity."*

"SPPRA is a regulator that oversees the procurement of goods, works, and services conducted by 91 public procuring entities comprising: 19 Government Ministries; 9 Government departments and Agencies; 50 category A public enterprises; and 13 local government authorities. The annual value of this procurement averages E10 billion per annum, which is equivalent to about 25% of GDP"

Doc.13003



**YOURS TOO:** Sifiso Dlamini Principal of Faith Bible College awarding Nontsikelelo Dlamini with her Diploma in Theology Certificate.



**WELL DONE:** One of the participants receiving his certificate.



# FAITH BIBLE INSTITUTION GRADUATION

**OUTSTANDING:** Meshack Dlamini being conferred with his Bachelor of Arts in Theology certificate by Principal Sifiso Dlamini. Meshack was also awarded with the Faith Bible College Educational Award for being an outstanding student.



**IT FITS:** Faith Bible College Degree graduates fixing the hoods after uniformly putting them on.



BEST WISHES: A section of the well wishers.



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or simelane@agisanang.co.sz

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Course name	Number of days	Price (E)/class	Spaces Available	Date
Risk Assessment	1 DAY	E2000 per person	10	Upon booking/confirmation
Basic Health and Safety	2 DAYS	E4000 per person	10	Upon booking/confirmation
Basic Fire - Fighting	1 DAY	E2000 per person	10	Upon booking/confirmation
Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment	1 DAY	1 = E2800 per person	10	Upon booking/confirmation
	2 DAYS	2 = E 5600 per person		
Root Causes Analyses Tool (RCAT)	2 DAYS	E5600 per person	10	Upon booking/confirmation
Incident/Accident investigation/Reporting	1 DAY	E2800 per person	10	Upon booking/confirmation



\*Training is conducted locally and meals are inclusive in Training Fee

\*\* Accommodation is available on booking at E500 per night (Spaces Limited)

\*\*\* Training is also conducted on weekends on prior arrangement

\*\*\*\* Accredited by HWSSETA, TETA, CETA, LGSETA, ETD, FP&M SETA



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The Directors and Management of KaShali Pro-Learning High School congratulates the SGCSE class of 2016, teachers and parents of the school for the excellent results. The school obtained position 21 in the whole country. We thank the Almighty God for the strength to produce such results. To God be the glory.



**Mandla Nyaweni:**  
Sis, B; Eng Lang, C; Maths, A;  
Bio, A, Science, A; Geo C



**Sizwe Simelane:**  
Maths, B; Phys Sci, A; Bio, A;  
Acc, B; English, D; Econ, A



**Theminkosi Simelane**  
(Upgrading): Maths, A;  
Phys Sci, A\*, Bio, A



**Vuyani Gama:**  
Sis, A; English, B; Maths, D;  
Bio, A; Science, B; Geo, B; RE, B;



**Bathandwa Ndzimandze:**  
Maths, B; Bio, B; Science, A;  
Geo, B;



**Ingrid Mkhwanazi**  
(Upgrading): Eng, C;  
Maths, A; Acc, A



**Vakele Choncho**  
(Upgrading):  
Eng, A



**Fundile Mkhathwa:**  
Sis, C; Eng, C; Maths, B;  
Bio, B; Phys Sci, C; Re, C



**Nkosingiphile Dlamini**  
(Upgrading):  
Maths, C; Bio, B; Phys Sci, B



**Temantfulini Mamba:**  
Maths, A; Phys Sci, B



**Bongani Ndlele**  
(Upgrading): Eng, C;  
Bio, A; Phys Sci, B



**Ernest T. Magongo**  
Principal ready  
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## NORTHERN HHOHHO NEWS

Pigg's Peak Office

Kai Kai Building opposite Shoprite,  
Office No:3Tel: 2437 1083 Cell: 7670 0678  
Email: observersipiki@realnet.co.sz...With  
**Sizwe Dlamini**SLAIN KAYISE'S  
FAMILY SPEAKS OUT

**SLAIN** Kayise Mthimkhulu's elder brother, Tsepiso yesterday approached the Swazi Observer Pigg's Peak office to clarify the family's position on their knowledge of the alleged murderer.

The alleged murderer is Kayise's former boyfriend (Simiso Dlamini).

"The Mthimkhulu family does not know the full extent of their relationship. My main point is that I would like to clarify that Dlamini was neither an exboyfriend or a current one.

**Negotiations**

As her family, we rebuke leaking this information to the media and whoever has spoken on the behalf of my family without my knowledge, has

done so without considering the full extent of their words," said Mthimkhulu.

"This type of information has the potential of disrupting family negotiations as my late sister was married, therefore, as a family we cannot come out and state that she was murdered by her boyfriend as we know she was married.

It is therefore, my responsibility as the eldest son to divert a potential disaster, and we as the Mthimkhulu family, did not know the murderer, Simiso Dlamini as my sister's boyfriend as it has been portrayed by the media," said Mthimkhulu.

Mthimkhulu said they were finalising burial arrangements.



**HURTING:** Slain Kayise's brother, Tsepiso Mthimkhulu.

## The two were in love-alleged murderer's family member



**SLAIN:** Kayise Mthimkhulu.

**FAMILY** members of Kayise Mthimkhulu's alleged murderer, Simiso Dlamini, have condemned their child's act of taking another's life.

However, they highlighted events believed to have led to the tragedy that has since captured the small town of Pigg's Peak.

They claimed the killing was not an enraged love killing as most people first believed.

**Religion**

"Nobody in the world condones murder no matter what religion, colour or creed one belongs to.

The motive of the murder is always fully known only by the killer," said a family member of Simiso Dlamini who

preferred anonymity.

The family member was speaking outside, at a secluded part of the Dlamini homestead at Sibovini yesterday.

"No one knows the full extent of the events that led up to the murder. All we know is that Dlamini was looking for Mthimkhulu the night before the murder and he was intoxicated.

I have spoken to Simiso and I do not deny that they had a relationship as everybody around Pigg's Peak knows.

However, I believe that money was involved as the slain lady is believed to have done a deal with Dlamini. Love was there in whatever form, but money was also involved," the alleged family member said.



**RELAXED:** Miners at Lufafa gold mine.

## PS visits Lufafa Mine workers

**PRINCIPAL** Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy, Winnie Stewart paid a courtesy visit to Lufafa Gold Mine so as to cement the ministry's relationship with the mine.

Senior Lufafa gold mine workers were happy to be given the opportunity to speak to the PS on a one-on-one encounter last Wednesday.

Senior gold miners said they were very happy with the PS's visit.

"Steward has assured us all that our complaints are being worked

on," the workers said.

We are looking forward to a better relationship with our administration and with our government," said Dumsani Magagula another senior Lufafa gold miner.

The recently appointed Public Relations Officer at Lufafa Gold mine, Machawe Nxumalo was unavailable for comment as his cell-phone was off and not on the MTN network at time of compiling this report. Numerous attempts were made last Wednesday to reach him but they all proved futile.



**THE LAND OF GOLD:** Lufafa goldmine

## Pigg's Peak police end of year party today

**THE Pigg's Peak Police** will host a staff party today at Maguga Lodge.

"The situation may be confusing to some that how can you be having an end of year staff party in January, but all the police stations around the country have their parties at different times of the year.

So ours will be tomorrow and the media is invited," said a source

Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba confirmed that the members of the Pigg's Peak Police would stage their end of year party and senior police officials had been invited.

"We have invited senior police officials to our end of year party and we hope they will all spare time to spend with us.

I can confirm that Hhohho Regional Commissioner of Police Charles Dumsani Tsabedze has received an invitation as well as the media and of course myself," said Mamba

"It is very important that we all remember that the police are also people who also need some time to reflect on their service throughout the busy year, that being 2016

We hope many senior officials will be present as we have very little time for relaxation," added Mamba.



**PARTY ANIMALS:** Members of the Pigg's Peak police to have their end of year party at Maguga today.



# SWAZILAND'S INFANT MORTALITY IMPROVES

By Sicelo Maziya  
Mbabane

**THE country's infant mortality rate has greatly improved compared to the last reported in 2010, where it was 79/1 000 yet an improved decline in number is at 50/1 000 recorded in 2014.**

This is according to the multi-indicator cluster survey (MICS) report.

The ministry of health (MOH) using the latest data available (2014), the post neonatal mortality rate is now 30/1 000 from 60/1 000 in 2010, infant mortality rate from 79/1000 to 50/1 000, child mortality rate from 27/1 000 to 18/1 000 and the under-five mortality rate from 104/1 000 to 76/1 000 for country shows a great improvement.

The rate is expressed as the number of children dying per 1 000 live births. All of these indicators feed into each other.

The mortality rate is a result of various factors, such as nutrition, child and maternal services available, the availability of medication and adherence to the immunisation schedule.

The report provided a detailed picture of the conditions facing children in country.

One of the challenges that have been facing the country over the years was that "pregnant women did not have adequate knowledge on the importance of antenatal care attendance, being assisted by skilled health personnel for all their health issues, and health facility based delivering. The country has seen a great improvement in its drive towards minimising child deaths," said Dr Simangele Mthethwa-Hleta from the ministry of health.

Whilst there has been some reduction in child mortality rates, progress in some areas in the country still need improvement so as to meet global targets.

HIV was another contributor to high infant mortality, but according to the 2014 report HIV testing has shot 95 percent from 77 per cent in 2010 as it has been mandatory for pregnant women to take an HIV test.

All the women who test positive are offered treatment for the prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV. One of the millennium devel-

● The mortality rate is a result of various factors, such as nutrition, child and maternal services available, the availability of medication and adherence to the immunisation schedule



opment goals set by the UN in 2 000 was to reduce the under-five child mortality rate by two thirds by the year 2015.

The knowledge increase on PMTCT played a significant role in reducing the chance of HIV-infected mothers passing the virus to their children leading to the birth of healthy children.

## Deaths

Dr Mthethwa accompanied by a team working towards reducing child deaths said: "the majority of deaths have been due to lack of knowledge by parents and guardians on the seriousness of childhood illnesses especially diarrhea and pneumonia, which is often attributed to some cultural beliefs."

Increased knowledge helps improve one's decision to take appropriate action and avoid or minimise child deaths. The referral system not only in the health practice but also when the decision to take the child to hospital is a key factor in getting help and avoiding child deaths."

Kayise Madlopha said "exclusive breastfeeding is being encouraged to mothers for the mandatory six months as it helps the child fight the viruses and bacteria that may cause deadly infections and lead to death."

Exclusive breastfeeding is possible even for working mothers. They can express the breast milk and safely keep for the child whilst at work. It is essential for the mothers to discuss breastfeeding with their health care providers. The most important aspect of exclusive

breastfeeding is that the child needs only the mother's milk without other supplementation feeds for first six months of life.

Family planning could also assist in minimising child deaths because a child would be born from parents who are prepared to care and provide appropriately for the child thus the child will grow in a safe and free environment where they will not be subjected to many diseases.

## Sentiments

Mgcineni Ndlangamandla shared the same sentiments saying properly planning on when and how many children one wants helps with getting information and scheduling than having many children and pushing them to day-care services.

Dr Mthethwa also pleaded with new parents to adhere to the health education provided by all health institutions in the country so as to avoid child deaths.

"Where people do not understand, they need to further ask the health practitioners."

"Most of the cases are easily preventable and treatable conditions, so parents should seek information beforehand."

Dr Mthethwa also revealed in the interview that "pneumonia and diarrhea are the common diseases that kill most children. Other factors such as malnutrition and environmental conditions heighten the susceptibility of children to pneumonia."

## DD offender quotes a verse for magistrate

By Sizwe Dlamini  
Pigg's Peak

**A drink driving accused stunned Pigg's Peak Senior Magistrate Siphosini Dlamini when he quoted him a story from the Bible.**

Machawe Dlamini [29] from Malindza appeared in court for a drink driving charge.

He was arrested after being caught drink driving last Sunday at a roadblock in Pigg's Peak. Dlamini had been drinking the previous night at a family gathering.

"All I drank was four litres of emagamu, I had no idea that I would be so drunk by the end of the night. Unfortunately for me I was then called by a person who

owed me money, so I had to drive my car to Pigg's Peak to collect the money," said Dlamini.

The magistrate said the accused would not find a wife if he continued drinking alcohol in such an abusive manner.

## Driving

The magistrate also advised the accused to desist from driving whilst drunk.

"You must control how much alcohol you drink as this will make women not want to marry you," said the magistrate prompting the accused to quote a bible verse which stated that Mosses got married when he was 95 years old.

The accused was sentenced to 10 months in a correctional facility if he failed to pay a fine of E2 000.

## Man punched for trying to steal friend's rich lover

By Sizwe Dlamini  
Pigg's Peak

**A man was fined E2 000 for assaulting a man who was trying to steal his supposedly rich girlfriend at a bar in Pigg's Peak.**

The Pigg's Peak Magistrate's Court heard how 24-year-old Phiwayinkosi Mwelase was arrested after he assaulted Bonkhosi Shongwe by punching him once on the face.

The incident happened at the City Corner Bar in Pigg's Peak last Saturday.

Mwelase stated that the punch was a result of Shongwe's move to steal his girlfriend who was buying beer for both of them.

"Shongwe was busy trying to take my rich girlfriend away with him so that they can go have sex. I could not allow this to happen because my girlfriend was buying beer for the both of us as I am unemployed thus I am broke. I usually make a living by doing peace jobs for people," Mwelase said.

The accused said he then punched Shongwe on the face as he could see that he was being unreasonable.



**PRESIDING: Senior Principal Magistrate Siphosini Dlamini.**

able. He added that he was then arrested before he left the bar.

"This whole incident makes no sense to me as I am the one who phoned my girlfriend to come to the bar in the first place and it was not Shongwe," said Mwelase.

Senior Pigg's Peak Magistrate Siphosini Dlamini said Mwelase behaved immaturely and proceeded to sentence him to 10 months in a correctional facility if he failed to pay the E2 000 fine for the assault.

## Man arrested for forged E5 000 bail receipt

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi  
Manzini

**THERE was drama at the Manzini Magistrate's Court on Monday when a man was caught presenting a forged E5 000 bail receipt to court clerks.**

Simanga Gama (22) of Ntabambhoshana was caught while trying to flee from the courts after his plan of getting his relative out of police custody could not work out.

Gama had appeared at the Manzini Magistrate's Court to pay bail for Mfanimpela Gama who was in police custody.

Mfanimpela was supposed to pay a

bail of E5 000 in order to gain his liberation.

It is alleged that Simanga pretended as if he was going to the revenue situated near the Magistrate's Courts.

Information gathered is that the accused came back and presented the receipts to the court clerk saying he had paid the full amount of E5 000.

However, the court clerk who was attending Simanga got suspicious when she realised that the receipt handed was slightly different from the normal ones used at the revenue.

The court clerk made an enquiry at the revenue office to find out if the receipt number was reflected in their system to find out if it was genuine.

However, a call to the revenue offices proved that Simanga was lying that he had paid the bail amount for his relative.

He was found to have presented a forged receipt with a government revenue stamp. It is said the receipt had a Matsapha Revenue stamp.

While the court clerks were busy making enquiries at the revenue via telephone calls, it is said the suspect ran for his dear life and tried to use the underground passages in the court rooms to escape.

However, it is said a police officer identified as Constable Hlophe searched for the suspect and found him hiding in one of the courtrooms.



Simanga was then charged with forgery in that he presented a forged government receipt of E5 000 as bail payment for the release of Mfanimpela Gama.

On the second count, the accused was charged with uttering in that he presented to court clerks a forged

bail receipt well knowing that the receipt was not authentic. The accused was sentenced to a year imprisonment with a fine option of E2 000 for forgery. For uttering he was sentenced to 10 months imprisonment with a fine option of E1 500.



# KONTSHINGILA FARMERS TO POST NO HARVEST

By Starsky Mkhonta  
Nhlangano

FARMERS in areas around KoNtshingila have said they will not get much harvest during the harvesting season despite that most parts of the country have been receiving rain.

Farmers made use of the early rains and geared up for planting with the hope that the harvest season would be a good one.

However, the hope has been shattered as the scorching sun has done damage to their plants which will result in less harvest.

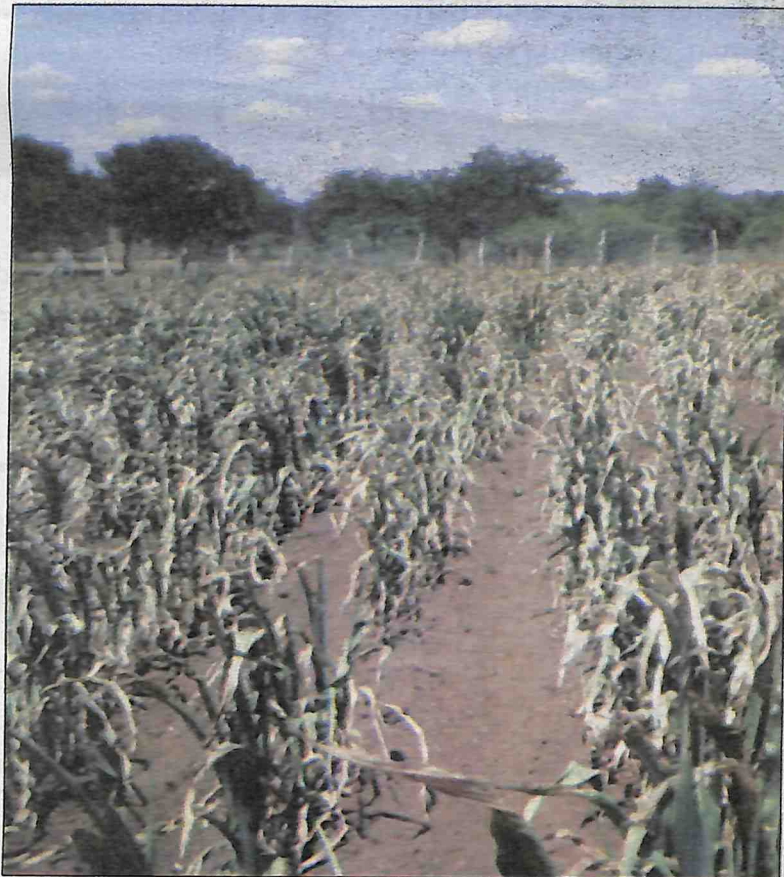
KaGwegwe Bucopho under Sandleni Inkhundla Nqamiso Magutshwa said only a few families would get their sweat's worth and most farmers would not be harvesting much crops.

He said he toured some of the areas under his jurisdiction and he was disappointed with what he saw.

He said what saddened him was that the community members had realised that they would not reap much.

"The sad thing is that most of them spent a fortune as they were 'fooled' by the rains that fell earlier and had never thought their happiness would be short-lived. There is nothing they will harvest as the scorching sun destroyed the crops. The farmers can only feed the destroyed maize plants to livestock," said Magutshwa.

Magutshwa said there was no way the residents could return to the fields again as the ploughing season was



NO HARVEST: Crops scorched by the sun. (Google image)

almost over.

## Expenses

"Again, what we should consider is that there are expenses involved when it comes to farming, it is not free. What I see happening is seeing ourselves in the same predicament of the past season. It's back to square one where we will rely on handouts," he said.

Magutshwa said with schools already opened, that also meant some parents would have no money to buy farming inputs to replough.

## Reality

"It's a reality we have to face that even this time; it is going to be a bad year for some farmers. Climate change has brought these problems.

# FAMILY WAKES UP TO A DEAD, MUTILATED COW

By Starsky Mkhonta  
Nhlangano

A family in Lavumisa is still reeling in shock after finding its cow dead and mutilated.

The cow belonged to a Ntuli family and it's owners have no idea as to what happened to it.

The incident occurred at Eluhlukweni which is one of the mini-chiefdoms of Lavumisa, under Chief Gasa WaNgwane.

The heifer was found dead with some of its parts missing.

The whole carcass was left and it is now suspected that those involved in the killing of the cow, wanted to make *muti* with it.

It is said fingers are now pointing at one of the neighbours who earlier on made serious threats to the Ntuli family.

Mgezeni Ntuli, one of the members of the family, said the cow was tied under a tree.

He said last Thursday, they were shocked to find the cow dead and upon inspecting it, discovered that part of the tongue and mouth was sliced.

"We found the cow dead, but we were shocked to find some

parts missing and we concluded that this was the work of the devil. What came to mind soon after the discovery, were the threats by our neighbours in connection to the cow," said Ntuli.

## Mutilated

Ntuli said it was hardly two days after a neighbour issued the threats.

"She had hinted that something worse was going to happen," said Ntuli.

Ntuli said as a family, they resolved to reporting the matter to the area's authorities.

He said they were advised to

return this coming Friday where the issue would be discussed and the culprit identified.

Asked as to what happened to the carcass, Ntuli said they would not risk eating the meat as they feared that the worse might happen.

"Normally,

we eat the meat when a cow has died on its own or slaughtered, but in this case, we could not risk.

"We decided to use a flammable substance to burn the carcass," said Ntuli.

● The whole carcass was left and it is now suspected that someone or those involved in the killing of the cow, wanted to make *muti* with it.

# EZULWINI REPORT HANDED TO MINISTER

By Mbono Mdluli  
Mbabane

THE much-awaited report on the Ezulwini Town Council commission of enquiry has been handed over to Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Phiyayinkhosi Mabuza.

This was confirmed by Secretary of the Commission Sindisile Zwane.

"The report was handed over today (Monday) to the minister. It is now with the minister," Zwane said when interviewed.

When contacted about the matter, Mabuza said he was not in a position to make the report public.

"You will not be able to get the report now. It still belongs to the minister, who is still having a look at it," Mabuza said.

The commission of enquiry was instituted by Minister Mabuza on November 18, 2016.

This was after a reported impasse between some of the Ezulwini councillors and Ezulwini Town Council Chief Executive Officer,



REPORT: Ezulwini Town Council Chief Executive Officer, Vusumutiwendvodza Matsebula and Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Phiyayinkhosi Mabuza.



Vusumutiwendvodza Matsebula.

The commission was taking place at the Cooperative College of Swaziland (CODEC) in Ezulwini.

## Probe

The commission was expected to have finished the probe by December 23, 2016.

However, the probe was concluded

at the beginning of this month.

This was necessitated by the fact that many people were now interested in appearing before the commission to submit their views.

## Subordinates

The people who appeared included all the Ezulwini councillors, the CEO, some members of the man-

agement team of the town and other subordinates like labourers.

Former mayors Elmon Fakudze and Robinson Zeeman also appeared before the commission to submit their views.

In most instances, two people appeared to make their contributions in a day. However, there are instances where only one person would make a contribution in a day.

This started in August when Matsebula wrote a letter to the minister.

He had asked him to intervene on the impasse between him and the council on time before their working relationship could reach a stage where it would be destroyed.

## Discuss

On September 19, 2016, the minister responded by calling both parties to a meeting at the ministry to discuss the matter.

In that meeting, it was agreed that the impasse would have to be solved through a conflict resolution exercise.

The council was further directed to put on hold its business in respect to the impasse and any other matters incidental thereto.

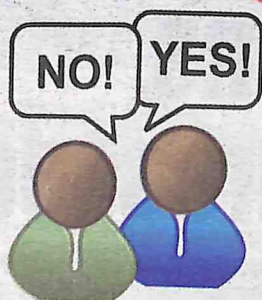
On November 1, 2016, council held

a meeting which resolved that the CEO should be called upon to show cause why he should not be suspended pending the investigation of the serious allegations of misconduct laid against him.

This was followed by an incident where the minister wrote to the council and gave it five working days to respond and show cause why the minister should not invoke Part XII of the Urban Government Act of 1969, which made provision for the appointment of a commission of inquiry and established the powers of the minister to enforce the performance of duties in town boards.

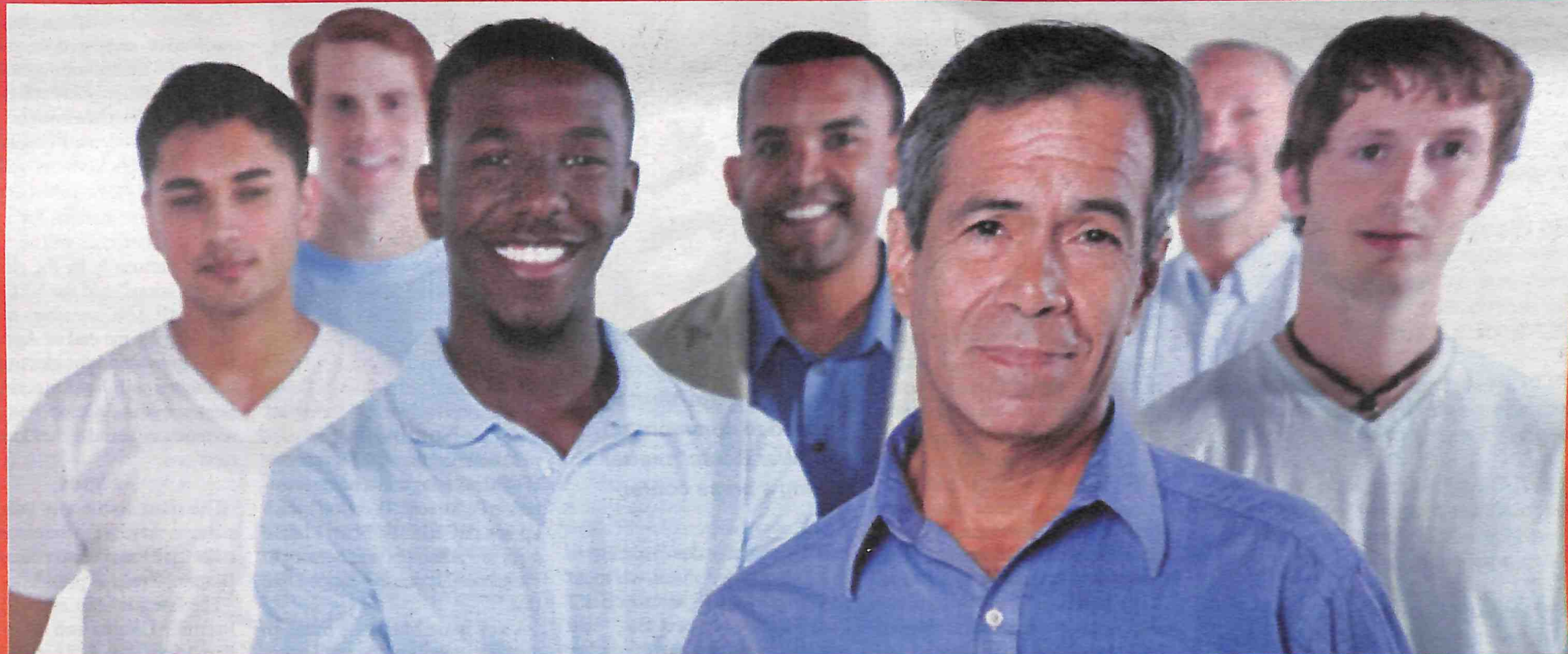
On November 10, 2016, the council responded to the minister's letter where it argued that it never engaged in any act of insubordination, but just wanted to discipline its employee. It further argued that the conflict resolution workshop proposed by the ministry officials at a meeting of the council on September 19 was an entirely different process from the issue of workplace discipline. On November 18, 2016, the minister suspended the activities of the council and instituted a commission of enquiry to probe the Ezulwini Town Council matters.





# FEATURES & OPINION

REFRESH WHAT YOU THINK...



## 1 BILLION RISING REVOLUTION



By  
**Bakhombisile  
Dlamini**  
WRITER

**THINGS are not always what they seem and there is so much truth in that, especially in a world where the power of defining was seized by an insecure army.**

This may be somebody's "aha" moment and it needed to be shared. Unless we take off our rose-coloured glasses and start seeing things for what they really are, then we shall remain a blind nation and we will never grow. Speaking

of growth, we all want economic growth in our countries and economic development for the enlightened. It may be petty for the purposes of this subject to quibble over the semantics, but beyond that, we might need to really consider the naming of the world, even in the context of economic development.

Men have been naming the world and then disowning the definitions with the wisdom our parents demonstrated when we asked them where babies came from when we were four. Today the truth about names in the world is easily evaded by calling things normal. The entire complex of social beliefs and norms that define things as feminine imply that women should perform tasks that are monotonous and time-consuming which require patience, perseverance and dexterity. You are still in conflict with the notion that men are meant to be scientists?

Then how do you explain the feminisation of jobs and poverty? One thing is clear here, men are scientists who know a lot about mutation

such that no deformed gene is welcome in their DNA. Consider how everything weak and powerless does no fall within the bracket of masculinity.

Is it not a wonder though how back-breaking labour qualifies as a female strength? Women are paid low wages to carry out tedious, arduous and low skilled jobs which they combine with child-bearing and domestic chores like fetching firewood and water.

Often, they carry out "disguised" wage work under carefully constructed titles to promote exploitation as daughters, daughters-in-law and wives.

Despite the triple-burden of work done by women, their work still fails to enhance their status. Instead, women face double exploitation. Patriarchy legitimised the father as the head and gave him permission to return from work (his work being the best thing to ever happen to the world) and take off the shoes that the household labourer who is also a hawker (wife, in a sophisticated language) picked and pol-

ished for him to wear to work. He does this while picking up the remote to watch the evening news with his feet on the coffee table. He rests while the female worker (wife) gets ready for another shift- the third shift of the day. She is expected to carry out this duty with grace and efficiency that surpasses all understanding to please the master.

But with which strength?

Nobody knows, but somehow what needs to be done gets done. At the end of the day, having worked themselves to the bone, the work of the women is not considered labour. It remains outside the system of national accounts and yet we are speaking of economic development. How when even the most obvious things elude us?

Half of the world population is making a significant contribution to our economies and beyond failing to reward them, we also fail to acknowledge them. There is definitely an urgent need to revisit the naming and defining of the world for everyone's benefit.

### HOW TO FIND US:

#### MANAGING EDITOR:

Mbongeni Mbingo  
e-mail: [mbingo@observer.org.sz](mailto:mbingo@observer.org.sz)  
Cell: 7602 9564

P.O Box A385, Swazi Plaza,  
Mbabane, Belfusile Street  
Tel: 2404 4437, 2404 4436, 2404 9600,  
2404 9797, 2404 0706  
Email: [info@observer.org.sz](mailto:info@observer.org.sz)  
Website: [www.observer.org.sz](http://www.observer.org.sz)

#### NHLANGANO OFFICE

Tobacco Company Complex, Cnr King George, Masengule Streets  
Opposite SEDCO Premises, Tel: 2207 5159  
Starsky Mkhonta Cell: 7621 5081 ([starsky@realnet.co.sz](mailto:starsky@realnet.co.sz))

#### EDITORIAL CONTACTS

EDITOR: Thulani Thwala - 7605 0985 [editor@observer.org.sz](mailto:editor@observer.org.sz)  
NEWS EDITOR: Kenneth Dlamini - 7607 0035 [newseditor@observer.org.sz](mailto:newseditor@observer.org.sz)  
SPORTS EDITOR: Mphikeleli Msibi - 7605 8044 [sports@observer.org.sz](mailto:sports@observer.org.sz)  
BUSINESS SENIOR REPORTER:  
Manqoba Makhubu - 7670 4606 [business@observer.org.sz](mailto:business@observer.org.sz)  
ENTERTAINMENT SNR REPORTER:  
Nomfundo Sifundza - 7675 1649 [entertainment@observer.org.sz](mailto:entertainment@observer.org.sz)  
SENIOR SUB EDITOR:  
Paradise Mamba - 7603 5639 [subeditor@observer.org.sz](mailto:subeditor@observer.org.sz)

#### PIGG'S PEAK OFFICE

Kai Kai Building opposite Shoprite, Office No. 3  
Tel: 2437 1083 Sizwe Dlamini Cell: 7670 0678  
Email: [observersipiki@realnet.co.sz](mailto:observersipiki@realnet.co.sz)



Swazi Observer

#### MARKETING MANAGER

Siphehile Mkhonta (7605 2296)  
2404 8671/ 2404 8699  
[smm@observer.org.sz](mailto:smm@observer.org.sz)

#### CIRCULATION OFFICER

[circulation@observer.org.sz](mailto:circulation@observer.org.sz)

#### MANZINI OFFICE

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

#### SITEKI OFFICE

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

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## ON THIS DAY

...FEBRUARY 1

**1960** - Four black college students began a sit-in protest at a lunch counter in Greensboro, NC. They had been refused service.

**1968** - During the Vietnam War, South Vietnamese National Police Chief Brig. Gen. Nguyen Ngoc Loan executed a Viet Cong officer with a pistol shot to the head. The scene was captured in a news photograph.

**1976** - "Sonny and Cher" resumed on TV despite a real life divorce.

**1979** - Patty Hearst was released from prison after serving 22 months of a seven-year sentence for bank robbery. Her sentence had been commuted by US President Carter.

**1979** - Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini was welcomed in Tehran as he ended nearly 15 years of exile.

**1987** - Terry Williams won the largest slot machine payoff, at the time, when won \$4.9 million after getting four lucky 7s on a machine in Reno, NV.

**1991** - A USAir jetliner crashed atop a commuter plane at Los Angeles International Airport. 35 people were killed.

**1994** - Jeff Gillooly pled guilty in Portland, OR, for his role in the attack on figure skater Nancy Kerrigan. Gillooly, Tonya Harding's ex-husband, struck a plea bargain under which he confessed to racketeering charges in exchange for testimony implicating Harding.

**1996** - Visa and Mastercard announced security measures that would make it safe to shop on the Internet.

**1998** - Stuart Whitman received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

**1999** - Former White House intern Monica Lewinsky gave a deposition that was videotaped for senators weighing impeachment charges against US President Clinton.

**2001** - Three Scottish judges found Abdel Basset al-Mergrahi guilty of the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, which killed 270 people. The court said that Megrahi was a member of the Libyan intelligence service. Al-Amin Khalifa, who had been co-accused, was acquitted and freed.

**2003** - NASA's space shuttle Columbia exploded while re-entering the Earth's atmosphere. All seven astronauts on board were killed.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Harry Styles (Pop singer) - February 1, 1994 (23 years old)



Knaan (rapper) - February 1, 1978 (39 years old)

# ANC: As NEC outlines 2017 plans, controversies remain unaddressed

ON Monday, the ANC's national Executive Committee (NEC) reported back from its annual lekgotla, outlining the party's plans for the year.

The gist of the ANC's goals remain similar to those of previous years, with "radical socio-economic transformation" a key theme.

The ANC was last week accused of violating electoral laws as it allegedly waged a covert smear campaign against opposition parties, aiming to challenge print media's criticism. The story developed on Monday. ANC General Manager Ignatius Jacobs laid a counter legal suit against Sihle Bolani, who exposed the alleged "black-ops" municipal election campaign after she wasn't paid for work she said her company performed for the party.

## Culpability

While those Bolani said were involved have denied culpability and the ANC has distanced itself from the issue, the claims have seriously tarnished the party's image. They suggest it is willing to violate the law to win elections, is plagued by rogue elements potentially raising money in the party's name, regardless of whether they do any work, and, worst of all, the ANC appears either in denial, which would be an insult to the public, or to have no knowledge of what senior employees and well-connected supporters are doing. Despite the allegations, ANC Secretary-General Gwede Mantashe refused to comment on the matter during a press conference on Monday. He was reporting back after a recent NEC lekgotla meeting and, regardless of the issue's importance for the future of the party and democracy, compared it to more general workplace issues.



**NO COMMENT: Secretary-General Gwede Mantashe refused to comment on the "War Room" matter during a press conference.**

"If there is any development in that process we think we must announce, we will announce it. I think you must respect that," said Mantashe to questions as to whether Jacobs was facing disciplinary hearings and could be forced to resign. "I am appealing for space to deal with this matter. It's a serious matter for us."

## Outlining

Mantashe was outlining the ANC NEC's commitments for the year, including details on economic growth, accelerated radical socio-economic transformation, land reform, higher education, fighting crime and corruption, and building state capacity. Many of the questions he faced, however, related to the party's recent controversies and its elective congress, to be held in Gauteng in

December.

He played down claims that Brian Molefe could be sent to Parliament, after a weekend report said the ANC in North West was pushing for Molefe to be sent to Cape Town, potentially as a precursor to replacing Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan.

Molefe resigned as chair of Eskom after the former public protector linked him in her State of Capture report to benefits the Gupta family allegedly received from the electricity utility. While Gordhan is currently at blows with the family, Molefe reportedly has good relations with them and other pro-Gupta factions.

"It cannot be a question of how do we feel," said Mantashe on Molefe's reported move to Parliament.

## Nominating

He outlined the ANC's processes of nominating and sending members to Parliament. "You don't wake up one day and say Brian Molefe goes to Parliament and he goes to Parliament. It doesn't happen like that."

A key issue Mantashe made an announcement on the implementation of a new process for the nomination of candidates for leadership positions at the ANC's congress later this year. "There will be an electoral commission to say when branches nominate, they must seal the envelope and hand it over to a central place. If we don't do that, we will have a nomination by slates," he said. National structures will approve branch nominations to avoid tampering from regions and provinces, which may favour slates, he said. Slates have recently dominated ANC elections and are already being touted ahead of this year's congress. "In line with the 2016 NGC res-

olution that the branch is the basic unit of the ANC, that slates must be outlawed and that serious action must be taken to prevent and deal with the practice of slate, the NEC resolved do away with the practice of consolidating nominations for leadership at a regional and provincial level. Branches must be given the right to nominate. Consolidation at other levels tampers with the authority of the branches to nominate. All nominations for leadership from branches will be consolidated nationally by the electoral commission," said the NEC statement. All ANC members in good standing by the end of April will be able to stand for election and branches will hold meetings in September and October to make nominations ahead of the December elections.

## Slates

The most commonly talked-of slates so far relate to the election of either Cyril Ramaphosa or Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma as president.

The latter is seen as tied to the Premier League and defending President Jacob Zuma, while Ramaphosa at this stage only appears to have rallied support on an anti-Zuma agenda. A number of other ANC leaders have also been mentioned as candidates for party president. On key issues facing the country, the ANC NEC made a number of resolutions which will now be discussed in the upcoming Cabinet lekgotla before the State of the Nation address. While some of the resolutions could make a difference in the development of the country, key questions remain over the ANC's ability to implement policy and what it can do while it's distracted by scandals and party in-fighting.

## Gerrie Nel is making the mistake of his life

**ADVOCATE Gerrie Nel, bulldog prosecutor extraordinaire, should not be joining AfriForum.**

Nel is above AfriForum. Nel belongs to all South Africans who saw him put Oscar Pistorius and Jackie Selebi in jail.

No wonder social media has exploded with anger, outrage and sadness after the news broke that Nel would be joining a racially divisive lobby group.

While we should be discussing the implosion of the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) under Advocate Shaun Abrahams, we are discussing AfriForum. And that is just wrong.

Save SA's Lawson Naidoo tweeted: "He runs the risk of destroying his legacy of a proud career in public service." I agree.

I cannot imagine the unbearable circumstances Nel must have been working under at the NPA to have considered making such a dramatic jump.

Let's be clear: I am not saying Nel should not have resigned. It is the right of every civil servant to pursue private interests and dreams when

they feel they can no longer do this as part of the state.

Many former civil servants become successful advocates, entrepreneurs and CEOs. Think of Maria Ramos, Dali Mpofu, Andile Ngcaba, Bulelani Ngcuka, George Fivaz and Mo Shaik. It is Nel's fullest right to exit the NPA after reaching a certain level of "gatvolness".

It is unsurprising that Nel felt he could not see out his last five years as prosecutor. The NPA has been in turmoil for years. The organisation is one of the biggest casualties of the Jacob Zuma era.

When he couldn't save her husband from going to prison, suspended deputy NPA Head Nomgcobo Jiba declared war on Nel. It is known that she and her allies tried to make life hell for him.

He was constantly under some kind of fake investigation and has never been charged successfully.

During all of this, Nel kept on doing what he was born to do: putting bad guys in prison. His cross-examination of Pistorius and tenacity to seek justice for Reeva Steenkamp made

him a hero for millions of South Africans, black and white.

Although Nel has always been extremely media shy, the person I encountered in court was a kind, gentle soul who only cared about one thing: justice.

He treated all his colleagues - irrespective of gender, race or creed - with the utmost respect. By joining AfriForum, Nel will play right into the hands of his enemies, who will predictably react with a "there you go; we always knew" response.

Why is AfriForum loathed by so many people?

"I'm sure Afrikaans people are rejoicing currently. Their beloved son is coming home to fight the swart gevaar. Abelungu oSathane," tweeted @MsZondi06 - a sentiment expressed by hundreds of people on social media after the news broke that Nel was joining AfriForum.

Of course Twitter isn't a scientific poll of public sentiment, but I would guess that by far the majority of South Africans (including whites) would be surprised that Nel was considering joining AfriForum.

AfriForum is the "civil rights movement" of the Solidarity trade union. Their explicit aim is to protect the constitutional rights of white, Afrikaans-speaking people. Apart from a labour case involving coloured prison warders, the majority of their campaigns and cases have been about fighting transformation and affirmative action in South Africa.

Do they have a right to do so? Absolutely. Their campaigns vary from the noble (fixing potholes in dilapidated towns) to the ridiculous (painting their faces black outside the Union Buildings to protest affirmative action).

They have now enlisted the services of private investigator Paul O'Sullivan. Nel will allegedly pursue private prosecutions on their behalf. This is a clever PR strategy by an organisation yearning for wider appeal and acceptance.

But Nel should know better. Every private prosecution AfriForum brings to court will rightfully be treated with suspicion as an attack on black people in defence of white privilege, even when it isn't. Nel should consider this before signing on the dotted line, if he hasn't done so yet.

NEWS24



# Hate Speech Bill: alarm at dangers, pitfalls as first deadline closes

**YESTERDAY** the first window of opportunity for public comments on the controversial Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill closes.

On Monday PEN SA, which represents writers, editors and translators, expressed deep concern at the dangers posed by the Bill which, in its current form, threatens and criminalises freedom of expression.

Also, the fractured political climate in which the hate speech provisions were tagged onto the Bill, released in October last year, raised concerns that it can be used to silence and jail government critics.

The threat of potential repression and a jail term make for strange bedfellows.

Shortly after Minister of Justice Michael Masutha published the Prevention and Combating of Hate Crime and Hate Speech Bill (a decade in the making) in October last year, Advocate Nadine Badenhorst, legal representative for Freedom of Religion South Africa (FOR SA) – which claims it is a “voice for the Christian Church in South Africa” – wrote that the Bill in its current form would “muzzle” believers from “preaching, teaching or speaking ‘controversial’ Scriptures and issues like abortion, creationism, euthanasia, prostitution, sexual immorality”.

## Fundamentalist

Badenhorst rather shrilly warned that the fear then was that “liberal activists” would “push their own agenda to silence, in their opinion, ‘extremist, fundamentalist, narrow-minded and bigoted’ views”.

For SA believes that “when certain speech is criminalised, no one would dare open their mouths for fear that someone might take offence and report them to the authorities. Debate on issues such as what is morally right and wrong, what is just and unjust, would be shut down and the very freedoms we cherish as South Africans, namely free speech and freedom of religion, would be reined in.”

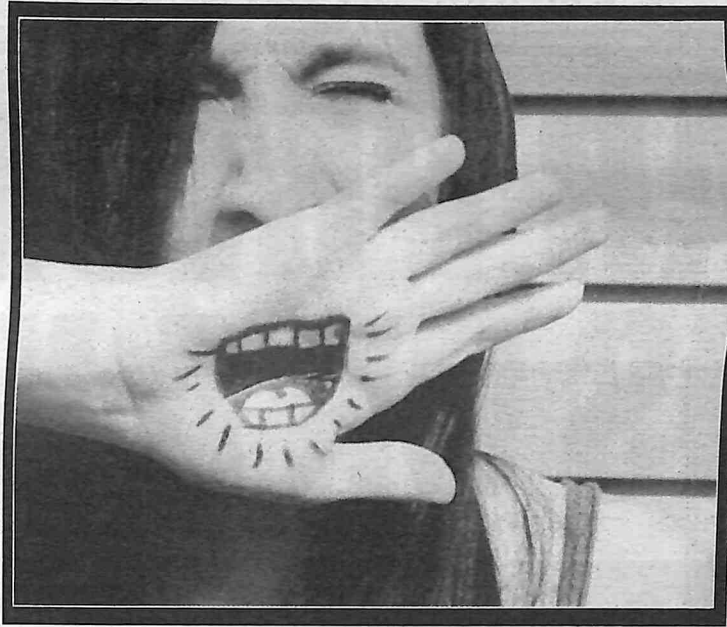
In other words, Ghanaian Pastor Dag Heward-Mills would have had his ass dragged from the Grace Bible Church for his recent homophobic sermon, charged in a court of law and could spend time in the slammer.

Thing is, the Constitution protects Pastor Heward-Mills’ right to free speech as it does that of journalists, comedians, satirists, cartoonists and everyone else.

And herein lies the complexity of the proposed new legislation.

On the other hand is the response from those who treasure free speech and that is more or less summed up in a statement released on Monday by PEN SA, the South African chapter of an international organisation that represents writers, editors and translators.

“Firm measures are required to guard against racist and hate speech. However, PEN SA strongly believes that we cannot, as a country and lawmakers, rely on the law to address these complex social problems and the hurt and outrage expressed by many South Africans. We acknowledge the genuine need signalled by this proposed legislation. However, the law – and this Bill in particular – cannot act as



a shortcut to the broader social change that is clearly necessary,” reads the statement issued on behalf of PEN SA President Margie Orford, Executive Vice President Mandla Langa, vice President Raymond Louw as well as board members Carole Bloch, Adre Marshall, Nadia Davids and Gabeba Baderoon.

PEN SA’s main concerns with the new Bill are that the offences outlined were far too broadly framed and could infringe on freedom of expression and freedom of the media and that it opened opportunities for the introduction of offences that equate “insult laws” where criminal defamation laws can be used – to censor the media and the public right to know. “In addition, it [PEN SA] is alarmed at the penalties proposed for offences under the legislation. They include severe lengthy prison sentences.”

## Comprehensive

The organisation also noted that “the comprehensive manner in which the Bill impinges on what would normally be regarded as humorous commentary on the mores of society has alarmed some comedians, who normally have few qualms about the law when performing. While one comedian supports the Bill because too many people have gotten away with a slap on the wrist for hate speech, three of his colleagues expressed grave concerns that the Bill is ‘too broad and very restrictive’ and that it will prevent them, or anyone else, from making critical comments in their jokes about the president and the state of the nation.”

Matthew Clayton, Secretary of the Hate Crimes Working Group (HCWG), a multi-sectoral network of civil society organisations that share a common concern with regards to the impact of hate crimes in South Africa, wrote soon after the Minister of Justice had released the Bill for public comment last year, said that the Bill essentially was a “potentially game-changing piece of policy”.

The HCWG has been an integral part of the decade-long research and development of the Bill and while the proposed legislation created much-needed protection for groups that were vulnerable and who were targeted because of race, sexual orientation, gender, national origin, occupation or disability, the inclusion, wrote Clayton, of “hate speech” in the Bill

“was cause for concern”.

The Bill was released in the aftermath of several vicious public racist attacks, including Penny Sparrow, and the inclusion of hate speech, said Clayton, had been “a knee-jerk and political reaction to what is the deep and complex problem of racism and white supremacy in South Africa”.

“The interpretation of hate speech is broad to the point of futility – in what constitutes hate speech and how it can be inflicted – and has been wedged into an otherwise useful and important Bill without the kind of consultation that had strengthened the Bill up to that point,” he opined.

PEN SA said that a key component of “hate speech” as defined in the Bill “is when any person intentionally, by means of any communication whatsoever, communicates in a manner that advocates hatred towards any other person or group of persons or is threatening, abusive or insulting towards any other person or group of persons and which demonstrates a clear intention to incite others to harm any person or group of persons whether or not such person or group of persons is harmed, or stir up violence against, or bring into contempt or ridicule, any person or group of persons.”

## Defined

“The description of the categories and subjects of hate speech as defined in the Bill extend to virtually any characteristic and activity of a person and are far too wide.

“One of the dangers this situation gives rise to is the temptation it holds out for the authorities, including police officers and prosecutors, to base charges on almost any human emotion as expressed by facial or bodily expression or innuendo. Among the characteristics of the victims that the perpetrator of hate speech may latch on to is the new category called ‘inter-sex’, defined as a congenital sexual differentiation which is atypical to whatever degree – whatever that may mean.”

It appeared that in drafting the Bill, the South African Department of Justice had been influenced by the legislation in force in the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada (since repealed), though that influence appears not to extend to penalties.

“The South African penalties for hate speech appear to be much more

severe. For a first offence a three-year jail term or a fine, not defined but according to commentators likely to be heavy, can be imposed and for a second offence the prison sentence can be 10 years or a commensurate fine. In Britain, the practice has been to impose a six-month jail term for a first offence.”

Finally, PEN SA said it believed the legislation “must be withdrawn”.

“South Africa already has a law which deals with hate speech, the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act. The Equality Act already holds out concerns about potential encroachment on freedom of expression. Section 10 of the Act states: “No person may publish, propagate, advocate or communicate words based on one or more of the prohibited grounds against any person, that could reasonably be construed to demonstrate a clear intention to be hurtful, be harmful or to incite harm (and/or) promote or propagate hatred.”

PEN SA also supported the view that the new legislation would have “a chilling effect on freedom of speech and freedom of expression. But PEN South Africa believes the legislation will do much more damage. The implementation of the legislation is likely to result in actual censorship and the harsh prison sentences could inflame emotions among communities that could lead to violence.”

Clayton has suggested that the Bill cannot be used to infringe the rights of satirists to attack politicians “because the courts will probably strike down any interpretation of the Bill in that manner as unconstitutional. The best-case scenario is, however, not a good enough reason for the passage of legislation that potentially endangers our right to freedom of expression.”

## Mocking

In April last year, German Chancellor Angela Merkel found herself caught in the crossfire of a case that tested diplomatic relations and the limits of free speech and satire in that country when she allowed the prosecution of a German comedian, Jan Böhmernann, who had penned a poem mocking Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Erdogan had evoked an over 100-year-old obscure clause in the German penal code known as “lese majeste”. Merkel juggled the potential diplomatic fracas by leaving it to the German courts to decide on Böhmernann’s fate. Prosecutors later dropped the investigation citing “insufficient evidence”.

On January 25 this year Germany abolished the law, defending the honour of foreign leaders a move that will still have to be ratified by the Bundestag lower house.

Just in time for a visit by POTUS 45, which is imminent.

The Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill will be served before Cabinet later this year before being introduced to Parliament.

The battle is far from over in South Africa and the rest of the world where thin-skinned politicians are resorting to ever more authoritarian measures to clamp down on criticism and dissent.

## Wit and Wisdom

1. “The important thing to remember is not to forget”  
– Benny Bellamacina, Philosophical Uplifting Quotes and Poems
2. “Are we done now?” (Eric)  
– Shannon A. Thompson, *Minutes Before Sunset*
3. “The wittiest authors raise the very slightest of smiles.”  
– Friedrich Nietzsche, *Human, All Too Human*
4. “Good madonna, give me leave to prove you a fool.”  
– William Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*
5. “Just bring your wits. Sometimes that’s the most effective weapon any of us has.”  
– Jean Ferris, *Thrice Upon a Marigold*
6. “Graham’s life is as tense as an overstretched simile.”  
– Zane Stumpo, *Schrodinger’s Caterpillar*
7. “Well, well,” said he, “do not make yourself unhappy. If you are a good girl for the next ten years, I will take you to a review at the end of them.”  
– Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*
8. “Look, this is helping me out quite a bit, but could you just get to the punishment part? We’re at the end of World War Two in history, and I can’t wait to find out who wins.”  
– Rob Thomas, *Rats Saw God*
9. “Wit makes its own welcome and levels all distinctions.”  
– Ralph Waldo Emerson
10. On the left-hand side of the lawn, also with a petunia bed, is an equally mythic figure: the weary soldier, his three top shirt buttons undone, his neck bowed as if for the headman’s axe, his uniform rumpled, his helmet askew, leaning on his malfunctioning Ross rifle. Forever young, forever exhausted, he tops the War Memorial, his skin burning green in the sun, pigeon droppings running down his face like tears.  
– Margaret Atwood, *The Blind Assassin*
11. “Half is better than none unless it be of a wit.”  
– Susan Lendroth
12. “You can tell a really wonderful quote by the fact that it’s attributed to a whole raft of wits.”  
– Anna Quindlen, *Imagined London: A Tour of the World’s Greatest Fictional City*
13. A blow or punch delivered by military aircraft to a target who is suspected of being adverse to one’s plot for world domination.  
– Leslie Starr O’Hara, *The Doublespeak Dictionary: Your Guide to the Euphemisms, Dysphemisms, and Other Linguistic Contrivances of the State*
14. A person who believes in liberty, but only for the state.  
– Leslie Starr O’Hara, *The Doublespeak Dictionary: Your Guide to the Euphemisms, Dysphemisms, and Other Linguistic Contrivances of the State*
15. “I’m very fond of experimental housekeeping.”  
– Jane Austen
16. “I was going to write a sharp witty email full of devastating one-liners but I suspect you want something nicer than that”  
– Lucy Robinson, *The Greatest Love Story of All Time*
17. “I’m eating a massive pastrami sandwich. It’s so beautiful I might cry. Just so you know.”  
– Lucy Robinson, *The Greatest Love Story of All Time*
18. “The problem is you make the tricks look good. You are a brilliant acrobat, and a witty comedian. You are skillful. People want a fool to be foolish—trip on banana peels and grin and spout nonsense. These men want fools to make them feel better about themselves, not to remind them what they lack.”  
– Kelli Swofford Nielsen, *Journey to the Fringe*



# BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

## CONTACTS

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

## VITALS

Prime Rate	10.75%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	8.7%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	9.75%
Swaziland Building Society	
Bank Rate	7.25%
Central Bank	
Petrol (u)	E11.00 per litre
Replacement	E11.05 per litre
Diesel	E10.95 per litre
Paraffin	E 7.15 per litre
Engen Garage	

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 27 JAN 2017

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
 US Dollar / SZL	13.4250	13.4750
 British Pound/SZL	16.8356	16.8983
 Japanese Yen/SZL	8.5521	8.5818
 Swiss France/SZL	13.3982	13.4427
 Botswana Pula/SZL	1.2713	1.2801
 Australian Dollar/SZL	10.0956	10.1345
 Canadian Dollar/SZL	10.2332	10.2682
 Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
 Euro/SZL	14.3178	14.3711
Gold	1,181.8600	
Oil	55.8800	

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



Standard Bank

# SUGAR PRICES OPENS ON A HIGH

By Linda Dlamini

**SUGAR prices have rallied at the outset of the year following the declining trend observed in most of the fourth quarter of 2016.**

According to economists from Focus Economics, international sugar traded at E280 cents per pound as of January 13, 2017.

"The price was up 11.9 per cent from the same day last month and 6.6 per cent higher on a year-to-date basis. Also, the price was up 44.7 per cent from the same day of last year," said the economists.

The sugar industry in Swaziland remains the highest contributor to government's treasury through taxation, social services and trade.

It also plays a crucial role in the country's economy by influencing economic growth and employment.

Last year, Swaziland Sugar Association (SSA) distributed total wealth worth about E3.9 billion to stakeholders including millers, growers and government.

However, the international price of sugar at E280 cent per pound was still below the 2012 level of E295 cents per pound.



University of Swaziland (UNISWA) agricultural economics lecturers and economists Sotja Dlamini and Micah Masuku said given the role of the country's sugar industry, it was important to understand the influencing factors of Swaziland sugar exports volumes to its major trading partners.

"Credit extension to the private sector is reflective of the structure of the economy which is driven by the sugar sector in agriculture manufacturing and services," the economists said.

A study conducted by the lecturers last year, found that Swaziland sugar exports had a positive influence to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

### Policies

"Therefore, policies that lead to the exceptional advancement of the country's economy should be promoted," said the economists.

Last year, the country recorded negative economic growth and the fall in international sugar prices like-

ly contributed to the contraction of the economy.

The study concluded that the Kingdom's Sugar exports tend to increase into countries where the official language was English, which suggest that sharing the same language promotes sugar exports and the country should expand and promote its sugar exports by selling to those countries.

"The formations of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the European Union (EU) trading blocs have significant positive effects on Swaziland sugar exports, hence the study recommends that in order to enhance Swaziland sugar export flows, the processes of economic integration should be deepened," the economists stated.

Meanwhile, the economists also observed that the importer's population impacted negatively on the country's sugar exports, suggesting that the trading partners become self-sufficient as their population grows.

"So Swaziland sugar exports volumes can increase by lowering the sugar trade to these countries," they concluded.

## SERA WITHHOLDS NEW ELECTRICITY TARIFF ANNOUNCEMENT

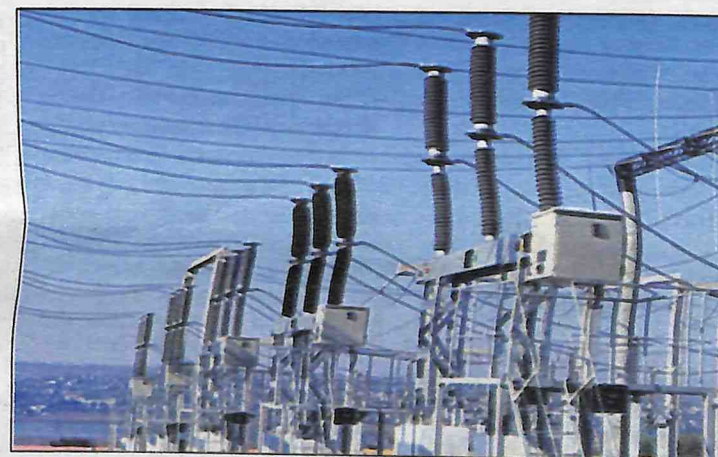
By Manqoba Makhubu

**CONSUMERS will have to wait until next week for the final outcome of the proposed 20.19 per cent electricity hike.**

The Swaziland Energy Regulatory Authority (SERA) decided to withhold the public announcement of the new tariff rate which was highly anticipated to be made today as promised by the authority.

"We ask the public to be patient with us; we still have one critical internal exercise that we have to complete before the official announcement to the public. We are looking at making the announcement early next week," said manager Consumer and Stakeholder Management Sikhumbuzo Nkambule.

He said they have already engaged the relevant stakeholders with regards to the postponement, especially the



applicant, Swaziland Electricity Company (SEC).

He said it was critical for the regulator to exercise due diligence on the subject matter due to its weighting on the economy.

Yesterday, the regulator was expected to present the new tariff to Cabinet. Nkambule said they met with Cabinet,

but was noncommittal with regards to the details of the meeting. He however, stressed that the postponement had nothing to do with Cabinet.

Speaking to this publication on Monday, Nkambule assured consumers that whatever the outcome, they should rest assured that their interests are well catered for and

weighed against other factors to be considered.

"We can assure consumers that the regulator is committed to ensuring security of electricity supply in the country and by so doing, we looked at both the views of the public and the reasons for the need to review the electricity tariff."

"We also considered the fact that looking into the future, the country has to be self-reliant when it comes to the supply of electricity, hence we also considered the need for the utility to implement generation projects for the sake of the country," said Nkambule.

Adding, he said the regulator would ensure that consumers have the 60 days notice of change.

The new changes according to figures contained in SEC's proposal will affect close to 180 000 consumers who are customers to the country's lone power utility.



# Consumers happy with selection of third mobile company

By Linda Dlamini

**THE Swaziland Consumer Association (SCA) welcomes the news that there will soon be three players in the mobile telecommunications sector.**

SCA Chairman, Bongani Mdluli said the association was pleased that the communications sector of the country would soon see new entrants in the market.

Mdluli said the introduction of the two others players in the sector would increase competition and this would be good for consumers.

"We are happy that the monopoly that was held by Swazi MTN will soon be a thing of the past," he said.

The chairman congratulated Swazi Mobile Limited for being granted the licence to provide a mobile telecommunications service to consumers. He said they can't wait to see the company up and running.

"Consumers will benefit immensely with the addition of another service provider in the communications sector. This is especially the case in terms of pricing and service that consumers will now get as a consequence of competition," he said.

"All sectors in the economy should strive to increase competition as this is beneficial not only to consumers but the economy as a whole," he further stated.

Meanwhile, Mdluli said the fact that

the new mobile service provider is owned by Swazis, came as a bonus and also deserves credit.

"This means that the profits derived by the company will be retained within the economy," he said.

The other two mobile telecommunications service providers, Swazi MTN and Swaziland Post and Telecommunications, are also predominantly Swazi owned.

The regulator, Swaziland Communications Commission

(SCCOM), through General Notice No.10 of 2016, announced its intention to award a licence to Swazi Mobile Limited as the third telecommunications service provider.

The other three applicants were Viettel Global Investment Joint Stock Company trading as Vietel, Mauritius Telecom Limited and sdnet which is a partnership between Data Network Services (PTY) Limited "DataNet" and Ndlaphu Financial Services (Pty) Limited (NFS) respectively.

## 26 PLOTS STILL AVAILABLE AT MABUYA TOWNSHIP

Stories by Manqoba Makhubu

**26 plots are still available for prospective buyers at Mabuya Township.**

The township situated between two to three kilometres from the Ngwenya border post and about only 18km away from Mbabane, was developed by the Swaziland National Housing Board (SNHB).

SNHB invested over E20 million for the township development which now boasts fully serviced infrastructure.

According to SNHB Public Relations/Communications, Zamancele Mavuso, the township had 98 residential plots, of which 32 were reserved and 40 have already been sold, "so now only 26 plots are still available for prospective buyers."

The township plots sizes ranges from 449m<sup>2</sup> to 962m<sup>2</sup>.

During a show of the township held on May 3 last year, SNHB said the township which is a plot and house development was, aimed at low and middle income earners.

In a recent interview, last Friday with SNHB Chief Executive Officer Mduduzi Dlamini, he said the housing board had been working tirelessly to meet the increasing demand for both residential and institutional residences in the country.

Through loans backed by a government guarantee from the Public Service Pensions Fund (PSPF) E600 million and Swaziland National Provident Fund (SNPF) E100



million, SNHB had already utilised E700 million and still looks at raising E300 million to reach the E1 billion target set for the institutional housing project.

"We have moved into stage two of the Institutional Housing Project (IHP). From last year, we have been constructing units for the ministry of health," he said.

Dlamini said the plan going forward was to get excessive funding to build units for teachers under the ministry of education.

"And in each case, government gives us a guarantee, we then use that guarantee to source funding," said Dlamini.

Meanwhile, Dlamini said IHP was also aimed to resuscitate the economy. Hence, the professionals that were contracted from architects to engineers and surveyors were Swazi.

"We would like government to extend the mandate, especially now because with the economic slowdown we need to keep going to turn the economy around," he

said.

"I am happy about the outcomes of the project and I draw satisfaction from seeing a lot of contractors who started small, but have now significantly grew," he further stated.

In the past two to three years, he said SNHB had been the strength of the construction industry.

A total of about 60 sites were covered in phase one of the project all over the country and more than 30 contracts were awarded to more than 26 contractors.

The housing board prides itself for having provided over a thousand rental units at affordable local rates within the densely populated urban areas and have handed over numerous plots on title deed land for development by Swazi citizens.

It has also made available scores of houses for ownership by locals, which has ensured easier access to property ownership through our township developments.

## SA still a good home for offshore investment

By Manqoba Makhubu

**DESPITE a disastrous 2016 experienced by South Africa, Old Mutual Group Head of Macro Solutions, Peter Brooke says the republic has brighter prospects for investors this year.**

This is good news for local fund managers who testified that they were enjoying better returns as part of their offshore investment portfolio in the republic.

"There are three big themes that we believe will dominate markets in the year ahead. These are keynes is king, reflation and SA stabilises."

"The first two themes are about an improving world and better global growth, while the third

theme is SA is specific and has the biggest impact on the local asset classes in which we invest," said Brooke.

He said the world has shifted.

"The big bond bull market is over and there is a move away from monetary policy stimulus to using fiscal stimulus to

revive economic growth. "Monetary policy has gone as far as it can go in its effectiveness in boosting growth. The next step is fiscal stimulus - increasing government spending and/or lowering taxes to stimulate demand," said Brooke.

He said a more expansionary fiscal programme in the US would support growth and should result in global earnings going up in 2017.

He said this was good for equities relative to bonds and within equities, "it is good for value-style investing over growth-oriented shares and for cyclical over defensive shares."

Adding, Brooke said the republic was beginning to show signs of deflation-something developed market central banks have been trying to achieve for years.

He said this was driven by the

US wage growth, which was driving increased consumer spending and hence, inflation.

"A rise in spending means increased demand, which will translate into better profits. While in the global equity bull market, we've had multiple expansions, the thing that has been missing is profits."

"With better growth, we think that earnings will come through and we believe earnings have the potential to surprise on the upside," he said.

Brooker said the big theme, 'SA stabilises,' underscored that conditions were expected to improve going forward.

"The biggest factor is rain. The drought has broken and this will mean a good agricultural harvest."

This, in turn, will bring food prices down and the consumer will have more disposable income," said Brooker.

"Another supporting factor is inflation. While it recently hit an annual rate of 6.8 per cent, we believe this is the peak and expect inflation to start coming down. A falling inflation rate will mean that

we can expect the South African Reserve Bank to start cutting interest rates," he added.

Other factors included the improvement of the global economic environment and the end of the commodity price collapse. Brooke said this all translates into slightly better growth prospects for the republic.

"After a tough period in terms of returns, with most investors making very little money in 2016, we think things will start improving in 2017," said Brooke.

He said better earnings means better returns, lower cash yields means cash was less attractive and lower inflation means they could get better real returns.

"Hence, our outlook is a bit more positive and that comes through in our expected returns over the next five years, which are higher in real terms," he said.

## Mbabane Council takes measures to control outdoor advertising

**THE Municipal Council of Mbabane has taken measures to control outdoor advertising.**

Recent years have seen a proliferation of mostly uncontrolled outdoor advertising signs throughout the city.

As a response, the council has set up street pole signs located within close proximity to the city's arterial road network.

Information and Public Relations Officer Lucky Tsabedze said this was meant to bring order in the capital city by providing organised advertising and directional signs throughout the city.

"A service provider was given the job through a tendering process. He will handle all those who will do outdoor advertising and directions."

"Of course this is a business opportunity, therefore it will come at a cost," he said.



**IN PROGRESS: Part of the signs installed by the council along Mndzimba avenue, similar signs have been installed within the city's road network. (Pic: Manqoba Makhubu)**

Super Signs Swaziland has been entrusted to handle the task.

The council whose mandate is guided by the Integrated Development Plan (IDP), which is a physical, economic, environmental and operational policy guide for the city's development over a five year period from 2014-2019, seeks to achieve its vision of being 'the preferred destination in Southern Africa.'

According to the council's annual report for 2016, the IDP was designed to help the municipality deliver in its mission of preserving, protecting and enhancing the quality of life, harnessing growth, development, good governance, responsive quality services for all stakeholders and sustainable development based on modern technological, environmental, economic and social principles.



# ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY INITIATIVES NEED TO DRIVE GROWTH

By Linda Dlamini

**LESS developed countries like Swaziland face risks in their opportunities for economic growth as a result of global efforts to stabilise the atmospheric concentration of green house gases.**

Historically, economic growth has been closely linked with increased green house gas emissions.

Sitsabo Project Managers Director Dr. Sitsabo Dlamini said the country needs to break this link if it is to experience rapid economic growth in line with the 2022 national vision in a carbon constrained world. "There is need to leapfrog the polluting production methods used by developed economies. Low carbon growth paths need to be explored, there are massive financial, technological and capacity challenges associated with achieving this," he said.

Dlamini said climate change has far reaching implications for infrastructure development and economic growth.

"The economic and social impacts of global warming depend not only on progress in the international arena, but also critically on the developmental paths which countries adopt," he said. Dlamini said a broad range

of developmental choices in which infrastructure policy plays a key role will impact Swaziland's capacity to cope with climate change "These developmental choices include geographical distribution of economic activities, infrastructure design, land use policy and energy security," he said.

The construction industry expert said infrastructure development now requires anticipating the future and developing a gradual adaptation strategy.

"Exposure to different climate risks, increases in temperatures and the consequent extreme weather need consideration at feasibility stage. This demands employ-

ing ingenious design approaches tailored to local conditions," he said.

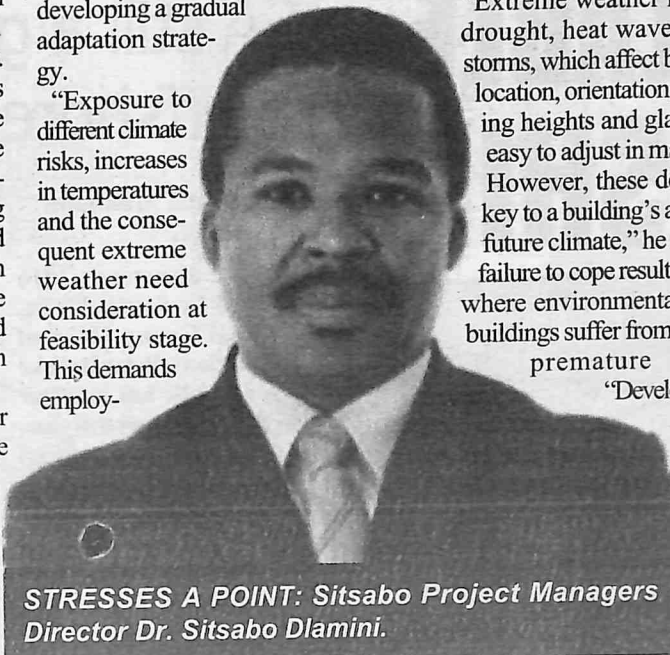
Dlamini said maintenance cycles for timely, effective and proportionate upgrades must be optimised.

"This will ensure the long-term economic sustainability of both private and public sector utilities," he said.

Dlamini said government should formulate contemporary strategies for ensuring the feasibility of new infrastructure. "Extreme weather results in floods, drought, heat waves, snow, ice and storms, which affect buildings. Building location, orientation, foundations, ceiling heights and glazing ratio are not easy to adjust in maintenance cycles.

However, these design features are key to a building's ability to cope with future climate," he said. Dlamini said failure to cope results in stranded assets where environmentally unsustainable buildings suffer from unanticipated and premature devaluations.

"Developing resilient infrastructure is becoming important for maintaining a competitive advantage," he said.



**STRESSES A POINT:** Sitsabo Project Managers Director Dr. Sitsabo Dlamini.

## Mines fund to distribute claims worth R600m

**JOHANNESBURG - The Mines 1970 Unclaimed Benefits Preservation Pension and Provident Funds want to distribute the entire fund - R600 million - to ex-mineworkers in South Africa, Mozambique, Lesotho, Swaziland, Malawi, Botswana and Zimbabwe by 2020, Chairperson of the Mines 1970s Funds, Sue Fritz said on Monday.**

This is said to be a fraction of the billions of rands that different pension funds are understood to owe ex-miners. Mineral Resources Deputy Minister, Godfrey Oliphant said last year that there was about R30 billion in unclaimed benefits. Oliphant said

a substantial portion of the R30 billion was for former mineworkers.

"These are substantial sums that would do a lot to rejuvenate rural economies and labour sending areas where the mineworkers come from," said Oliphant at the time.

The 1970s Funds said it had identified 62 per cent of the missing beneficiaries in 25 months.

In that period, the funds had paid more than R60 million in unclaimed benefits to beneficiaries.

Fritz said, over the past year, investment yields for the funds had exceeded higher than inflation investment benchmarks. The Funds comprise 11

712 pension fund beneficiaries and 5 7450 provident fund beneficiaries, located in different southern African countries.

"We have identified 73 per cent of the pension fund beneficiaries and, families of the deceased, and 60 per cent of provident fund beneficiaries and families," said Fritz. She said the increased success rate was due to their new tracing initiatives.

These include the use of so-called tracing agents who make visits to the homes of beneficiaries to help them complete application forms and obtain other supporting documentation. "

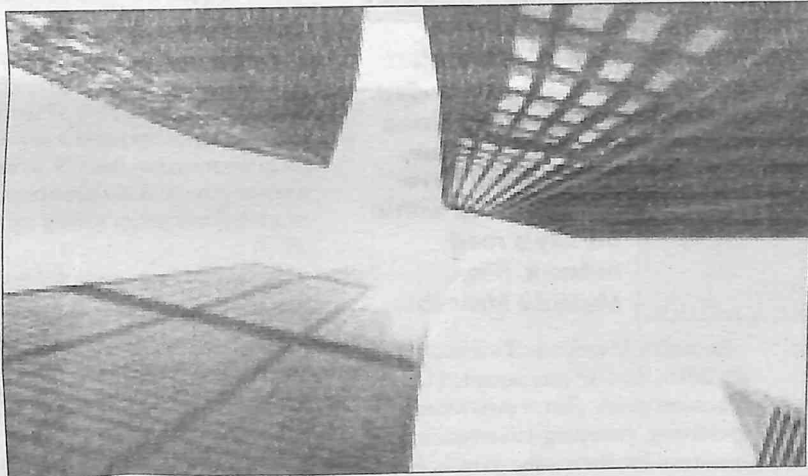
**BUSINESS REPORT**

## CAPE TOWERS BOOSTS PORTFOLIO TO R5BN

**JOHANNESBURG - Cape-based Tower Property Fund increased revenue by 22 per cent to R223 million and operating profit by 47 per cent to R195 million in difficult trading conditions in the six months to November.**

In a statement issued yesterday, it said the acquisition of a R1 billion retail property portfolio in Croatia during the period increased the fund's total portfolio value to more than R5 billion. Currently 28 per cent of Tower's properties by value are located in Croatia.

The fund's portfolio of 49 properties is spread across retail (47 per cent), office (45 per cent) and industrial (eight per cent). Distributable earnings for the period increased to R130 million. After the board's decision to no longer distribute once-off earnings to shareholders as dividends, Tower's distribution



per share declined by 15 per cent to 38.4 cents per share, it said. The number of shares in issue increased by 42 per cent.

CEO Marc Edwards said "2016 was a watershed year for Tower. Our asset

management company was internalised in line with market best practice and the company took the prudent decision to only distribute its core earnings to share

**BUSINESS REPORT ONLINE**

## Mineral processing, priority sector for SADC's development

By Linda Dlamini

**THE mineral processing sector has been identified as one of the priority sectors in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region's development.**

According to a statement released by the SADC Accreditation Service (SAD-CAS), poor quality of products, general lack of quality control and quality assurance and inability to prove conformity of exports with international standards had been a weakness of the mineral processing sector.

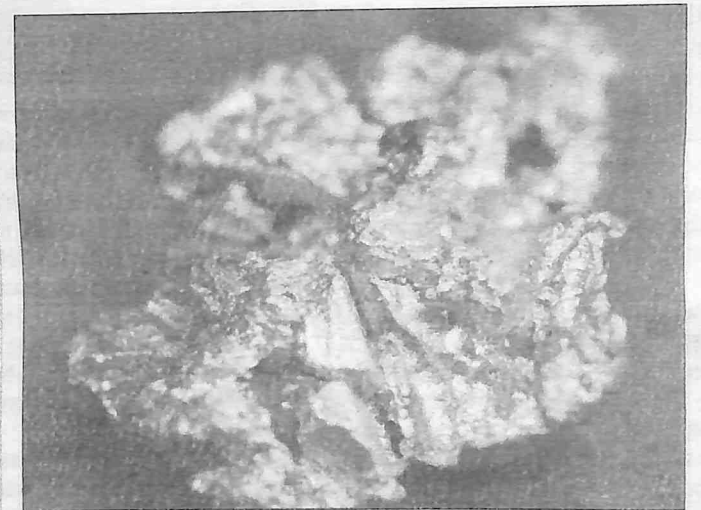
"The mineral processing sector has the relative advantage of gaining in competitiveness at fewer costs through adapting the final production to international standards. Laboratories play a critical role in the mining and minerals processing sector from exploitation, research, to grade control in the processing plant," the statement said. The regional body said

accreditation was the process of providing recognition that an organisation or person was competent to undertake specific tasks, "it is now widely accepted as a transparent and non discriminatory means of assuring technical competence of testing, certification and inspection collectively known as conformity assessment service providers."

"In an increasingly competitive business environment, companies small and large across the globe have one main goal in common; to save time and money whilst simultaneously increasing sales," reads the statement in part.

"Accreditation is one tool that can help businesses reach this target, especially those with ambitions to expand into other international markets," the statement said.

This training came at an opportune time as efforts were underway to strengthen the region's conformity assessment infrastructure as part of the industrialisation strategy.



## NANDO'S TO WEIGH LONDON IPO AMID EXPANSION

**JOHANNESBURG - Nando's Group, the South African fast-food company known for its spicy chicken and fries, is considering an initial public offering, according to people familiar with the matter.**

Nando's is speaking to advisers and is in the early stages of planning a share sale, the people said, asking not to be identified as the deliberations are private. The company is weighing a London listing among other potential venues, they said. No final decisions have been made and the company may look at other ways to raise funds, they said. Reports about plans for an IPO are incorrect, and the company isn't looking at ways to raise money, a spokesperson said in an e-mailed statement.

An overseas IPO would help the Johannesburg-based company, originally backed by billionaire Dick Enthoven, raise money in a currency other than the rand as it con-

tinues to expand globally. A Nando's IPO would follow in the footsteps of other South African companies, such as Steinhoff and Brait, which have primary listings outside the country to hedge against a volatile currency.

A listing in London would also give Nando's access to a large investor base. Companies raised nearly \$8bn from IPOs in the UK last year, compared with \$647m in South Africa, data compiled by Bloomberg show.

The company operates restaurants selling peri-peri chicken in countries including the UK, the US, Australia, India, Malaysia and Qatar. Nando's started in South Africa in 1987 after entrepreneurs Robbie Brozin and Fernando "Nando" Duarte convinced Enthoven to invest in the Portuguese-styled chain. The company traded on Johannesburg's stock exchange until 2003 when managers bought more shares and delisted it. **FIN24**



# Instagram giveaway a hoax, warns Pavilion shopping mall

**JOHANNESBURG** - The Pavilion shopping centre in Durban yesterday warned of a fake Instagram account attempting to grow followers through a scam, while experts have cautioned social media users about the dangers of falling prey to these online hoaxes.

'The Pavilion Mall Westville' - an account confirmed as a hoax by Fin24 after contacting the official mall management - said in its bio: "1st 5000 followers will receive R500 voucher to spend @ The Pavilion Mall Westville... Follow us, Take a screenshot, Upload the screenshot and Tag us."

The Pavilion also confirmed in a statement that the account is a fake and that the mall does have an official account.

"Dear Shoppers, please note a fake Instagram account has been created of The Pavilion Shopping Centre. Please note, this is not the

official Instagram account of The Pavilion Shopping Centre and the management team is not running a competition online," they said in the statement.

Despite the mall's warning the Instagram account, first noticed by The Pavilion on Monday night, noticed a steady growth with already over 1 000 followers by yesterday morning.

Meanwhile, South African Airways (SAA) warned customers of a hoax survey circulating on WhatsApp messenger, claiming SAA is offering free tickets to fly anywhere.

"SAA is neither conducting an online survey nor offering free flight tickets. We have no association whatsoever with this so-called survey. Free flight tickets are a luxury we cannot afford at this stage as the airline is focusing on restoring financial stability and is managing its costs to improve its performance," said SAA spokesperson Tlali Tlali.



The scam, which was spread over WhatsApp as a URL to the hoax survey, has since been shut down;

it invited participants to tell 10 friends on WhatsApp about the SAA survey. *fin24*

## South Africans are taking home less money than before

**JOHANNESBURG** - Disposable salaries, adjusted for inflation, declined in December.

This is according to the latest BankservAfrica Disposable Salary Index (BDSI) data, which was published yesterday.

The survey notes a similar fall was experienced in the BankservAfrica Private Pension Index (BPPI), in which the December 2016 data reflected the first pension income decline.

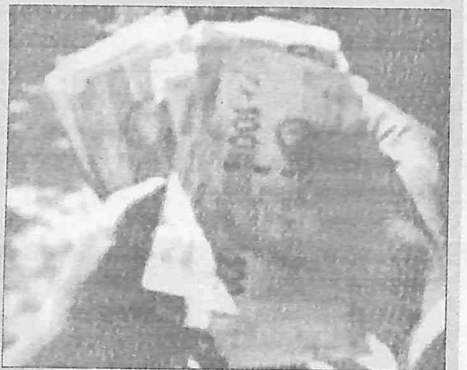
"Real salary adjustments in December reflected the longest - and fastest - decline since the BankservAfrica BDSI data started in 2011. Furthermore, this is the seventh consecutive month in a row that salaries have fallen year on year in real terms," said Dr Caroline Belrose, Head of Information Services at BankservAfrica.

On a year-on-year level, disposable salaries in December 2016 were lower than December 2015 and 2014.

The BDSI data is smoothed on a three month moving average basis and adjusted for both weekly payments and pension payments and is based on salary payments cleared by BankservAfrica.

The 1.5 per cent decline is likely to impact consumers with income pressures resulting in reduced spend on major purchases such as cars, houses and furniture, said BankservAfrica.

"There is no doubt that most consumers were under pressure for most of 2016 and parts of 2015. The December BDSI suggests that this will continue in the first quarter 2017 as overall consumer expenditure is expected to remain subdued with lower than inflation salary increases likely to continue in the next few months," said Mike Schüssler, Chief Economist at Economists dotcoza. *IOL*



## Shoprite, Steinhoff marriage talks continue

**JOHANNESBURG** - Listed retail giants Shoprite and Steinhoff said exclusive talks about a possible merger continue.

The companies yesterday said they "remain engaged in exclusive on-going negotiations regarding the potential sale of Steinhoff's

Africa retail assets to Shoprite".

This follows an announcement in December that the companies were planning on creating an entity to be called Retail Africa.

### Expected

Retail Africa is expected to be the continent's largest retailer with

an annual turnover of R200 billion, employing 186 000 people. Shoprite will issue new ordinary shares to Steinhoff that will give what is one of the world's biggest furniture retailers a significant stake in Shoprite.

The deal will result in Shoprite

acquiring Steinhoff's clothing chains, which include Pep, Ackermans, Shoe City and Tekkie Town in exchange for shares. Shoprite will also buy the furniture and appliance retailers that Steinhoff owns via JD Group.

These include Russells, Bradlows, Rochester, Incredible Connection, Hi-fi Corporation and Sleepmasters.

The enlarged business might ultimately come under Steinhoff's control through a share swap, the companies said in December.

Talks between the companies were initiated and facilitated by their two biggest shareholders - Wiese and South Africa's state-owned Public Investment Corporation, which manages state pensions - the retailers said. *BUSINESS REPORT ONLINE*

## Zimplats objects to Mugabe's planned land claim take-over

**HARARE** - Zimplats, Impala Platinum's [JSE:IMP] unit in Zimbabwe, has two weeks to launch an objection to President Robert Mugabe's intentions to take over about 28 000 hectares of land claims, the company said yesterday.

Mugabe's government gave fresh notice of its intention to acquire the land claims on January 13.

Zimplats objected to the previous notice in the Administrative Court in Harare, saying it had errors; it has now been repealed by the fresh notice, it added.

"The operating subsidiary has 30 days from January 13, 2017 to lodge an objection to the proposed compulsory acquisition.

The operating subsidiary is engaging the government of Zimbabwe on the matter," Zimplats said.

Apart from this, Zimplats is also

still discussing its compliance with the country's indigenisation policy with the government, although President Robert Mugabe has softened his stance.

He said existing foreign mining companies in Zimbabwe can keep majority control as long as they spend 75 per cent local content inside the country through payment of taxes, royalties, salaries and local procurement among other requirements.

Local spend in Zimbabwe (excluding payments to government and related institutions) for the December 2016 quarter increased from \$27m recorded in the previous quarter to \$61m. Additionally, Zimplats said, total payments to government in direct and indirect taxes rose from \$8m in the previous quarter to \$11m.

*FIN24*

## BevSA happy that WHO won't endorse sugar tax

**JOHANNESBURG** - The Beverage Association of South Africa (BevSA) welcomed the decision by the World Health Organisation's (WHO) executive board not to endorse recommendations to impose a soft drinks tax on member states.

This comes as the Parliament's Standing Committee on Finance yesterday began the first round of oral submissions as part of hearings into a proposed tax on sugar sweetened beverages (SSBs).

Government proposed a 20 percent tax on sugary drinks from April, in a bid to curb the country's high obesity rate.

The decision by the WHO not to endorse recommendations to impose a soft drinks tax was made during the executive board's assessment of proposed cost effective interventions or "best buys" to address non-communicable diseases (NCDs). In a statement, BevSA Executive Director, Mapule Nanywa, welcomed the views of those Member States, including Canada, Italy, the US and New Zealand, which had raised concerns and opposition over a national soft drinks tax. "BevSA has repeatedly called for more in-depth research before implementation of any tax and contends that a tax on SSBs is

not the most effective way to tackle South Africa's growing obesity levels," Nanywa said.

"Research of the full range of health, regulatory and economic impacts of a tax is required and should include a total dietary intake study; a detailed socio-economic impact assessment study and regulatory impact assessment."

Nanywa said BevSA supported the idea that the intake of sugar to the daily diet should be moderated and that education about good eating habits, among others, was vital. *AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY*

## Zuma has real power over the rand - currency strategist

**CAPE TOWN** - If President Jacob Zuma puts truth to the rumour to replace the minister of finance or his deputy, the rand could pop up to R15 to the dollar, according to RMB currency strategist John Cairns.

Cairns said ongoing talk of a Cabinet reshuffle has kept the rand nervous and under pressure. "USD/ZAR would be trading around the 13.30 mark if it was

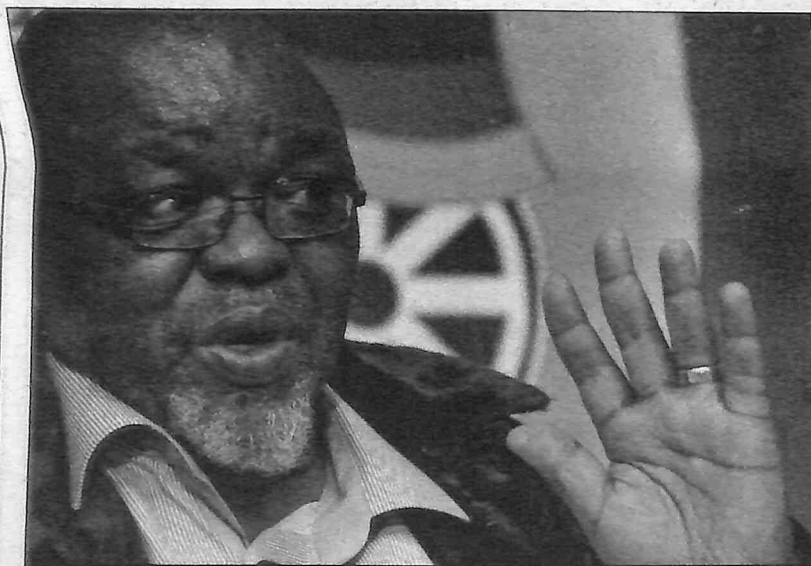
not for the political noise," he said in his morning note to clients.

By 11:00 the rand was trading 0.24 per cent weaker at R13.53 against the greenback from its overnight close of R13.50. It touched R13.69 on Monday. He said the market would be able to handle minor Cabinet changes with only mild losses, but any change that affects Treasury would be another story. The rand react-

ed strongly last Friday after news that Zuma may fire ministers who backed calls for him to step down last year and defied his instructions. Bloomberg, citing senior ANC leaders, reported that Zuma told the party's National Executive Committee (NEC) last week that he's considering the action and said the government needs to improve its performance. *fin24*



# Focus on SA scene



## ANC SHUTS OUT PROVINCES

**JOHANNESBURG** - The ANC has resolved to keep regional and provincial leaders at bay in the run-up to its elective conference at the end of the year.

This is said to prevent them from trying to manipulate the outcome. The ruling party's national executive committee has decided to consolidate branch

nominations nationally, and not at regional and provincial levels, as was done previously.

The move is intended to counter "slate" politics, which result in the processes of the party being undermined to deliver a "manufactured" outcome.

"All nominations for leadership from branches will be consolidated nation-

ally by the electoral commission," said ANC Secretary-General Gwede Mantashe, reading an NEC statement.

"Regions and provinces can observe. The reason we are taking this route is because if we don't, we are going to have nominations driven by slates."

Mantashe said branch nominations would be sealed and consolidated at "a central point".

The NEC decision was made in the wake of the rise of a formidable ANC faction known as "the Premier League", which comprises North West Premier Supra Mahumapelo, and his counterparts in Mpumalanga, David Mabuza, and the Free State, Ace Magashule.

They are backed by the ANC Youth League and the party's women's league in their preference for outgoing African Union Commission Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma as the next president of the ANC.

Opposing them is a faction that wants Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa to succeed President Jacob Zuma in December.

Ramaphosa's leadership ambitions have found support from labour federation COSATU, although its members can propel him to the ANC presidency only by virtue of ANC membership.

It was proposed at the NEC *lekgotla* that the government buy all closed poultry farms because of cheap chicken imports. Rainbow Chickens, renamed RCL Foods, shut some of its operations in KwaZulu-Natal at the weekend, leaving 1200 workers jobless. *Timeslive*

## Give me the opportunity to lead the Western Cape DA - Lennit Max

**CAPE TOWN** - Two years ago, former Western Cape police commissioner, Lennit Max lost the battle to run the Democratic Alliance in the Western Cape when almost 70% of the delegates charged with choosing a new leader voted against him.

Max was the last man standing against Cape Town mayor Patricia de Lille in the fight for the DA provincial leader job in the Western Cape in 2015. He lost.

But on Monday, following De Lille's resignation, he again expressed a desire for the top job, if given the mandate.

Max said De Lille's resignation did not surprise him at all.

"She was not really interested in becoming the provincial leader," he said.

The task of being a mayor, in a city that is a DA showcase, is a huge one.

"It's an enormous task and she realised it was better to focus on that. I hope she will be able to give it 100%," he said. "I am always available" Max said he believed there would be a process to elect an interim leader following her resignation.

And he would be more than will-



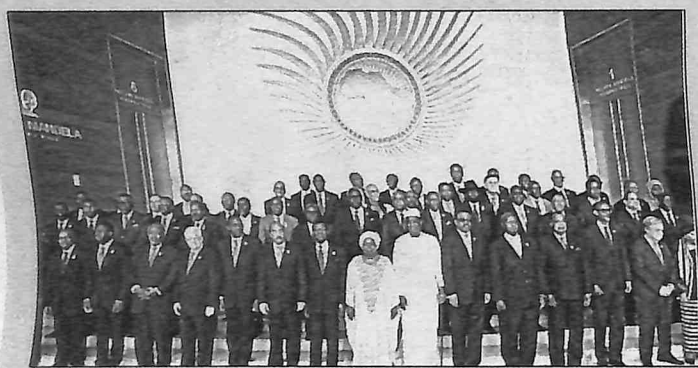
**GIVE ME A CHANCE:**  
Lennit Max.

ing to take up the position.

"I am always available to lead, but it must be a mandate from the people. If I got a mandate from the people, to represent them, I will not turn it down. I would put myself forward.

### Elect

"It is time that members who elect an interim leader afford me the opportunity to prove myself. And if they are not happy, they can say I am not what was expected," he said. *Timeslive*



**REGRETTABLE:** The African Union members.

## Readmitting Morocco to the AU 'regrettable' - ANC

**JOHANNESBURG** - The African National Congress (ANC) says the African Union (AU) took a regrettable decision to readmit Morocco to the organisation.

Thirty nine of the 54 states approved Morocco's return to the AU following a lengthy debate at the 28th AU Summit in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa on Monday.

The ANC says the AU decision represents a significant setback to the cause of the Sahrawi people and their quest for self-determination and independence in the Western Sahara.

"The ANC notes that this decision paves the way for the Kingdom

of Morocco to take their place amongst the community of nations and to enjoy the benefits of AU membership - whilst the Sahrawi people continue to suffer under an unjust occupation of their ancestral land," the party said in a statement.

### Occupation

"By readmitting Morocco the AU is tacitly endorsing the long-standing occupation of the Western Sahara.

"Morocco has to date, failed to comply with successive UN resolutions on the issue of the Western Sahara, most importantly the holding of a referendum on self-determination. *eNCA*

## Gerrie Nel quits National Prosecuting Authority (NPA)

**JOHANNESBURG** - Prominent state advocate, Gerrie Nel, has resigned from the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA).

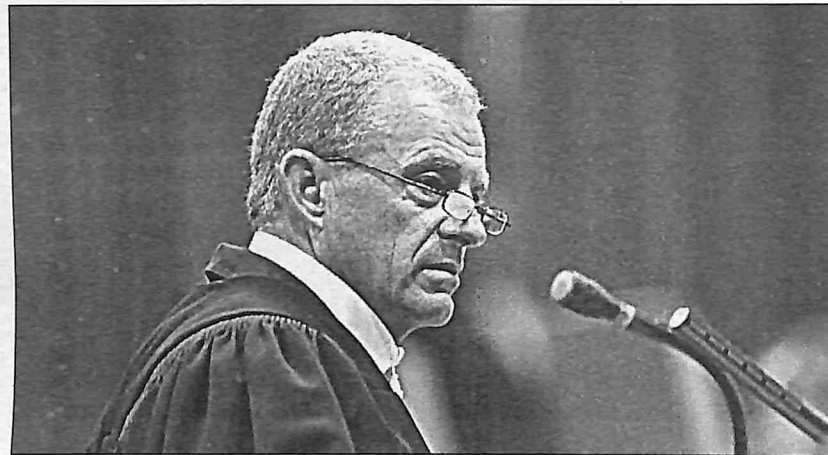
Yesterday was his last day at the office, after handing in his resignation last year.

NPA Head of Communications, Bulelwa Makeke told *eNCA* that he "got an opportunity he couldn't refuse".

He's joining lobby group, Afriforum, to start up a private prosecutions unit with investigator Paul O'Sullivan.

During his 35 tenure at the NPA, Nel was responsible for prosecuting a number of high profile people, including paralympian Oscar Pistorius and former national police commissioner, the late Jackie Selebi.

Nel received an international prosecutors award for his successful prosecution



**RESIGNS:** Gerrie Nel.

tion of Selebi. His stay with the NPA hasn't been without drama; in 2008, Nel was arrested on trumped-up fraud

charges, while working on the Selebi case.

*eNCA*

## FEARS OF XENOPHOBIC VIOLENCE IN PRETORIA

**PRETORIA** - A pamphlet circulating in Mamelodi calling for a march against foreign nationals has triggered fears of a new outbreak of xenophobic violence.

The circular, signed by "Mamelodi concerned residents" and calling for a march in February, is also being shared on social media. "We have to start packing our bags. We can't risk it. This time around, they may not leave any of us alive," said Mebo, a Zimbabwean immi-

grant living in Mamelodi. "Why do they hate us so much? Is South Africa the first country to have immigrants? We are all Africans. We need each other."

### Peaceful

Oupa Mtshweni, whose name appears on the circular, said the demonstration would be "peaceful". "We are not planning to be violent," he told *GroundUp*. "I don't see why this should be a problem to anyone. This has nothing to do with xenophobia." Immigrants living

in Pretoria are not convinced and are circulating warnings to each other on social media. Family members outside South Africa are also warning their relatives to be careful. "I received a warning message from my mother who resides in the UK. She is worried and even encouraged me to go and suffer back home rather than die here in South Africa," said Monalisa, a Nigerian hair salon owner.

*Groundup*





'PEOPLE CROWD AROUND US. EVERYONE TEASES US':

# THE INDIAN DWARF FAMILY

- Most of the Chauhan family from Hyderabad suffers from Achondroplasia
- The family are often taunted and laughed at when they go outside together
- Ram Raj, 52, works as a 'Marriage Welcomer' and dresses up to greet guests

**INDIA** - An Indian family have spoken of how they are laughed at on the street as nine out of 11 relatives are dwarfs.

The Chauhan family, from Hyderabad, Telangana, are affected by the genetic condition Achondroplasia, which causes short limbed dwarfism.

They are the largest dwarf family in Hyderabad and are often taunted in the street when they are in public together.

Most of the Chauhan family, from Hyderabad, India, suffer from the genetic condition Achondroplasia, which causes short limbed dwarfism. Nine out of 11 family members are dwarves.

Patriarch Ram Raj, 52, lives with ten of his family members in the Indian city. He said that life is particularly tough for the women in his family.

The Chauhan family are the largest dwarf family in the city.

Patriarch Ram Raj, 52, said: "If we go out, people crowd around us and ask us strange questions like, 'Why are you so short?', 'Where are you from?'. Everyone teases us."

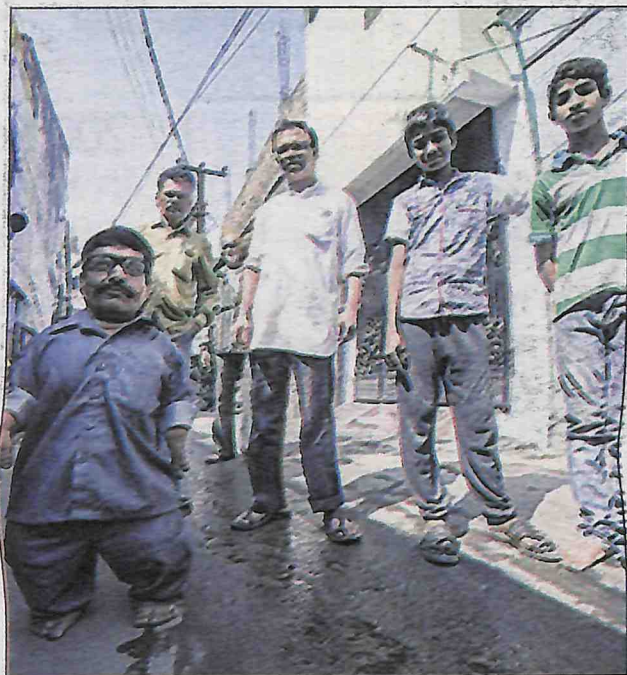
Ram Raj works as a 'marriage welcomer', where he dresses up and welcomes guests to weddings, but finding employment has proved challenging for the family.

He said: "No-one was willing to give me a job. I have faced a lot of problems because people look at me and say, 'How will you manage?'"

Ram Raj works as a 'marriage welcomer' and dresses up to greet guests arriving at ceremonies. When he can't get work at weddings, he works in his family's grocers shop.

Ram Raj had seven sisters and four brothers. Eight of them suffered from Achondroplasia and some have already died.

"I work at my relative's grocery store when I don't have the wedding work to do."



His 27-year-old daughter Ambika wants to be an accountant but as she also suffers from this condition, she has also found it difficult to find work.

She said: "In the future I want to become an accountant but this will only be possible if I'm able to get a job."

"People tell me that because I'm short, that's why I'm unable to get a job."

The other members of the family who are of short stature, including Ram Raj's brothers and sisters, also find it very difficult to get steady work.

He said: "My younger brother works in a telephone booth and my elder brother's wife is a tailor. We manage this way."

## Taunted

The Chauhan family are often taunted in the street when they are in public together.

Ram Raj's brother works in a telephone booth and his elder brother's wife is a tailor. But the head of the family said he is unable to find a steady job because he is short.

Ram Raj splits his time between wedding ceremonies and his brother's grocery shop. He said it is more difficult for

the women in his family.

Ram Raj believes life is particularly tough for the females in his family.

He said: "It is still ok for the male members of the family. But what about the women in my family who have this condition? Life is much more difficult for them."

Ram Raj once had a family of 21 people, 18 of whom were dwarfs.

Out of his seven sisters and four brothers, eight of his siblings suffered the same condition.

Ram Raj worries about his health as his legs have already started to weaken. He has seen this happen with his father and grandfather, who also had the condition.

## Dwarfism

Anitha Bai and Sunitha Bai, Ram Raj's sisters, live with the rest of the family in the Old City in Hyderabad.

A framed photograph of Ram Raj's sisters who have died, Saraspathi Bai and Chandadevi Bai.

Some have already passed away, including his elder brother, Prithvi Raj.



SIBLING: Anitha Bai, Ram Raj's sister.



PATRIARCH: Ram Raj (52) who works as a marriage welcomer.

Achondroplasia is the most common form of disproportionate dwarfism, and is characterised by a normal sized torso and short limbs.

The family also face health problems in later life as their

shortened legs weaken. Ram Raj said: "After a certain age, the legs become weak. I have seen my grand father and my father face this, but they still managed to walk properly. As they grow older, the family

members affected will start to get weaker legs and may need help to walk. Ram Raj's wife, who was of normal height, died in 1993 when she was seven months pregnant with their third child *Daily Mail*



## National Emergency Response Council On HIV/AIDS

### INVITATION TO TENDER

The NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE COUNCIL FOR HIV & AIDS (NERCHA) invites bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of the following goods and services.

Contract Title: Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Prefab Structures  
Reference No. PP/Goods/3/2017

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from; THE PROCUREMENT MANAGER, NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE COUNCIL FOR HIV & AIDS (NERCHA), PLOT 738 OF FARM 2, EMAJIKA ROAD, MBABANE, THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND, Telephone: (268) 2406 5000, FAX: (268) 406 5004/5/6 and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 08.30 to 16.30 at the address given below.

A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders from the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2017 at the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee of E300. The method of payment will be Cash or Bank certified cheque.

A compulsory Pre-Bid meeting shall be held in the following venues, dates and time:

NAME OF HEALTH FACILITY	DATE OF MEETING	TIME OF MEETING
Phocweni Clinic- USDF	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2017	10am
Ngonini OSSU Clinic	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2017	12am
Tikhuba Clinic	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2017	230pm
Lomahasha Clinic	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2017	10am
Nkalashane Clinic	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2017	12pm
Mpuluzi Clinic	3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2017	11am

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 10.00 am on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017 10am at the NERCHA Training Room.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid-Securing Declaration as indicated in the Tender document.  
The address referred to above is;

Tender Box  
C/o Procurement Manager  
NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE COUNCIL FOR HIV & AIDS (NERCHA)  
PLOT 738 OF FARM 2  
EMAJIKA ROAD  
MBABANE  
THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND  
Telephone: (268) 2406 5000  
FAX: (268) 2406 5004/5/6

Further information can be obtained from:

Thini Fakudze or Nothando Dlamini  
Telephone: +268 2406 5000  
Fax: +268 2406 5004  
E-mail addresses: [thini.fakudze@nercha.org.sz](mailto:thini.fakudze@nercha.org.sz)/[nothando.dlamini@nercha.org.sz](mailto:nothando.dlamini@nercha.org.sz)



## BRIEFS

## Boko Haram in motorists ambush

KANO - More than 20 people were feared dead after Boko Haram gunmen opened fire on a convoy of motorists travelling under military escort in northeast Nigeria, witnesses told AFP on Monday. The exact toll from the ambush on the main road between Maiduguri to Damboa on Saturday was unclear, with numbers varying from two to as high as 15 and 24. But according to travellers who survived the attack and local rescuers, at least 15 trucks laden with food were seized when the Islamists struck at the Korowaso forest on Saturday. "The attackers appeared from the bushes as the convoy slowed down at a part of the road riddled with potholes and opened fire on the vehicles," said one of the drivers, Idrissa Kyari.

AFP

## New chief for AU

AFRICA UNION - Chad's Foreign Minister Moussa Faki was elected as Chairman of the African Union Commission yesterday, replacing Nkosasana Dlamini-Zuma, whose term in office has elapsed. Faki's main rival in the last round of voting at the AU, which is based in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa, was Kenyan Foreign Minister Amina Mohamed. Yesterday the AU leaders grappled with Morocco's divisive bid to rejoin the bloc after 30 years and sounded an alarm for the continent over US President Donald Trump's immigration ban.

Reuters

## Agents push to extradite senator

LAGOS - Nigerian narcotics agents said on Monday they were pushing to extradite a lawmaker to the United States on drugs charges who is said to have inspired the hit television show "Orange is the New Black". Buruji Kashamu has been wanted for years in connection with a heroin smuggling operation but maintains he is a victim of mistaken identity. The senator, who represents Ogun state in the upper chamber of Parliament, claims his dead brother whom he reportedly resembles ran the international drug ring in the 1990s. In 2015, Kashamu sued the US government to prevent an "imminent illegal abduction in Nigeria", according to court documents.

AFP

## 700 migrants intercepted

TRIPOLI - The Libyan coastguard said on Monday it had intercepted around 700 Europe-bound migrants in territorial waters off Sabratha in the west of the North African country. "The coastguard intercepted 700 migrants on board two wooden boats last Friday three nautical miles from the town of Sabratha," some 70 kilometres (40 miles) west of Tripoli, coastguard spokesman General Ayoub Qassem told AFP. He said people smugglers on the beach in the area opened fire on coastguards, without causing any casualties.

AFP

## MPs want bribery claims probe

ACCRA - Lawmakers in Ghana on Monday called for an investigation into claims that a minister in new President Nana Akufo-Addo's government bribed the committee vetting his candidacy. Energy Minister Boakye Agyarko has been accused of attempting to bribe some opposition party members of the committee with 3 000 cedi (about \$700 650 euros) each to approve his nomination. The allegations were made by an MP from the National Democratic Congress party who sits on the committee but one of his NDC colleagues rejected the claim.

AFP



## AFRICAN LEADERS DISCUSS 'COLLECTIVE' WITHDRAWAL FROM ICC

ADDIS ABABA - African leaders are set to mull a motion that will recommend all 34 of the 55 African Union member states that are part of the International Criminal Court, withdraw from it.

The discussion was held yesterday, on the final day of the AU heads of states assembly. In last week's meeting foreign ministers discussed the matter in detail, and came up with eight recommendations, the last of it being that the AU adopts a strategy for withdrawal.



COLLECTIVE: African leaders.

drawal.

South Africa is one of the coun-

tries supporting such a withdrawal "to send a political message of

Africa being fed up", a South African official with information about this country's position said.

"South Africa and Burundi have already started taking steps to withdraw from the court while Kenya is among the countries that have led the charge. The Gambia has done the same, but is likely to reverse this after the election of its new president".

"Nigeria has, however, indicated that it would not support such a strategy and that this was opposed by several countries in last week's meeting". Foreign Minister Geoffrey Onyeama reportedly said "should countries wish to withdraw, they should do so individually because they joined individually".

News24



BAFFLING: The amazing picture was uploaded to Reddit of '80 hawks' being flown on a plane 'by a Saudi prince' which baffled and delighted social media users in equal measure. The transportation of falcons on Middle Eastern airlines is fairly common, with Qatar Airways allowing up to six of the birds to be transported in economy class, with prices ranging from £90 to £500 per bird depending on the destination. The birds were pictured with their wings tied and standing on special cloths to protect the seats. (Dailymail)

## 200 Somali refugees in Kenya are blocked from going to US

NAIROBI - A Somali refugee said more than 200 refugees heading to the US for resettlement were told they cannot travel as a result of President Donald Trump's executive orders that temporarily suspend all immigration of citizens from seven majority-Muslim countries.

Suleiman Yusuf, a teacher, said on Monday that the 200 left a refugee camp in eastern Kenya last week but they have been told by the International Organisation for Migration that their Monday flights have been cancelled "because of Trump's orders."

## Refugees

The United Nations refugee agency media officer Yvonne Ndege said on Monday that about 13 000 Somali refugees have been interviewed and approved by the United States Citizen and Immigration Services but whose resettlement has now been affected by the new order. AP

## WEAPONS SEIZED FROM GAMBIA EX-LEADER'S HOME

BANJUL - The west African force deployed in The Gambia to secure the nation's presidential transition said Monday it had recovered weapons from the former leader's home, and arrested a high-ranking Gambian general.

Senegalese General Francois Ndiaye, who leads military forces sent by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), said the arms and ammunition were found at ex-president Yahya Jammeh's private residence in his home village of Kanilai.

Jammeh left the country after refusing for weeks to recognise his electoral defeat to Adama Barrow, who returned to The Gambia as president from Senegal this week.

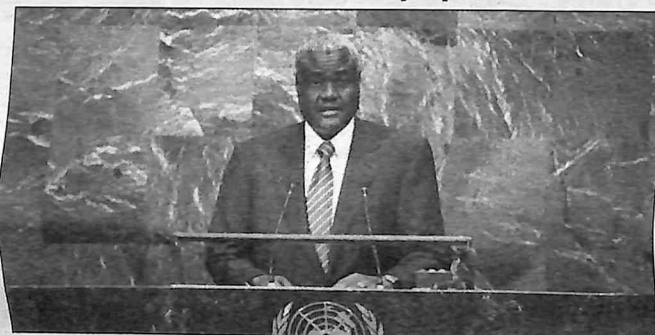
AFP

## Chad's foreign minister secures top post at AU

AFRICAN UNION - African Union leaders chose Chad's candidate to chair the 54-nation body on Monday at a summit where the divisive issues of Africa's relationship to the International Criminal Court and Morocco's readmission to the AU were on the agenda.

In the last round of voting, Chadian Foreign Minister Moussa Faki Mahamat beat Kenya's top Diplomat Amina Mohamed to secure the post as head of the commission of the AU, which is headquartered in the Ethiopian capital.

A Chadian official told a group of reporters that his nation's candidate had secured 39 votes in the final round. Faki, born in 1960, has served as foreign minister since 2008. His previous posts also included a stint as prime minister. In a race usually resolved in behind-the-scenes talks before



TOP POST: Chadian Foreign Minister Moussa Faki Mahamat.

a summit vote, three of the AU's four major regions vied for the post - the south, the east and the largely Francophone west - with some regions pushing more than one candidate.

## Failed

Outgoing Commissioner, South Africa's Nkosasana Dlamini-Zuma, stayed in post an extra six months after leaders failed to

agree on a candidate in July. She is now tipped as a contender to succeed her ex-husband, Jacob Zuma, as South Africa's president. The question of Morocco's re-admission was also divisive, although by Monday evening, two delegates leaving the talks said it had the support of 39 nations, enough to provide a guarantee. Reuters



# World News

## TRUMP BOOTS CHIEF LAWYER FOR DEFYING HIM ON MIGRANT BAN

WASHINGTON - US President Donald Trump on Monday fired the acting attorney general, a holdover from the Obama administration, after she ordered Justice Department attorneys not to defend his controversial immigration orders.

In a sharply worded statement, the White House called Sally Yates "weak on borders and very weak on illegal immigration" and also criticised Democrats for not yet confirming the appointment of attorney general-designate Jeff Sessions.

"The acting Attorney General, Sally Yates, has betrayed the Department of Justice by refusing to enforce a legal order designed to protect the citizens of the United States," the White House said in a statement.

"This order was approved as to form and legality by the Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel," it said.

"Tonight, President Trump relieved Ms Yates of her duties."

Federal prosecutor Dana Boente will serve as acting attorney general "until Senator Jeff Sessions is final-



**YOUR'E FIRED:** Sally Yates.

ly confirmed by the Senate, where he is being wrongly held up by Democrat senators for strictly political reasons," it said.

### Lawsuits

With Trump's White House facing multiple lawsuits and worldwide opprobrium over an order banning migrants from seven Muslim nations,

Yates had whipped the rug from under her boss in a defiant and damaging parting shot. In a memo to Department of Justice staff, Yates — a career government lawyer promoted by Barack Obama — expressed doubts about the legality and morality of Trump's decree, which has prompted mass protests. **AFP**

## 17 Colombian civil leaders 'massacred'

BOGOTA - Colombian officials said Monday that 17 civil campaigners have been murdered over the past two months in the country, amid tensions over its contested peace process.

President Juan Manuel Santos warned that fresh violence could destabilise the demobilisation of the leftist FARC rebels under a historic peace accord. He signed the deal with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and pushed it through the legislature in December, defying criticism from conservative rivals.

### Reports

In the weeks following, reports emerged of killings by local civil campaigners by unidentified groups in conflict areas. On Monday the Victims' Unit, a state conflict resolution body, said in a statement that "17 civil leaders have been murdered since December 1, after Congress ratified the peace accord."

The last known victim was Porfirio Jaramillo, leader of a group demanding rural land restitution.

**AFP**

## House Republicans prepare to kill five Obama-era regulations

WASHINGTON - House Republicans were set on Monday to begin the process of killing five Obama-era rules on corruption, the environment, labour and guns under the first real test of a law intended to keep regulation in check.

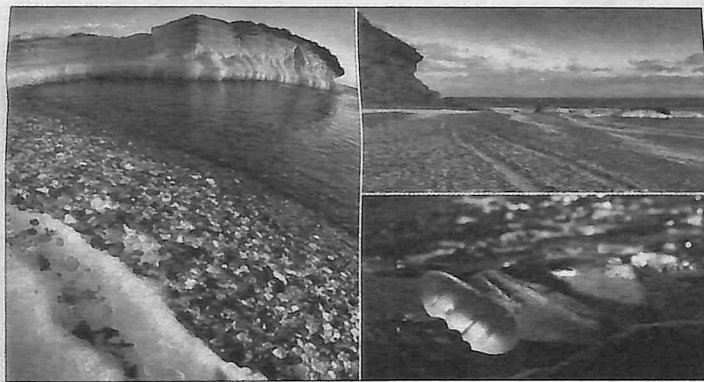
Republicans put as much urgency on limiting what they consider over regulation that stifles economic growth as they do on overhauling the tax code and dismantling the Affordable Care Act, according to House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy.

Under the Congressional Review Act, Congress can use simple majority votes to stop recent regulations in their tracks. Timing in the law means any rules enacted after May 31 are eligible for axing.

The law has been used effectively only once, ending a rule on ergonomics in 2001. Both sides consider this week a test of its powers. While the Republican-led House of Representatives has passed Bills limiting agencies since it convened on January 3, this week marks the first time it has targeted specific rules this year.

### Scrapping

Republican President Donald Trump on Monday ordered scrapping two existing rules whenever a new one is approved. The House Rules Committee was expected on Monday evening to send to the full chamber a measure axing three regulations enacted under former President Barack Obama, a Democrat. **AFP**



**BEAUTIFUL:** Glass Beach (pictured) on Ussuri Bay, near Vladivostok, was used to dump truckloads of beer, wine and vodka bottles during the Soviet Era. But over time, the jagged glass has been smoothed over to form kaleidoscopic pebbles. The area is now a tourist destination and Russian authorities have now declared that the area is specially protected. Locals visit the beach all year round and in summer swimmers and sunbathers flock to the beautiful spot. (Dailymail)

## Obama speaks out on Trump immigrants order

WASHINGTON - Former President Barack Obama praised protesters who amassed across the country in opposition to President Donald Trump's immigration orders, breaking his silence on political issues for the first time since leaving office.

"The president fundamentally disagrees with the notion of discriminating against individuals because of their faith or religion," Obama's spokesperson, Kevin Lewis, said.

In his first statement on behalf of the former president, Lewis said Obama was "heartened" by the amount of engagement taking place

in US communities. Lewis, a former White House official, pointed out that Obama used his last official speech as president to talk about Americans' responsibility to be "guardians of our democracy," even in non-election years. "Citizens exercising their constitutional right to assemble, organise and have their voices heard by their elected officials is exactly what we expect to see when American values are at stake," Lewis said.

### Order

Lewis didn't specifically invoke Trump's immigration order. But he rejected comparisons between Trump's

recent actions and Obama's foreign policy decisions. Trump said he took cues from Obama by temporarily banning travel to the US from citizens of seven countries that Obama's administration identified as places of terrorism concern. But Obama's designation related strictly to eligibility to enter the US without a visa; he never considered a travel ban.

Obama's office also circulated excerpts from a speech the former president gave in November 2015, in which he called the idea of a ban on Muslims "shameful". "That's not American. That's not who we are. We don't have religious tests to our



**SPEAKS OUT:** Barack Obama.

compassion," Obama said in the aftermath of attacks in Paris that prompted calls for the US to restrict Syrian refugees from entering the United States. **AP**

## BRIEFS

### Aussie car rampage claims sixth life

SYDNEY - A 33-year-old woman has become the sixth person to die after a car mowed down pedestrians in Melbourne's busiest mall, police said. Thirty-six people have been treated in hospital and one person remains in a critical condition since a man drove a car at high speed into shoppers nearly two weeks ago. "A sixth person has died following the incident that took place in the Melbourne CBD (Central Business District) on 20 January," a police statement said. "A 33-year-old Blackburn South woman died in hospital just before 7.30pm this evening (Monday)." A man in his 30s, a man and woman both in their 20s, a ten-year-old girl, and a three-month-old baby were also killed.

**AFP**

### Austria to ban Muslim religious wear

VIENNA - Austria plans to ban the Muslim face veil in public places, the centrist coalition government said on Monday as it announced a package of policies aimed at countering the growing appeal of the far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ). The FPÖ has topped opinion polls for months, boosted by Europe's migrant crisis and the influx of large numbers of often Muslim asylum seekers, and last month its candidate came close to winning Austria's presidential election. With a parliamentary election due next year, Chancellor Christian Kern of the centre-left Social Democratic Party (SPÖ) is trying to regain the political initiative by forging a swift agreement with his conservative coalition partner on a package of measures ranging from immigration to education.

**Reuters**

### Google employees rally against Trump

SAN FRANCISCO - Thousand of Google employees staged protests on Monday over President Donald Trump's executive order on immigration, revealing rising tension between the technology industry and new administration. More than two thousand employees of Google parent Alphabet Inc. participated across several offices. At Google's Mountain View, California, Headquarters, Chief Executive Officer Sundar Pichai and co-Founder Sergey Brin - both immigrants - spoke to the crowd, voicing concerns over Trump's order that limits travel to the US from seven Muslim-majority countries.

**Bloomberg**

### 'US return to torture catastrophic'

GENEVA - The United Nations' top torture expert warned US President Donald Trump on Monday that endorsing waterboarding and other abuse as an interrogation technique would be illegal and have disastrous global consequences. Trump has repeatedly said he supports the use of torture in interrogations, although he has said he would defer to his Pentagon Chief James Mattis, a torture opponent, for guidance on any new waterboarding push. His comments have nonetheless sparked alarm that he will try to reverse laws put in place by his predecessor Barack Obama outlawing the brutal interrogation techniques like waterboarding used by the CIA on suspects following the September 11, 2001 attacks.

**AFP**

### Cocaine found in nose of jet

WASHINGTON - An airline maintenance worker in Oklahoma found 14 kg of cocaine in the nose cone of an American Airlines jet after it arrived from Colombia, police said on Monday. Seven bricks of the drug, with a street value of at least \$200 000 (R2 696 600), were discovered on Sunday night at the carrier's maintenance base in Tulsa, the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office said in a Facebook post. "A technician went to check the electronics bay ... and some of the insulation looked new".

**Reuters**





# Eswatini entertainment

NEWS  
REVIEWS  
STAR SIGNS  
CELEBRITY WATCH  
CARTOONS

## NONHLE TO LAUNCH HER 'BUSINESS' IN STYLE

By Phumelele Mkhonta

**NONHLE is direct proof that age is nothing but a number.**

She is planning to open a business and going big in launching it at her tender age.

The country's youngest gospel artist, will be launching 'Nonhle Investments' and hosting a fundraising dinner in the same breath on April 1 at The Light of Christ Ministries in Matsapha, a church owned by Reverend Elias Shongwe of Shongwe and Khuphuka Saved Group.

Nonhle's project will see the presence of Bishop Nhlanhla Nhlapo of God Never Fails Ministries, a church based in South Africa. The Bishop is

... Features Bishop Nhlapo

...management team claim she is not 'manipulated'

the very same man who donated E10 000 to Nonhle last November and he has partly funded this project (the business) and the artist's entire music career.

Other respected dignitaries who will attend the event are; Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs, David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala, Prince Lonkhokhela, SWAMA President Lutfo Dlamini, Pastor Shodi Msibi, Apostle Msimango and others.

Music will be by Nonhle Mthethwa and Frans Dlamini.

The gospel sensation's business is divided into three services; Nonhle's Music, Nonhle's Sound System and

Nonhle's Décor and Catering.

The launch will start at 6.30pm and pre-sale tickets cost

E 2 0 0

and

E250

at

the

door.



## She is not being manipulated - Menzi Mthethwa



CITED: Bishop Nhlapo.

**SPEAKING on behalf of Nonhle Mthethwa's management and as the coordinator of the event, Menzi Mthethwa stated that the young gospel artist is not being manipulated by her parents as per the speculation of many.**

Mthethwa revealed to this publication that Nonhle's parents will be running the business and not the star as she is still at school.

"Her mother is well equipped in catering, so she will be running that part whilst her father is well vested in sound systems and music and that will be his responsibility. The only aspect of the star that will be used in the business is her brand as she will

be able to draw in more people; for obvious reasons," Mthethwa explained.

He also added that the business was a kind gesture by Bishop Nhlapo to Nonhle so the brand had to be Nonhle's.

"She will be obviously groomed in the business such that when she is 18-years-old she will become fully involved in it," he said. He wrapped up by saying Nonhle's performances during weekends are like an extracurricular activity like that of any child. "It is better that she is preoccupied with music than be on the streets like some of her peers," he concluded.

## Comedians eager to impress at Sic Fest - Mdura

By Phumelele Mkhonta

**SOON after being revealed as Swaziland International Comedy Festival Brand Ambassador, the funny Mduduzi 'Mdura' Dlamini stated that the 20 comedians who would be performing at the festival expressed their excitement and were looking forward to thrilling Swazis.**

"It will be a first of its kind in Africa where 20 comedians from eight different countries come together to give people the giggles.

We are eager to impress and leave a lasting impression; it will be really exciting," said Mdura.

The first ever Swaziland International Comedy Festival, #SIC Fest will take place over three days; from April 26-29 with the four venues yet to be confirmed.

Mdura was revealed as the brand ambas-

sador on Monday and according to the comedian, he was approached by the festival directors for the role.

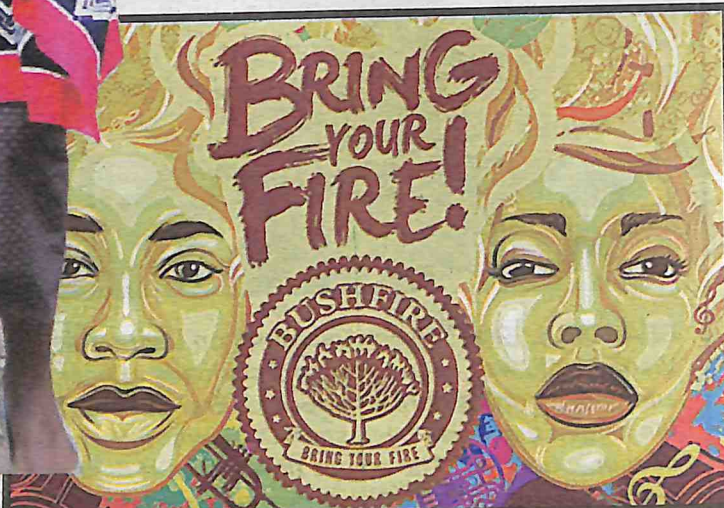
### Support

"I was approached by the festival directors some time last year, they asked if I would be interested in being the brand ambassador for the festival and since I am already the Savanna Pan African Comics Choice Awards Ambassador, it only made sense to grow my brand and it was a definite yes," detailed the comedian.

His role as the brand ambassador is to be responsible for SIC Fest brand in representation in all forms of media (print, social, electronic). He is also expected to visit and communicate with the other comedians from the other countries and host them once they are in the country.

Mdura encouraged Swazis to support this initiative for it to see success.

"Great things happen when we all come together to support initiatives as this one, let's all come out and show our guests what a wonderful country Swaziland is. Let us support the SIC Fest" he commented.



## MTN BushFire line-up coming out soon

By Phumelele Mkhonta

**THE line-up for the three day music and performing arts festival held on an annual basis in the country is about to be dropped. The 11th edition of Swaziland's acclaimed MTN Bushfire is taking place from May, 26 to 28.**

According to House on Fire's Communications Officer Ncedo Dlamini, the line-up will be dropped late this week or early next week. "Music lovers should look out for updates of yet another mind-blowing selection of artists to rock

the stage at this year's festival," she added.

Last year's line-up constituted of; Mafikizolo, Native Young, Nomadic Orchestra, Felix Laband, Toby2Shoes, Bhuloja, Nomzamo Zaza Dlamini, Fanaza, the legendary Oliver Mtukudzi and other artists. On the event's social media page, fans and supporters of the festival said that they are hoping for the following entertainers; The Kiffness, Jazzuelle, 80 Script, 2lani The Warrior, Suku Sooks, Sandziso Sands, Stonebwoy and many others.

## 'Love out Loud' tickets running out

By Majaha Nkonyane

**LOVE and laughter being the best medicine, the 'Love out Loud' comedy show to be hosted at Sibane hotel on February 14, already has tickets running out.**

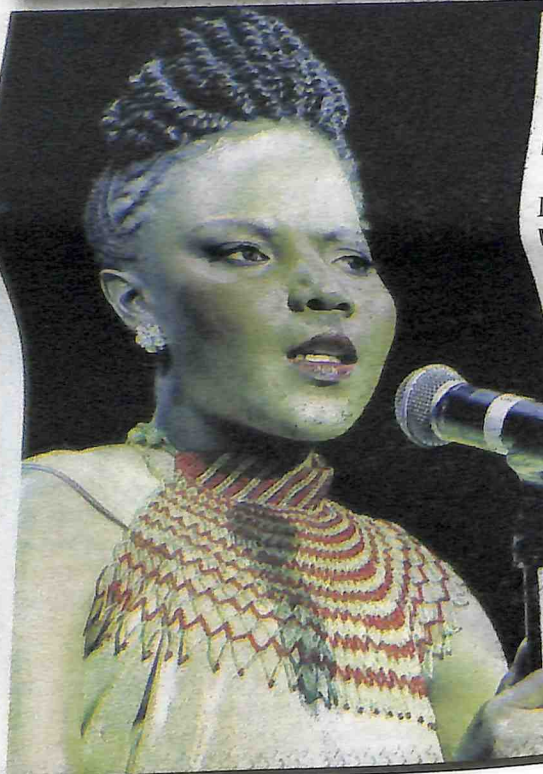
The tickets accessible at Sdeez, Ocean basket and Sibane hotel cost E 150 for the show only, E350 per person which is VIP for the comedy show and dinner whilst it is E600 for couples to witness both the show and dinner.

The show will see performances from the country's leading comedian, Mdura and South African comedienne Thenjiwe who has

gained fame from her comedy videos which are found online. It will be the first time the hilarious lady steps onto Swazi soil.

"We would like to encourage people to get their tickets' as soon as possible. As we have seen in the past, some of our shows have been sold out and we would not like a case where people are turned back at the door", Mdura said.

Dlamini further explained that tickets might not be available at the door hence the urgency to get them before February 14. He also added that because of space, they had printed out only 100 tickets so to create an intimate atmosphere.





# 'The Scientists' thrill in Jo'burg

By Nomfundo Sifundza

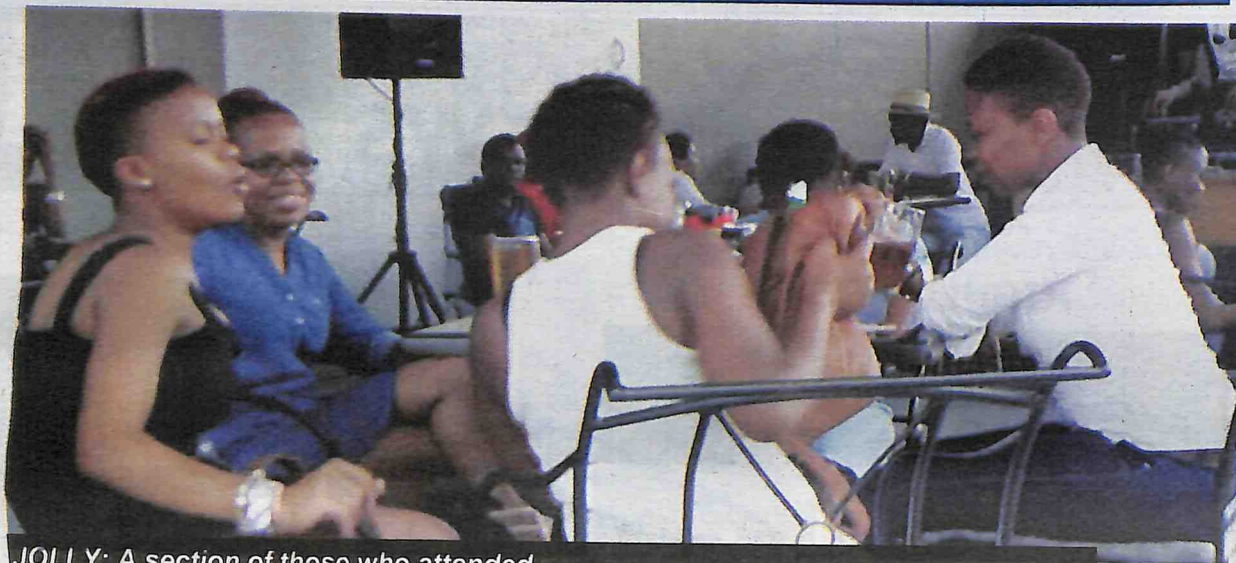
THASA'S newest signees 'The Scientists' proved why they are a force to be reckoned with on Saturday at Immigrant Bar in Johannesburg.

The house music maestros are new in the industry, but their style of play has earned them accolades

in and outside the country.

Mtv Base likened the duo to South Africa's Major League twins who are also shining bright in the house music sector.

The Scientists composed of Samkeliso Khumalo aka 'Metallic' and Wandile Mkhombhe aka 'Kronic' took to Johannesburg for a gig organised by their stables director, Thabo Sishwashwa.



JOLLY: A section of those who attended.

## INDIBANO JAZZ CLUB SESSION REKINDLES OL'SKOOL GROOVES

By Phumelele Mkhonta

INDIBANO Jazz Club and the Old School legends hosted an explosive jazz meets old school session at The Place in Manzini on Saturday.

The session, which was the first of many planned for 2017, was composed of two teams of collectors of both jazz and old school, who serenaded patrons of the city's fast rising chill spot.

Legendary old school deejay, Mkhululi Hlophe, popularly known as DJ MK, joined another legend, DJ Mix Mash to set the place on fire.

The duo at some point played a joint set, which touched all the right notes among the audience.

Both demonstrated their skill as the country's top spinners, and proved why they are the favourites with older, mature crowds.



JAZZY: Indibano's Khulile Kunene.

On the jazz side, Indibano's line up featured some of the country's popular jazz collectors, including one of the club's founders, Mbusi Motsa who unleashed a collection of laid back urban

jazz. The club's lady collectors, named 'the first ladies of jazz' Khulile Kunene and Noncedo Mamba represented the ladies with some top class sets.

Indibano's Sibongiseni Mamba's up tempo Afro jazz set got the patrons up on their feet.

In essence, patrons had a great time, as some asked when the next session would be held.

Motsa thanked the patrons for coming out to add spice to the already well-organised session.

He promised that another session was on the cards in March.

"We are definitely coming back in March, with a bang this time around. We believe the crowd here really had a good time, and so did we.

"We are definitely not stopping here. Our sincere thanks to the owner of this place, our friend, Max Dlamini and his team for making the session happen.



TWIST AND TURN: The Scientists doing what they do best on the decks at Immigrant Bar in Johannesburg on Saturday. (Courtesy pics)



THE VIEW: A section of people who came out to watch The Scientists play at Immigrant Bar.



HERE: A view of Immigrant Bar.

## WIN 4 TICKETS TO THE LOVE OUT LOUD SHOW

Venue: Sibane Hotel  
Time: Dinner 6:30pm Show 7:30pm  
Entrance: E150 show only  
E350pp VIP Show+Dinner)  
E600/couple

SMS "JOKE" to 6464 and stand a chance to win 1 of 3 General Tickets to watch the show. One (1) grand winner will win a VIP Ticket that includes dinner and watching the show. The more sms's sent the better the chance of winning.

sms cost E1.70

T&Cs Apply

14 FEB 2017

Love OUT Loud Comedy Show

LOVE OUT LOUD

sun Swaziland in real time





**DStv**  
Feel every moment

**NEWS**

KING'S  
SPEECH



**DStv**

## HIGHLIGHTS



### REACH FOR THE STARS FRIDAY 18:00 | ZEE WORLD (166)

This month, Zee World brings yet another captivating story, Reach for the Stars. It beautifully captures the hopes and aspirations of a domestic worker alongside the trials and tribulations of her daily life. It will showcase how domestic

workers mortgage their own life to toil and tears only so that their children can grow up enjoying the fruits of education and amenities they could only dream of. Tune in every weekday from Friday February 3 at 18:00 CAT.



### SHED AND BURIED TONIGHT 21:00 | TRAVEL CHANNEL (179)

Henry Cole and Sam Lovegrove continue their odyssey to uncover abandoned automobiles left to rot in the sheds of Britain. This month, the boys discover an Aladdin's cave of different sheds, all on the same property – what will they reveal? Henry and Sam travel to a tractor enthusiast's heaven when

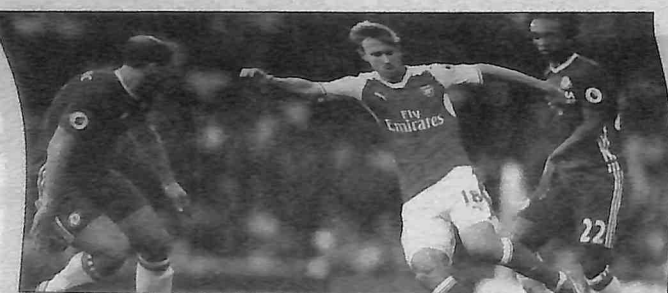
they find fields full of tractors and machinery – some left to rot in the countryside and some in mint condition. And when the boys come across a shed full of surprises in the south west, they find it difficult to whittle their decision down to just one. Follow Henry and Sam as they unearth motoring treasures.



### MARRIED AT FIRST SIGHT FRIDAY 20:50 | LIFETIME (131)

Coming in February is the second locally-commissioned series for Lifetime@ in Africa, Married At First Sight South Africa. The programme follows singles who have failed to find love, and have decided to put their hearts in the hands of a team of experts. They select their perfect partner, and the couples then meet for the first time at

the altar. After the wedding and honeymoon, the married couples move in together and start their new lives. From the first kiss to the first tears, cameras document every moment as experts analyse the relationships. Six weeks of marriage later, the couples have to make a decision: will they stay together or file for divorce?



### CHELSEA V ARSENAL SATURDAY 14:20 | SUPERSPORT 3 AFRICA HD (223)

Premier League 2016/17. Matchday 24: Chelsea versus Arsenal from Stamford Bridge - London, England. LIVE. DStv Premium customers can catch

the action via live video streaming on supersport.com, on DStv Now (for Android and iOS) and on the SuperSport App.

# AFRIDOCS PREMIERES ON BET



BET (129) is adding to its rich factual programming mix by welcoming the best documentaries from Africa and across the world onto its TV screens under a deal with documentary curators **AfriDocs**.

**AfriDocs'** extensive library of African and international documentaries will be aired on BET's pan-African entertainment channel on DStv every Sunday evening at 20:00 CAT, starting February 5, 2017.

Created for film buffs, lovers of African stories and culture, activists and anyone with a passion for powerful and real stories, **AfriDocs** documentaries are always moving, educational, and entertaining - whether ripped from the headlines, or simply the personal journeys of individuals facing the challenges of everyday life.

Since its inception in 2014, **AfriDocs**

has presented over 150 documentaries, including powerful environmental doc *Virunga*, Rehad Desai's award-winning *Miners Shot Down*, Nas Jones' *Shake the Dust* dance documentary, and Nigeria's celebrated film, *The Supreme Price*.

### Unique

This unique documentary strand has also included internationally awarded and acclaimed films such as the Academy Award winner *CitizenFour* (the Edward Snowden story), the Academy Award-nominated *The Act of Killing*, the SAFTA winning *The Dream of Shahrzad*, and many others.

"We look forward to rounding out our factual content offering, and illuminating and entertaining our Sunday night audiences thanks to **AfriDocs'** intelligent, thought-provoking and

stimulating documentary titles," said Monde Twala, Vice President, BET, Youth & Music, Viacom International Media Networks (VIMN) Africa.

Executive Producer, **AfriDocs**, Don Edkins explained further: "We are excited about this new relationship with BET in Africa and we look forward to sharing our curation of the best documentary films on offer."

### Deal

Under the deal, **AfriDocs** on BET will feature regular themed months such as Human Rights Month, Music Month, and Women's Month, while also continuing **AfriDocs'** collaboration with the **Durban International Film Festival** that gives millions of viewers across Africa a chance to view a selection of films from this internationally recognised festival.

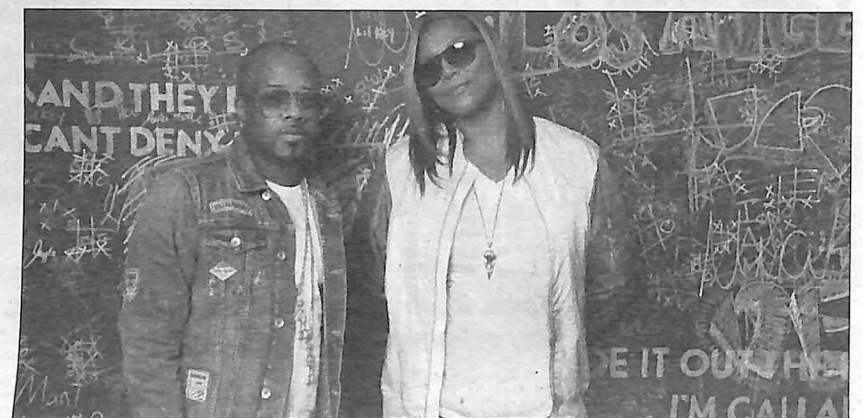
## BIG DRAMA IN LITTLE LIVES

CATCH all the big drama in little lives with *Extraordinary Kids* every Monday evening on Lifetime (131), which started January 23.

From those who are dancing or rapping their way to stardom to those who cooking with the finesse of a professionally trained chef, Lifetime has it all. *Dance Moms*, *The Rap Game* and *Man vs Child: Chef Showdown* all feature children with amazing talent that doesn't quite match their size.

In a brand new series, *The Rap Game* rapper and music mogul **Jermaine Dupri** mentors five hot aspiring young rappers towards stardom. Jermaine is the powerhouse musical force behind hip hop superstars such as **Mariah Carey**, **Usher** and **Bow Wow** and in this series, he is putting his expertise to the test by inviting five young potential rap superstars, and their manager moms, to move into his Atlanta mansion. While in the mansion, the kids will be tasked with learning every aspect of the music business in the hopes of achieving their ultimate rap superstar dream: being signed to Jermaine's label, **So So Def**. This new docu-series from Executive Producer **Queen Latifah** is packed with excitement.

*Dance Moms* Season 7 follows children's early steps on the road to stardom and their doting mothers who are there for every rehearsal, performance and bow



all under their dance instructor's discerning eyes.

Presenting a powerful cast of characters, the reality show immerses itself in the highs and lows surrounding dance competition season, delivering a captivating and dramatic look at the cast's intense pursuit of National Dance titles. *Dance Moms* Season 7 will continue to pose the tough questions many people have been asking since the show's launch about what really goes on behind-the-scenes in the fast-growing and controversial sport of competitive dance.

### Cooks

*Man vs Child: Chef Showdown* is on a Monday evening at 19:10. Some of the world's most talented young cooks go up against the very people they look up to;

professionally trained adult chefs. In each episode a team of five child cooking prodigies **Cloyce**, 13, **Holden**, 14, **Emmalee**, 12, **Dylan**, 11 and **Estie**, 7, will challenge a different prolific executive-level chef in the kitchen, where they will defend their culinary abilities. Will raw talent and imagination prove to be enough for the first generation of kids raised on cooking shows? Great chefs will be put to the ultimate test, against the food stars of tomorrow.

**Adam Gertler**, Chef and TV personality, hosts *Man vs Child: Chef Showdown* while **Mike Isabella**, chef and restaurateur, and **Alia Zaine**, private chef, serve as reoccurring judges and commentators. Guest judges include a number of renowned executive chefs and restaurateurs.



International  
Celebrity News

**NEW SQUEEZE:** Damon Wayans and his new girlfriend.  
**DAMON WAYANS' NEW SQUEEZE**

**LOS ANGELES** - Actor Damon Wayans took his girlfriend out to Catch Restaurant in West Hollywood, California on January 29. After the two were done, he noticed he had a parking ticket.

Damon was married to Lisa Thomer from 1984 to 2000. FYI - he's currently starring on Lethal Weapon on FOX, after surviving a brain tumor.  
**MTO**

## GAME OF THRONES STAR KIT TALKS LOSING VIRGINITY

**CALIFORNIA** - Game of Thrones heart-throb, Kit Harington has discussed losing his virginity.

The actor, 30, revealed he doesn't think he waited long enough before having sex for the first time, instead deciding to "get the monkey off his back" when he was "at a party" as a young teenager.

He said: "It was a typical sort of teenage thing, at a party. I was probably too young." And when the interviewer for Elle magazine asked Kit if by "too young" he meant the tender age of 13, the star claimed they "weren't far off".

He added to the publication: "I think the girl and I just kind of wanted to. You either hold on and do it right, or you're young and decide to get the monkey off your back." And losing his virginity at a young age has-



**WHOA:** Kit Harington.

n't had any effects on Kit's romantic life, as he previously said it was "easy to fall in love" with his girlfriend Rose Leslie, whom he met on the set of Game of Thrones.

**Elle**

## BLOW UP LED TO NICKI, MEEK MILL BREAK UP

**LOS ANGELES** - Nicki Minaj and Meek Mill broke up after a nuclear fight during her birthday weekend last month ... and it wasn't about cheating.

Sources close to the ex-couple tell us ... they weren't getting along in Turks and Caicos, because he was hanging with friends and not paying attention to her. She went nuts on him, he got pissed and left the island without her, and she said, "screw this," and ended the relationship. Just that simple. There are reports Meek had been cheating with a woman named Sonye Rasool

and that's what set off Nicki. A source close to Sonye tells us she and Meek hooked up years before Nicki, but she fully denies any cheating. We're told Sonye's about to file defamation lawsuits against several outlets. We're also told Sonye understands truth is a defense, but she has no fear.



**BREAK UP:** Nicki Minaj.

It's interesting ... the breakup appears to be over the small stuff, which makes you wonder if the door is still open. **TMZ**

## PARIS JACKSON TO MAKE ACTING DEBUT

**LOS ANGELES** - Paris Jackson is heading to TV. The daughter of the late King of Pop, Michael Jackson, will make her acting debut on Fox's Star later this season.

This is Jackson's first scripted acting gig. The 18-year-old will play Rachel Wells, a young, super-chic, stylish and intimidating social media guru, who oversees a publicity shoot of the girl group and deliber-



**DEBUT:** Paris Jackson.

ately goads Eva (Sharlene Taulé) and Star (Jude Demorest) into pushing some boundaries, according to the official casting announcement. The cast of Star also includes Queen Latifah, Benjamin Bratt, Jude Demorest, Brittany O'Grady, Ryan Destiny, Amiyah Scott and Quincy Brown. Guest stars over the first season so far include Lenny Kravitz, Tyrese Gibson and Naomi Campbell.  
**Online**

## SA Celebrity News

## MISS SOUTH AFRICA NTANDO HITS AT CRITICS

**JOHANNESBURG** - Reigning Miss South Africa Ntando Kunene may not have scooped the Miss Universe crown on Sunday night, but she definitely flew the flag high and put on an impressive show for the rest of world. Despite putting up a fierce fight at the glitzy ceremony in the Philippines, Ntando has faced criticism for not bringing home the crown.

However, she has no time to entertain the negativity.



**NOT HAPPY:** Ntando Kunene.

In a lengthy social media statement Ntando hit back at critics. "Critics say you have heavily disappointed South Africa. Who are those critics? I have never paid attention to people who just sit and criticize," she said. Ntando added that her goal was to inspire girls to strive to make their dreams

a reality, and believes that she has done so. **Sowetan**

## BONANG MATHEBA CHANGES A YOUNG GIRL'S LIFE

**JOHANNESBURG** - For two years she sat at home with no hope of furthering her studies due to her family's financial limitations. Going to university became just another dream for Karen Mthethwa.

But all that changed this year when television and radio personality Bonang Matheba came to her rescue by awarding her a bursary. Talking to DRUM, Karen Mthethwa (20) says she knocked on many doors unsuccessfully, until she stumbled on

Bonang's tweet last year saying she needed 10 girls who had dreams of doing media studies and could not afford them. "I jumped at the opportunity and sent my application through with my results and a motivational letter telling her about my life and family background," says Karen, who added that "my life will never be the same." **Drum**



**SAINT:** Bonang Matheba and Karen Mthethwa

## EMTEE AND CRUZ FUED GETS NASTY

**JOHANNESBURG** - Rapper Emtee has remained defiant as his beef with rapper Cruz Afrika heads to court.

The pair, who have been slinging mud at each other on social media, were involved in a heated feud that saw Cruz drop a diss track on Friday. Cruz apparently received a threatening voicemail from Emtee after releasing the track, and so, decided to open a case of intimidation against Emtee. Emtee responded with a counter case of intimidation against Cruz. "I can confirm that Tshelo Modise (Cruz Afrika) opened a case of intimidation against Mthembeni Ndevu (Emtee) over the weekend. Mr Ndevu then laid a counterclaim against Mr Modise for intimidation. The matter is currently under police investigation," Edenvale police



**BEEF:** Rapper Emtee.

spokesperson Captain Jean Olckers told TshisaLIVE on Monday. A series of tweets on Emtee's Twitter account seemed to confirm that Cruz had called the cops on him. **Times live**

## MUVHANGO' ACTOR SURVIVES ANOTHER CRASH

**JOHANNESBURG** - After his near-fatal car accident in downtown Jozi last year, Muvhango actor, Senzo Radebe bounces back with a deadly car crash driver role on the new SABC1 drama series 'Ingozi'.

"I play Dali Ndamase, the son and only kid from a wealthy family whose parents push him to get university education while he only wants to play rugby. He is a kid who was born with a silver spoon in his mouth but at 21, he does not really see eye-to-eye with his parents; he



**SURVIVOR:** Senzo Radebe.

the trauma of a life-threatening accident myself.

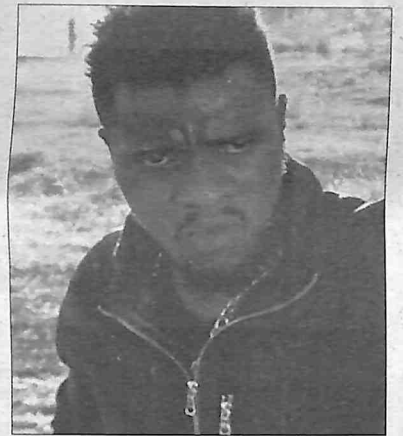
**Sunday World**

is a rebel," said Radebe about his character. The crunch comes when a heavily sloshed Dali crashes his luxury car and kills a number of people, with the survivors left to fight for their lives in hospital. "It's just coincidental, but no more of a blessing that I got the role after experiencing

## WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST

ISIBAYA

TODAY



**STRONG ARMING:** Qaphela.

Qaphela forces Zama to choose between her family and Jabu. Shadrack and Mehlemamba are stunned by Lerato's shocking revelations. Sunday provides Judas with crucial information.

Muvhango

TODAY



**TOUGH CHOICE:** Azwindini.

Azwindini is asked to go through with the wedding to save face. Mulalo, Ndalamo and Simon fear Azwindini will leave Mpho at the altar.

RHYTHM CITY

TODAY

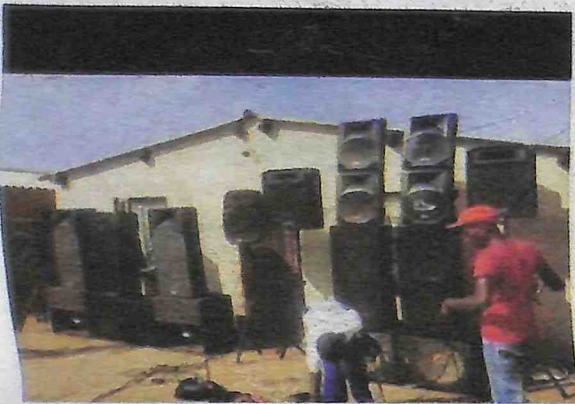


**ALLIANCE:** Niki

Nox saves the day, and Bash is reeled in by her calm and competence. Renelwe's song is launched. Roberto tries to sway Niki and Toolkit into an alliance. Bash is disconcerted by Niki's growing closeness to Toolkit. Bongi tries to gain Lerato's trust.



## When You're About To Announce That UyaJola Manje. 🤔



## TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn  
December 22 – January 19

Grappling with difficult issues seems likely. You might also sense that others need to mark the end of an era. With others looking to you to take the lead, privacy could be hard to come by. You could learn something interesting late in the day though. A useful new contact could be made, bring you in touch with someone who could hold a valuable key (and that could be literal!).



be pulled from underneath you.

Cancer  
June 22 – July 22

A companion's news could be bigger, greater and more awesome than you expected. And yes, you could feel overwhelmed. You might also wonder how you're going to cope whilst they're immersed in a project on which so much seems to hang. Involvement in something 'international' is probable too.



Aquarius  
January 20 – February 18

You could experience a life-changing moment - or at the very least be shaken by news that makes it clear that great change will occur in the next few weeks. A dream could be realised - or you could find support you'd never have thought possible. Contact with a large organisation seems likely and may require attention to a proposed timetable.



Leo  
July 23 – August 22

Yes, you probably are on the threshold of something big. And yes, you could attract drama. You could also attract extraordinary costs! Keeping tight rein on your spending could be tricky. You could be offered the keys to someone's heart - or even the keys to a new home. Unlocking treasures seems to be a major theme.



Pisces  
February 19 – March 20

You could attract a lucky break - or arrive at new understanding. Either way (but probably with the help of a partner) you may need to make an announcement. Truth could be an issue. Someone who experienced similar challenges almost exactly a year ago could have wise advice - which might make all the difference for your career.



Virgo  
August 23 – September 22

You've probably heard this coming: emotional and domestic change. And yes, much could already be underway. What occurs now might be something to celebrate - but is also likely to be a huge responsibility. Expect this to be pointed out by older people. Another possibility is that you'll be involved in important documentation or legal matters.



Aries  
March 21 – April 19

Expect a few announcements and/or to be caught in the glare of publicity. This could prove one 'heck of a day'. At the very, very least, an inkling that things are about to change on the career and domestic front seems likely. Another possibility is that family news will be something you want to share with the wider world.



Libra  
September 23 – October 23

What's suggested could knock you off your feet. You may be asked to provide a script or help someone with the wording of a text or letter that they feel will change everything. Witnessing a will or thinking about legacies is also probable. It's just possible too that you'll be made aware of the passing of an era.



Scorpio  
October 24 – November 21

Today could be a financial turning point - requiring you to think long and hard. A relationship could reach a crossroads too. Once again you may need to think long and hard about how and where you want to live and work. A Virgo acquaintance could have an interesting perspective on this: possibly offering to join forces.



Gemini  
May 21 – June 21

Maybe the end of an era has already been marked. Perhaps you now know you're on the threshold of something big. What you hear today should affirm that you have support in high places. True, all this presupposes that you've been doing your best. If you haven't then the rug could



Sagittarius  
November 22 – December 21

The cosmos has its eye on you! An aspect between Mercury and Uranus could bring you an amazing offer to consider. Your vision of the future could be exceedingly important. You might also need to give careful consideration to who you'd like to have at your side.



## BABY BLUES



## BUCKLES



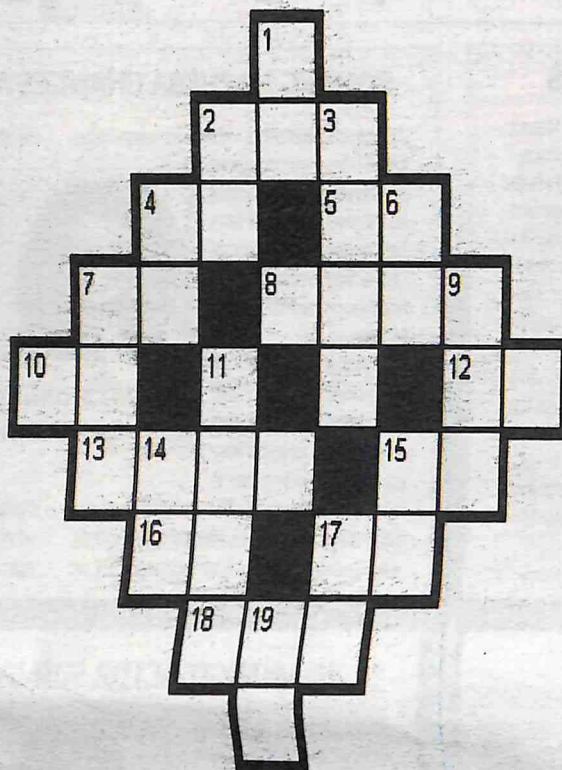
## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



## FIGURE IT

Look at the clues below and fill all the numbers you can into the grid.

Then start again and use your answers to help solve the other clues.



## PUZZLE CHOICE

## DOWN

- Fifty-four divided by three
- Number of days in a fortnight
- Half of 5842
- 17 across divided by three
- Four times 15 across
- 9 down minus ninety
- 123 reversed
- Five times 1131
- Half of 152
- 10 across doubled
- Four times twenty-three
- Seventy-five divided by five

## ACROSS

- Ninety-one doubled
- Half of sixty-eight
- 7 across plus 14 down
- Sixty-six divided by three
- 3421 reversed
- Fifty-two divided by four
- Number of hours in a day
- Half of 3536
- Three times seven
- Five times thirteen
- Forty-eight doubled
- Eight times sixty-four



## TOURING MONKEY

A boy with a monkey on his shoulder was walking down the road when he passed a policeman who said, "Now, now young lad, I think you had better take that monkey to the zoo." The next day, the boy was walking down the road with the monkey on his

shoulder again, when he passed the same policeman. The policeman said, "Hey there, I thought I told you to take that monkey to the zoo!" The boy answered, "I did! Today I'm taking him to the cinema."

## USELESS FACTS

- A crocodile can't poke its tongue out.
- It is physically impossible for pigs to look up into the sky.
- Guinness Book of Records holds the record for being the book most often stolen from Public Libraries.
- Drying fruit depletes it of 30-80 per cent of its vitamin and antioxidant content
- A 2010 study found that 48 per cent of soda fountain contained fecal bacteria, and 11 per cent contained E. Coli.

BRAINTEASERS  
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERSYESTERDAY'S  
BRAINTEASERS

- When was it that Christmas and New Year were celebrated in the same year?  
Answer: Every year.

- How many times can you subtract 10 from 100?  
Answer: Once. Next time you would be subtracting 10 from 90.

TODAY'S  
BRAINTEASERS

- There are six mangoes in a basket and six kids eagerly waiting to get one. Each kid is given one mango, yet there is one mango in the basket, how?
- If you were running a race and you passed the person in second place, what place would you be in now?



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## HOMEWORK CENTRE MANZINI TESTMONIALS

Siviso Bhambe  
Khamyisile Primary  
School  
Grade 7

I started going to the Homework Centre in the second term of grade 7. Before I started going to Homework Centre, my Maths marks ranged in the fifties and sixties. Now that I have subscribed to the Centre, my marks have really improved as I now get within the regions of seventies and eighties. I even passed grade 7 with a merit and I am going to one of the top schools for my Form one. The Homework Centre really helped me a lot. I do not think I would

have got a merit had I not joined. I thank Homework Centre so much for helping me pass my Maths with flying colours.

Vuyiswa Masuku  
Khamyisile Primary  
School  
Grade 5

I started going to Homework Centre in the beginning of the year 2016, and I have noticed a huge difference in my Maths results; as have all my teachers too. Before I started attending classes at the Homework Centre, my exam marks had never been higher than eighty percent; and all my other subjects were

in the region of ninety percent and higher. After I joined the Homework Centre, from day one my results started to go higher and from that day I became top of my class. On last term's report I got a ninety nine percent, and I am now confident about my Mathematics. I thank the Centre very much for being a part of my Maths Literacy.

Ndamiso Mkhulaphi  
Form 3  
Salesian High School

I enrolled at the Homework Centre for both Maths and Add Maths. They were very helpful because at school I did not

understand the concepts along with a number of other pupils, and as a result we hated Maths and Add Maths. The Homework Centre helped me a lot through the computer work and theory after understanding the basics. Usually in Maths I would score 35% as my highest (which is a fail) and Add Maths was dismal with 20-25%. Through the help of the tutors I got a "C", which was very good by my standards. Before enrolling at Homework Centre Add-Maths was a nightmare to me, but on my JC I got symbol "B" which seemed to be magical!

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**CHANGE OF SURNAMES**

**PHILILE PRISCAL MKHONTA**, of MANZINI Region wish to assume surname **BANDA**. Reason being that **BANDA** is my natural surname. Any objections should be sent to Luyengo Emalayinini.

R/N167244 Dk: 01 FEB, 8 FEB, 15 FEB, 22 FEB

**MFANISENI BANELE NDWANDWE**, of MANZINI Region wish to assume surname **NDLANGAMANDL A**. Reason being that **NDLANGAMANDL A** is my natural surname. Any objections should be sent to P.O. Box 110 Sidvokodvo

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# STAR ADEBAYOR JOINS TURKEY'S BASAKSEHIR

**ISTANBUL** - Togo captain and former English Premier League star, Emmanuel Adebayor yesterday joined Turkish top flight side Medipol Basaksehir of Istanbul, surprise contenders for this year's league title.

The club announced that the 32-year-old former Arsenal, Manchester City, Real Madrid and Tottenham Hotspur forward was joining the team on its official Instagram page, posting a picture of the player undergoing a medical.

Club chairperson, Mustafa Seral told the Anadolu news agency that Adebayor was arriving on a one and a half year contract and would make a "major contribution". Financial details have yet to be disclosed. The player has been without a club since leaving Crystal Palace at the end of last season. But he skipped Togo at the Africa Cup of Nations in Gabon this month where the country exited at the group stage. Adebayor, who spent most of the past decade in England,



**DONE DEAL:** Mustafa Seral and Emmanuel Adebayor.

had previously hinted that he could push for a move back to the Premier League. Formerly known as Istanbul Buyuksehir Belediyesi Spor (IBB), the club changed their name in 2014 to Basaksehir and have seen a major surge in fortunes. They are proving a worthy rival to the traditional domi-

nant Istanbul trio of Galatasaray, Besiktas and Fenerbahce and have led the Turkish Super Lig for much of this season. After the latest round of games, they are now in second place, two points behind leaders, Besiktas, and remain in contention for a first ever Super Lig title. **AFP**

## MASON RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL AFTER SKULL SURGERY

**LONDON** - Hull midfielder **Ryan Mason** is set for a long period of rehabilitation treatment after being discharged from hospital, his Premier League club said.

The 25-year-old - capped once by England - fractured his skull in a horrific clash of heads with Chelsea defender Gary Cahill in the first-half of the 2-0 defeat at Stamford Bridge and was stretchered off the pitch attached to an



**RELEASED:** Ryan Mason.

oxygen mask.

Mason - sold to Hull by Tottenham Hotspur for a reported 13 million (£15.3m, \$16.3) just prior to the beginning of this season - has made 'excellent' progress since he has been discharged from hospital.

However, it is believed it will be at least four months till he can start training again and he will need a medical all clear before he does so - others such as Czech goalkeeper Petr Cech have returned to action though he wears protective head gear.

"Ryan will now

continue his recovery and early stages of rehabilitation at home and the club would once again like to place on record its thanks to everybody who has been involved in Ryan's care so far," a club statement read. Mason wasn't short of well wishers during his stay in hospital. He was visited by the members of Hull's medical team, whose prompt work was heralded as being key to the player's recovery, as well as club skipper Michael Dawson, his Chelsea counterpart John Terry and his former boss at Spurs Mauricio Pochettino.

**AFP**

## Hull City make shock bid to sign Nani from Valencia

**LONDON** - Hull City's unpredictable transfer dealings have taken another twist as they have bid for Euro 2016 winner Nani.

The former Manchester United winger could be back on his way to the Premier League as Hull are keen on the Portugal star and are attempting to bring him to the KCOM before the day is out.

New boss Marco Silva is an admirer of the Valencia man, aged 30, who left United in 2011. Hull City are looking for new wide players having sold Robert Snodgrass to West Ham United and face losing Andrew Robertson to Burnley.

They have made Nani, who helped Portugal win the European Championships last summer, their top target.

He only joined Valencia in July, but has struggled to reverse the fallen giant's fortunes as they battle against relegation from La Liga. Nani has played 15 league games for Valencia and has made

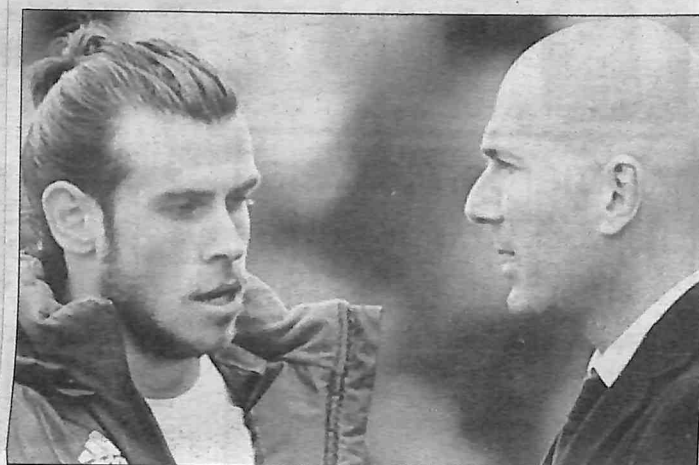


**ADMIRER:** Luís Nani.

an impact, scoring two goals and assisting six more, but he will be playing for English strugglers rather than Spanish ones if Silva gets his way. Silva has previously worked with Nani, having taken him on loan to Sporting Lisbon when he was manager for the 2014/15 season, and they won the Portuguese Cup

together. Nani is best known in England for his spell at Manchester United between 2007 and 2014. He arrived from Sporting Lisbon hailed as the new Cristiano Ronaldo for £21.6m, and although he never quite lived up to that hype, he did have a trophy laden spell at Old Trafford.

**Daily Mail**



**NO RUSH:** Gareth Bale and Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane.

## No rush for Bale return, insists Zidane

**Madrid** - Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane believes he has no need to rush Gareth Bale back from a long-term ankle injury as the European champions extended their lead at the top of La Liga on Sunday.

Madrid saw off Real Sociedad 3-0 thanks to goals from Mateo Kovacic, Cristiano Ronaldo and Alvaro Morata to open up a four-point lead on Barcelona and Sevilla and with a game in hand over their title rivals to come.

Bale has been out since suffering ankle ligament damage in November and is not expected to return before March.

However, Zidane is hopeful of having Luka

Modric and James Rodriguez back for Real's next outing at Celta Vigo at the weekend. "Our idea is to have Luka back next week. We will see (how he is) on Tuesday and the same goes for James," said Zidane.

"Gareth will take a while longer. He is now on the training pitch in boots which is a good sign, but we have to take it slowly."

Bale is expected to miss Real's Champions League last 16, first

leg clash with Napoli on February 15 with the Welshman possibly making a return in time for the return leg on March 7.

Madrid had begun to miss the Welshman's presence as they won just one of their five previous games before Sociedad's visit.

That run included elimination at the hands of Celta Vigo in the Copa del Rey quarter-finals, but Zidane admitted missing out on two more matches in the semi-finals over the next fortnight could ultimately prove a blessing for his injury hit squad.

"It is what it is. We can't think about the Cup any more because we are out," he added.

"We would have preferred to still be in it, but we have to think positively and we are going to have a full week to

prepare first for La Liga

and then the Champions League." Madrid enjoyed a dream weekend as all of their title rivals slipped up. Barca were held 1-1 at Real Betis, whilst Sevilla were reduced to 10 men after just two minutes in losing 3-1 at Espanyol on Sunday. **AFP**



## Dybala set to sign new Juventus deal

**MILAN** - Juventus are set to fend off interest from Real Madrid and Barcelona for forward Paulo Dybala by announcing a new contract for the Argentina international 'in a few weeks'.

Dybala joined Juventus in 2015 from Palermo on a five-year deal and his impressive performances in the famous black and white shirt have seen him linked with a move away from Turin.

But Juventus Chief Executive Giuseppe Marotta is confident the forward will remain with the Italian giants and sign a new deal in February.

"We're talking with his people, I don't think there will be any problems. The announcement will probably be made in a few weeks,"

Marotta told Sky Sport Italia.

"Paulo is happy here and we're glad to have him with us, that's why there's every opportunity to move forward together."

There was an incident between Dybala and Juve boss Massimiliano Allegri as the forward refused to shake his hand when substituted in Sunday's 2-0 victory over Sassuolo.

Allegri was unconcerned by the snub, and Marotta felt it was simply a sign of frustration at failing to find the net.

"It was a small and insignificant gesture, football is full of these things. We have to look at the whole context - he's an important player and a great professional," he told TMW Radio.

**Daily Mail**





# 2017 AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS

## Cameroon players refuse to train over unpaid bonuses

**LIBREVILLE** - Cameroon players refused to train on Monday in Gabon until their bonuses have been paid to the dimension of their performance in the quarterfinal against Senegal.

Revelations from the camp indicate that Hugo Broos men are demanding 12 million CFA francs each player as a qualification bonus for the quarterfinals and semifinals respectively.

The government had offered the players 10 million CFA francs per player after the initial plan of less than 4 million CFA francs an amount that squad captain Benjamin Moukandjo and his players has termed as pathetic. The players have demanded that the government has to revalorise the amount before they can go back to training to prepare for semi-finals scheduled in Franceville tomorrow against Ghana.

soka25east



# BANCE BURKINA FASO'S GLOBETROTTERING GOAL-GETTER

**LIBREVILLE** - With his giant frame and his instantly recognisable hairstyle, it is hard to miss Aristide Bance, the man who fired Burkina Faso into the semifinals of the Africa Cup of Nations.

And yet it has been a case of blink and you might miss him when it comes to his club career, which has seen the 32-year-old turn out for sides in a dozen different countries.

The player who came off the bench in Saturday's quarterfinal in Libreville against Tunisia and fired his side into a last-four tie against Egypt is a veritable globe-trotter.

In fact even he has lost count of the number of clubs he has played for, but a glance at his CV shows spells in the Ivory Coast, Latvia, Germany, Dubai, Ukraine and Kazakhstan, among others.

"Twelve clubs, something like



**GOAL:** Aristide Bance celebrating after scoring against Tunisia on Saturday night.

that. I have travelled a bit. I have a lot of experience," the man with the blonde mohawk told AFP.

In fact it is more like 20 clubs in 12 different countries for a player who was born in the Ivory Coast and moved to Ouagadougou in

2002, at the height of the Ivorian civil war.

It was, he admitted recently, a move made "to protect our lives".

After several months spent at a local club Santos, Bance took off for Europe, joining Lokeren in

Belgium, the first on a whistle-stop footballing tour of the world.

"There are some countries where I didn't have much luck. When I went to Dubai, at the beginning everything went well," he said. "After four months I started to have problems with my pay. When a club stops paying you, it's a way of saying you are no longer in the coach's plans, so I had real problems there."

"I went to Finland (HJK Helsinki) to play in the Europa League, and in Latvia they were very professional too. I got paid there. I was already used to the cold after a spell in Ukraine," added Bance, who retains particularly happy memories of his time spent in Germany with Mainz. His most recent move, from Riga back to Africa with ASEC Abidjan, had a more practical explanation to it.

AFP

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# 2017 AFRICA C

## Essam El-Hadary remains humble with Egypt

**LIBREVILLE** - Egyptian goalkeeper Essam El-Hadary continues to walk on the path towards immortality at AFCON 2017, with the latest target in his glittering career being to end the tournament without conceding.

Already the oldest player ever to feature at the Nations Cup at 44 years old, four-time AFCON winner El-Hadary is currently vying to become the first ever goalkeeper to complete a tournament without conceding.

Since coming on as a 25th-minute replacement for Ahmed Al Shenawy in the first Group D match against Mali, the Wadi Degla FC keeper has gone on to guard the posts against Uganda and Ghana, as well as Morocco in the quarter-finals, keeping a clean sheet in all those encounters.

"I have worked really hard to keep in shape," said El-Hadary, who appears to be far away from even thinking of retiring.

*kickoff*



## PUBLIC NOTICE



### EZULWINI SEWERAGE SYSTEM PROJECT

The Swaziland Water Services Corporation hereby notifies Ezulwini Municipality Residents that the Ezulwini Sewerage System Project is now at its penultimate stage of completion. In this regard with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2017 the Corporation will commence with on plot Sewer Live Connections.

As mentioned in previous Public Notices the Corporation has engaged Inyatsi Construction (Pty) Ltd and Bicon Consulting Engineers to carry out the works.

To facilitate the implementation of the connections, we kindly request that residents ensure that all domesticated animals used for security are kept under closure to allow for safe working conditions.

Please direct any queries and or request for clarifications to [public\\_affairs@swsc.co.sz](mailto:public_affairs@swsc.co.sz).

Your assistance and cooperation is essential in making this project a success.

**Announcement by:**  
**Public Affairs Department**

Emtfonjeni Building, Corner MR 103  
and Cultural Village Drive, Ezulwini.  
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DOC12541

CAF 2017



## AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS SEMI-FINALS

01 FEBRUARY 2017

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EGYPT

02 FEBRUARY 2017

GHANA

CAMEROON

## BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES

01 FEBRUARY 2017

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22:00 Stoke City v Everton

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03 FEBRUARY 2017

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## Masango to SuperSport, Wome to Pirates – 'the deals are on'

JOHANNESBURG - "The deals are on," said SuperSport United chairman Khulu Sibiyi, confirming that his club were scrambling to sign Mandla Masango yesterday's final day of the transfer window, and loan Dove Wome to Orlando Pirates.

Sibiyi told Times Media Digital yeday that the Masango and Wome deals were still to be finalised. SuperSport were trying to sign former Kaizer Chiefs winger Masango from his Danish club, Randers FC, where he has spent the past season-and-a-half and has a contract that runs until June 2018.

Sibiyi said the three-time PSL champions will then loan out mercurial Togolese forward Wome to Pirates "to make space for Masango".

Masango would reunite with SuperSport coach Stuart Baxter, who the Bafana Bafana forward won league and cup doubles under at Kaizer Chiefs in 2012-13 and 2014-15.

Baxter had indicated that while Masango spent the Danish Christmas break training with SuperSport, and the coach would love to have him, there might be issues with cost as Randers recent-

ly turned down a 3 million Krona (R4,6 million) offer for the player.

The threats facing Supersport United's title challenge

Sibiyi did not confirm if the move to SuperSport would be on a loan or permanent basis.

He said the deals "done" were premature. "I think it's safe to say, 'yes', and that negotiations were going on last [Monday] night," the SuperSport chairman said. "I am still waiting for [SuperSport CEO] Stan Matthews to come back to me. But, yes, it's on the cards."

"Pirates are keen on Wome on a loan basis. And we have to make room for Mandla Masango. "Stuart Baxter really loves Mandla. They have a good relationship. But because the squad is too big we have to offload one and get another in. SuperSport and the PSL celebrate 10-year partnership at gala event "So yes, it's definitely on the cards. Today is the last day of the transfer window and we're trying to finalise it."

"I can simply say: yes, that's the deal. And listen, it's a deal that's going to happen, so take it as confirmed. The deals are on."

- TMG Digital

## 'MADRID FANS BOOING RONALDO IS MADNESS'

MADRID - Real Madrid legend Iker Casillas said it is madness that Cristiano Ronaldo was booed during the team's 3-0 La Liga win over Real Sociedad at the Santiago Bernabeu on Sunday.

The former Los Blancos goalkeeper also endured criticism from the stands in his time with the Spanish giants. "These things happen in stages, Cristiano sells a lot, and demands a lot of himself," Casillas told Onda Cero's 'El Transistor' show. "Along with [Leo] Messi he is the best in the world -- he has this ... this responsibility. "As a Madridista, sometimes you don't understand why it can happen. Six months ago Madrid were European champions, one month ago they were world champions. He has just won the trophy as the world's best player. "Last year I remember a difficult moment before [Rafa] Benitez left. Then at the end of the season they were in the clouds with the Champions League."

"If he scores two or three goals a game, that is just what he is supposed to do. It is madness. You must help him -- have people around him and the club who help to protect the players. He must continue trying to be the player he is, the best in the world," concluded Casillas, who came through

Real's youth ranks and spent 25 years with the club before joining Porto in 2015. AFP



## Kaizer Chiefs sign former Venezuela junior international

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs will formally announce the signing of Venezuela striker Gustavo Paez once the paperwork has been settled.

The 26-year-old has been training with the Soweto club for the last few weeks and is said to have made enough of a positive impression to earn a contract.

His imminent signing may spell the end of the Chiefs careers of

Edward Manqele and Siphelele Mthembu. It's thought the club are in the process of securing Paez's work permit, although for now, all Chiefs Football Manager Bobby Motaung was offering on the matter is to confirm that the club has signed a foreign player.

"We have signed one and we will make other announcements; [he] is from outside [the country]," Motaung said on the weekend. Born in Venezuela to Italian parents, Paez was part of the Venezuelan squad for the 2007 South American Under-17 Football Championship but has not featured for the national team since. He has drifted around during his career, playing in Peru, Venezuela and Slovenia, and in the lower divisions in Italy and Spain. *frican News Agency*

MADRID - Former Brazilian international Alexandre Pato is the latest high-profile player to be tempted by the riches of China's Super League after joining Tianjin Quanjian from La Liga side Villarreal.

Pato, 27, will be coached by Italian Soccer World Cup-winning captain Fabio Cannavaro and joins Belgian international Axel Witsel at Tianjin after he sealed a big-money move from Zenit Saint Petersburg earlier this month.

"I'm very happy to be part of the Tianjin Quanjian family," Pato tweeted on his official account with a picture alongside Cannavaro.

Spanish media reported Villarreal are set to cash in to the tune of €18 million for a player they spent just €3 million on to sign from Brazilian side Corinthians in July. Meanwhile, Pato is reportedly set to earn €10 million a season.

The former AC Milan and Chelsea striker scored just six goals in his 24 appearances for Villarreal.

Pato was one of the brightest prospects in world football when he signed for Milan as a 17-year-old in 2007.

Despite netting 63 goals in 150 appearances for the Italian giants, Pato's first spell in Europe was blighted by injury before returning to Brazil with Corinthians in 2013.

Loan spells at Sao Paulo and last season at Chelsea followed before his brief stint at Villarreal. AFP



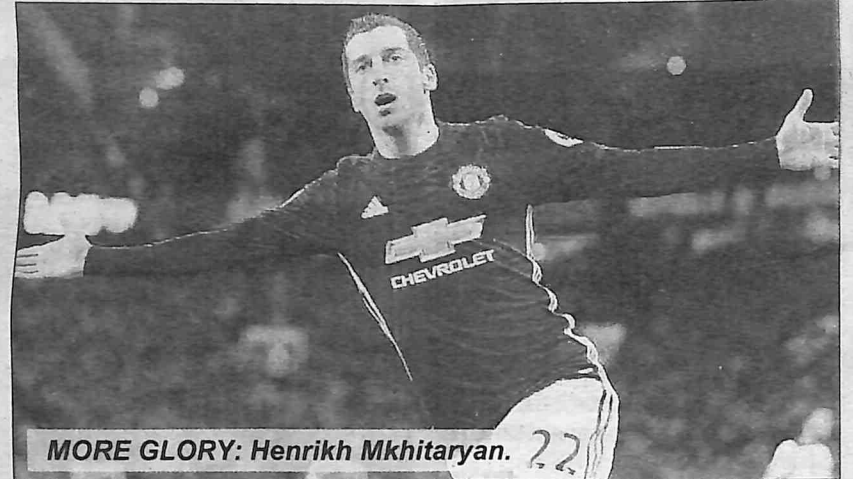
MADE IN CHINA: Alex Pato.

# STAR MKHITARYAN PROMISES UNITED FIGHT ON FOUR FRONTS

MANCHESTER - Henrikh Mkhitaryan insists Manchester United are taking all four competitions they are involved in seriously as they struggle to cope with the demanding fixture schedule.

Jose Mourinho's club is the only one in England still retaining an interest in a quartet of competitions - the Premier League, Europa League, FA Cup and the League Cup, in which they can look forward to a Wembley final against Southampton next month.

Their success means United could face as many as 67 games, should they advance to the finals of the other two cup competitions, and has led Mourinho to criticise the English fixture schedule as "nonsense". But after a weekend in which a number of Premier League teams were eliminated from the FA Cup after choosing weakened line-ups, Mkhitaryan claimed United want to suc-



MORE GLORY: Henrikh Mkhitaryan. 22

ceed in every tournament. "We are taking all the competitions seriously," he said. "For Manchester United, every cup is very important. "A trophy is a trophy. It doesn't matter if it is the League Cup, the FA Cup or the Europa League."

We want to do our best to try to win them all." United face drop candidates Hull in the Premier League at Old Trafford today, with Mourinho again likely to make sweeping changes to his team selection. AFP

## 'PAYET DEBACLE MADE US CLOSER'

CAPE TOWN - West Ham striker Andy Carroll admits the Dimitri Payet saga galvanised the spirit of the Premier League side and boosted the overall morale to 'kick-start' their season.

Payet sent shockwaves through the Hammers' dressing room when he refused to play for the club against Crystal Palace this month in order to force a move back to his former club Marseille.

Manager Slaven Bilic responded by telling the media of the incident and stood firm, claiming the club's financial position meant they would not be bullied into selling their star player - especially after a slow start to their league campaign.

Nonetheless, the wave of uncertainty surrounding his future resulted in an upturn of form with Bilic's squad, as Carroll starred in the 3-0 win over the Eagles and the 3-1 victory over Middlesbrough, to move into the top-half of the table.

SPORT24

## PATO LATEST TO LAND MEGABUCKS CHINA MOVE



## LOGS

## STANDINGS

By Sibusiso Dlamini

## MTN Premier League log

Position	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Mbabane Swallows	16	16	0	0	44	7	37	48
Young Buffaloes	16	8	6	2	20	12	8	30
Royal Leopard	16	8	3	5	22	19	3	27
Moneni Pirates	16	7	5	4	23	21	2	26
Manzini Wanderers	16	6	6	4	25	17	8	24
Green Mamba	16	6	3	7	17	13	4	21
Manzini Sundowns	16	5	6	5	17	20	-3	21
Midas City	16	4	7	5	20	22	-2	19
Mbabane Highlanders	16	3	4	7	20	27	-7	14
Tambuti	16	4	2	10	13	27	-14	14
Red Lions	16	3	3	10	17	37	-20	12
Sea Birds	16	1	4	11	12	30	-18	7

## National First Division log:

Position	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Matsapha United	15	11	2	2	36	10	26	35
Malanti Chiefs	15	10	1	4	33	9	24	34
Vovovo	15	8	4	3	25	16	9	27
Mbabane Citizen	15	8	7	0	22	20	2	24
Madlenya	15	7	6	2	18	17	1	23
Hlatikhulu Tycoons	15	6	7	2	18	31	-13	20
Amalanda	15	6	8	1	18	23	-5	19
Bad Boys	15	4	5	6	16	25	-9	17
Sikhalo	15	5	8	2	16	18	-2	17
Hub Sundowns	15	4	7	4	16	19	-3	16
City Warriors	15	3	9	3	13	27	-14	12
Ludzeludze Brothers	15	2	9	4	13	32	-19	10

## Esibayeni Lodge E200 000 League

Log	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Young Buffaloes	15	11	1	3	40	10	30	36
Green Mamba	15	10	3	2	51	20	31	32
Manzini Wanderers	15	10	2	3	36	11	25	32
Mbabane Swallows	15	9	3	3	36	12	24	30
Royal Leopard	15	8	3	4	33	12	21	26
Mbabane Highlanders	14	5	3	6	21	17	4	21
Sea Birds	15	4	6	5	18	33	-16	17
Tambuti	15	5	9	1	20	31	-11	16
Red Lions	15	4	7	4	26	34	-8	13
Manzini Sundowns	14	3	9	2	12	19	-7	12
Moneni Pirates	15	2	7	6	20	41	-21	12
Midas City	15	1	12	2	12	60	-48	5

## Swazi Trac Hhohho Super League

Position Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Tinyosi	13	10	3	0	37	8	29	33
2 Swazi Sun	13	8	2	3	33	19	14	26
3 PMT	13	7	5	1	21	11	10	26
4 Sibovini	13	6	4	3	17	10	7	22
5 Burning Spear	12	5	4	3	16	14	2	19
6 Vusweni Killers	12	6	1	5	19	23	-4	19
7 Wizards	13	4	5	4	16	15	1	17
8 Sibuyeni	12	3	3	6	13	17	-4	12
9 Umbebebe	13	3	3	7	15	22	-7	12
10 Billy Ocean	13	4	0	9	16	24	-8	12
11 Mv. Invaders	12	2	2	8	14	30	-16	8
12 Gordon Stars	13	1	2	10	10	34	-24	5

## Northern zone

Position Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Horo	13	11	0	2	28	12	16	33
2 19 Celtics	13	10	2	1	29	14	15	32
3 Black Swallows	13	7	1	5	22	16	6	22
4 Mvuma	13	5	6	2	21	12	9	21
5 Pachanga	13	6	2	5	16	15	1	20
6 Vultures	13	4	5	4	15	12	3	17
7 Manchester	13	4	5	4	20	18	2	17
8 Nkonjaneni	13	3	5	5	14	15	-1	14
9 Ndialambi	13	3	2	8	17	26	-9	11
10 N. Swallows	13	3	2	8	11	26	-15	11
11 Ms. Arsenal	13	2	4	7	12	20	-8	10
12 Ndeva Galaxy	13	1	3	9	12	29	-17	6

## Mandla Mahewu Mbabane League E55 000

Promotion	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Imbumba	16	10	3	3	28	15	13	33
2 FC Vaal Stars	16	9	2	5	31	21	10	29
3 Pine valley	16	6	6	4	24	14	10	24
4 Corporation	16	5	7	4	36	27	9	22
5 Pot O Gold	16	9	4	3	23	14	9	31
6 Sandla	16	5	9	2	33	27	6	24
7 Mbabane Arsenal	16	5	6	5	25	21	4	21
8 Amawele	16	7	5	4	31	28	3	26
9 Real Tec	16	4	9	3	25	24	1	21
10 Mbabane Celtics	16	6	2	8	23	27	-4	20
11 Thembehlile	16	2	9	5	15	20	-5	15
12 Flying Stars	16	3	4	9	29	44	-15	13
13 White City	16	5	0	11	20	37	-17	15
14 Double Action	15	7	5	3	27	20	7	26
15 Veni Cosmos	15	2	7	6	24	37	-13	13
16 Manzana	15	2	2	11	22	37	-15	8

## B. Division

Position Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Super sport	17	14	0	3	49	15	34	42
2 Interstars	18	12	3	3	46	14	32	39
3 Junior Aces	18	12	3	3	49	20	29	39
4 Mpolorjeni	18	10	4	4	39	22	17	34
5 Classic	18	11	1	6	49	24	25	34
6 Mbabane United	18	9	2	7	37	27	10	29
7 Lusoli	18	9	5	4	38	27	11	32
8 Darkies	16	10	1	5	42	19	23	31
9 Freestyle	17	10	1	6	47	32	15	31
10 Mphalati	15	7	1	7	27	25	2	22
11 National Rangers	17	6	4	7	28	37	-9	22
12 Mangwaneni	18	7	1	10	33	36	-3	22
13 Junction	18	6	2	10	28	37	-9	20
14 Royal Dynamos	17	5	1	11	24	36	-12	16
15 Wailers	16	4	2	10	20	37	-17	14
16 Never Die	17	2	5	10	19	45	-26	11
17 Movers	16	1	3	12	17	62	-45	6
18 Mantsholo	18	0	1	17	17	94	-77	1

## Futis Nkhamba Regional League

Promotion	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Ngwenya United	15	11	4	0	40	11	29	37
2 Nkoyoyo	15	9	4	2	29	10	19	31
3 Shooting Stars	15	7	7	1	32	12	20	28
4 Crocodiles	15	7	5	3	27	15	12	26
5 Dribbling Stars	15	7	4	4	21	13	8	25
6 Barcelona F.C.	15	7	3	5	26	20	6	24
7 Majotini	15	6	4	5	21	20	1	22
8 Motshane	15	7	1	6	27	31	-4	22
9 Manyisa United	15	5	4	6	21	34	-13	19
10 Super Stars	15	3	6	6	20	23	-3	15
11 Bafana	15	4	2	9	15	28	-13	14
12 Mhlosheni	15	4	0	11	16	37	-21	12
13 Marisburg	15	3	2	9	14	20	-6	11
14 Atletico	15	2	0	13	21	28	-7	6

## Pots Construction Sigangeni League

Position Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Kupheleni	18	13	4	1	53	16	37	43
2 SD Civils Man U	17	13	3	1	45	8	37	42
3 Ntsetse	18	11	4	3	35	15	20	37
4 Cannibals	18	10	3	5	33	19	14	33
5 Villa Sport	18	9	4	5	34	21	13	31
6 Community	18	9	2	6	31	19	12	29
7 U. Eagles	18	8	5	5	30	19	11	29
8 Real United	17	6	7	4	35	24	11	25
9 Nationals	18	6	7	5	28	25	-2	25
10 Real Touch	18	7	3	8	31	34	-3	24
11 Kangaroo	16	7	3	6	32	42	-10	24
12 M. Celtics	17	5	7	5	28	27	1	22
13 Express	18	6	3	9	27	29	-2	21
14 Young Heroes	18	5	4	9	20	31	-11	19
15 Total Xi	17	1	8	8	26	38	-12	11
16 Sigangeni	18	2	5	11	13	35	-22	11
17 Chiefs	18	2	4	12	14	54	-40	10
18 Young Fighters	18	0	5	13	10	68	-58	5

## Bakhanyisele Mabulala &amp; MP Menzi Dlamini Maphalaleni League

Position Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Manchester	18	16	1	1	50	15	35	49
2 Junior Stars	18	14	1	3	46	19	27	43
3 Young Lovers	18	12	5	1	49	16	33	41
4 Blue Birds	18	10	6	2	37	14	23	36
5 XI Experience	18	10	5	3	42	23	19	35
6 Hotspurs	18	9	3	6	46	31	15	30
7 Young Stars	18	7	8	3	36	24	12	29
8 Luvinjelo	18	9	2	7	33	35	-2	29
9 Umkhokha	18	6	4	8	30	36	-6	22
10 Professionals	18	5	6	7	26	23	3	21
11 Killers	18	4	4	10	23	34	-11	16
12 Rangers	18	3	4	11	20	30	-10	13
13 Barcelona F.C.	18	3	3	12	19	57	-38	12
14 Thuluzubona	18	2	4	12	12	49	-37	10
15 Liselesele	18	2	3	13	14	34	-20	9
16 Khulawane	18	2	1	14	15	39	-24	7

## Maphalaleni Western Stream

Position Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Happy Fighters	14	12	1	1	37	9	28	37
2 Early Sunset	14	12	1	1	33	8	25	37
3 Hill Stars	13	10	1	1	15	4	11	31
4 Love & Peace	14	7	3	4	18	9	9	24
5 Academy	14	4	4	6	21	22	-1	16
6 Lunkanka	14	4	4	6	13	15	-2	16
7 Mighty Birds	13	4	2	7	14	12	2	14
8 Top Classic	14	4	2	8	17	30	-13	14
9 Jubukweni United	14	3	4	7	13	18	-5	13
10 Rollers	14	3	4	7	10	17	-7	13
11 Siphambanweni	14	3	3	8	8	29	-21	12
12 Sunrise	14	1	3	10	11	48	-37	6

## Ematfombeni Mzimba Regional League

Position Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Kasiko	14	9	2	3	27	16	11	29
2 Arsenal	13	9	1	3	33	14	19	28

3
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**CORBAN LOVES MAFUTSENI:** Referees of the Mafutseni League being presented with their new kit which was courtesy of the league's sponsor, CORBAN. Looking on are Mafutseni MP, Christopher Gamedze, MRFA Chairman Peter 'Samora' Simelane and CORBAN Head of Marketing Reggie Kunene.



**SIGNED AND SEALED:** Corban's Reggie Kunene signing an agreement with the MRFA.



**MC:** MRFA Treasurer Siphon Dlamini directing proceedings.



**TEAM REPRESENTATIVES:** Joseph Msibi and Sanele Shongwe who represented some of the teams.



**BRAND NEW:** Referees of the Mafutseni league admiring their brand new kits.



**THIS IS HOW WE DO IT:** Mafutseni Indvuna Bandile Tshotsho stressing a point to Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Christopher Gamedze.



**CHIEF'S MAN:** Sicamelo saChief Sizwe Shongwe listening to speeches.



**ATTENTIVE:** Xolani Nkhambule and Mthunzi Shongwe listening attentively to the speeches.

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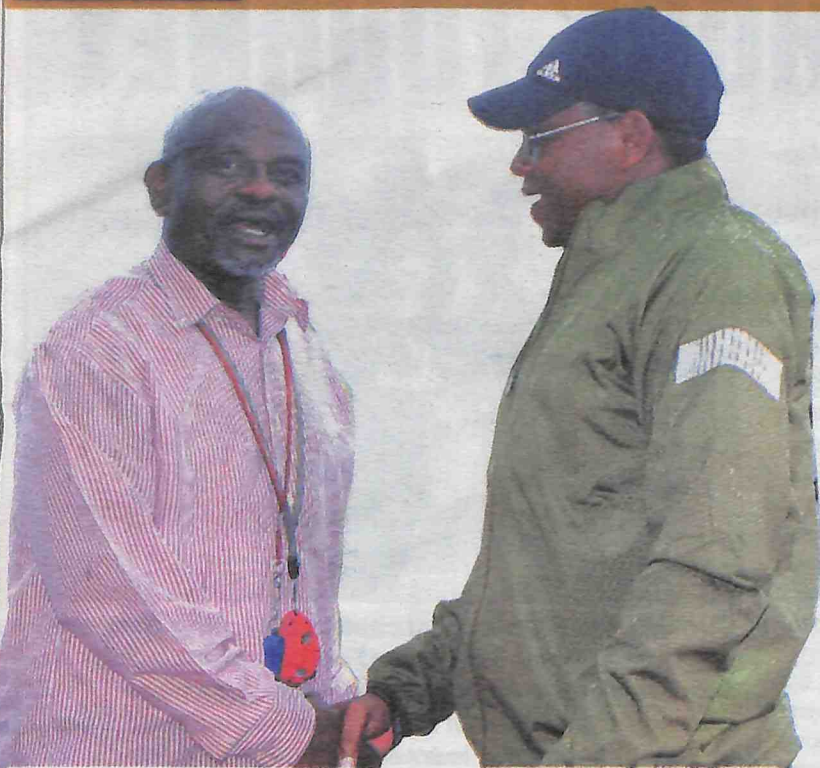


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**MTN Premier League 2016/17** **PICTURES**



**WE MEET AGAIN:** Former national team coaches Harries 'Madze' Bulunga and Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe greeting each other before their league game at Mavuso Sports Centre last Saturday. Green Mamba beat Wanderers 1 - 0. (Piccs: Sibusiso Dlamini)



**SHOT:** Manzini Wanderers striker Kola Aledeon taking a shot while Muhle Shiba looks on.



VS



**YOU ARE WARNED:** Referee Mbongeni Shongwe giving a warning to Wanderers' Kola Aladeon and Thabiso Gumbi.



**GONE:** Njabulo Tfwala dribbling past Ayanda Kunene.



**NO WAY:** Mcebo Mdluli taking a shot whilst Menzi Gamedze tries to block it.



**PASS:** Njabulo Tfwala passing the ball to a teammate whilst Sihle Mkhonta tries to intercept the ball.



**MY BALL:** Muhle Shiba vying for the ball with Mfanafuthi 'Taribo' Bhembe.



**NO WAY BHOLOJA:** Youngster Wethu 'Bholoja' Vilakati being tackled by Musa Dlamini.



**DASHING:** Sifiso Matse dashing with the ball leaving Muhle Shiba behind.

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## football talk

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● Chelsea are interested in signing Celtic striker Moussa Dembele, 20, but the Scottish champions may not be prepared to sell the France Under-21 international for less than £40m.

(Sky Sports)

● West Brom will make a £10m bid for Southampton's England striker Jay Rodriguez, 27.

(Express)

● Crystal Palace have stepped up their interest in Liverpool defender Mamadou Sakho, 26, and hope to conclude a deal for the France player on deadline day. Palace are also looking to complete deals for Serbia midfielder Luka Milivojevic, 25, from Olympiakos and Uruguay defender and free agent Martin Caceres, 29.

(Daily Mail)

● Newcastle Boss Rafa Benitez will demand that the Magpies agree to pay the £15m fee Crystal Palace are asking for Andros Townsend, 25. The England winger was sold for £13m in the summer.

(Daily Mail)

● Watford have accepted a £20m bid from Chinese Super League side Changchun Yatai for Nigeria striker Odion Ighalo, 27.

(Sun)

● Hull are set to sign Inter Milan and Italy centre-back Andrea Ranocchia, 28, on loan until the end of the season.

(Hull Daily Mail)

● West Ham threatened to pull out of the £25m deal to sell Dimitri Payet to Marseille unless the 29-year-old France forward returned his £500 000 salary for January.

(London Evening Standard)

● Burnley are determined to resist Everton's pursuit of defender Michael Keane, 24.

(Lancashire Telegraph)

● Everton will not sell England defender Phil Jagielka, 34, in this window even if they manage to prise Keane away from Turf Moor.

(Mirror)

● Several Premier League sides have entered talks with representatives of Galatasaray winger Bruma. The Turkish side will not sell the 20-year-old Portugal Under-20 international this month but may do so at the end of the season if their £20m valuation is met. Tottenham are thought to have been one of the top-flight sides interested.

(Yahoo)

● Spurs and Everton will compete to sign Feyenoord's Netherlands youth international midfielder Ozancan Kokcu, 18, at the end of the season.

(Times - subscription required)



# PROFESSIONALS WIN RSSC SIYAKHA 'BACK TO SCHOOL' TOURNEY

Stories by Sibusiso Dlamini

**SOCCER - PROFESSIONALS** are champions of RSSC Siyakha Under-15 Back to School knock-out tournament after beating Tsambokhulu Rovers 1-0 in a tightly contested final played at Tabankhulu Sports Ground on Saturday.

The one-day tournament organised by the giant sugar company, RSSC in collaboration with the Lubombo Regional Football Association (LRFA) attracted more than 250 young players from the 14 teams on the day.

The teams were grouped into four groups, with each group producing two teams that qualified for the knock-out stage.

After sweating it out in the group stages, Lomkhehle, Peacemakers, Professionals, Tabankhulu FC, Tsambokhulu Rovers, Killers,

Ngomane Super Eagles and Celtics all qualified for the last eight.

At this stage, Professionals beat Tabankhulu FC 1-0 in a game that proved to be a draw card as there is always a lot at stake whenever these two teams meet.

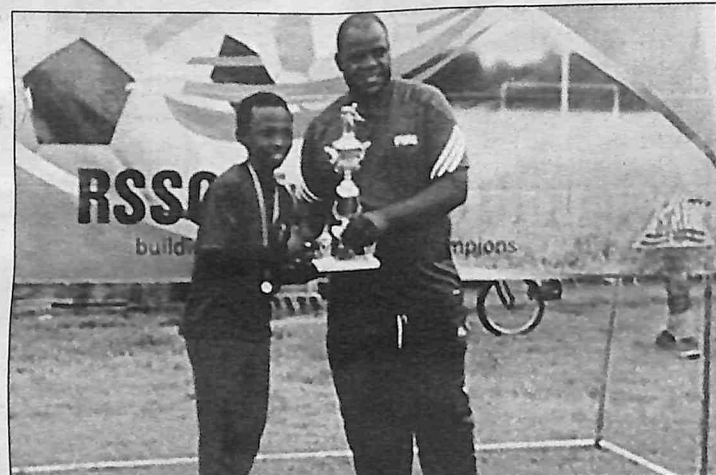
### Victory

The other games saw Lomkhehle beating Killers 4-3 after penalties while Eagles overcame Celtics 1-0 to book a place in the last four.

Rovers beat Peacemakers 4-2 on penalties and advanced to the semi-finals where they went past Lomkhehle with a 1-0 victory to set a date with Professionals, who beat Eagles 4-2 on penalties.

With a lot of prizes at stake, this tournament had all the ingredients of a thriller, and the passion shown by the young footballers is always encouraging to the football stakeholders.

The winners were awarded with trophies and medals for their efforts,



**CONGRATS:** Professional captain accepting their trophy from Lubombo Regional Football Association Secretary Sicelo Nene. This was after they were crowned champions of RSSC Siyakha Under-15 Back to School knock-out tournament after a 1-0 win against Tsambokhulu Rovers 1-0 at Tabankhulu Sports Ground on Saturday. (Courtesy pics)

and it goes without saying the RSSC Siyakha programme is taking some positive strides, if the turn-out is anything to go by.



**WELL DONE:** Top goal scorer Nosisa Mayeyane accepting her award from LRFA Secretary Sicelo Nene.



**RUNNERS-UP:** Ngomane Eagles posing for a group picture with Nene.

## Female player, Nosisa amongst the top scorers

**SOCCER - TSAMBOKHULU** Rovers female striker, Nosisa Mayeyane was amongst the top goal-scorers as she banged in three goals to join other four players, who scored the same number of goals.

The other goal scorers are Ngomane Eagles' Bongelani Mamba, Mayibongwe Nxumalo of Lomkhehle, Mancoba Dlamini of Rovers and Stambo F.C's Thandukwazi all with three goals.

The enterprising Nosisa was one of the players to watch in this tournament as she possess great footballing prowess, something which

will surely have a positive impact on the development of women football in the country.

The venue was branded by the sponsors, and the youngsters' pictures were displayed on the boards much to their excitement.

Interviewed shortly after the event, most of the players sounded happy about the games, and they did not hide their love for the rampaging run-away MTN Premier League champions, Mbabane Swallows, a team which they said possesses quality players whom they (young players) idolise and look upon.

## Mhlume Filling Station (SD Spares) sponsors event with refreshments

**SOCCER - Refreshments** were in abundance during the event, thanks to Mhlume Filling Station, who supplied the participants with bread and juice for the day.

The filling station which is under the ownership of Benekas played

a very pivotal role towards the success of this event as they ensured the children got food for the day-long event which attracted huge spectatorship even from parents and guardians, who relentlessly rallied behind the future players.

## MRPA action resumes

By Sibusiso Masilela

**POOL - THE** two months long break is now over and the Manzini Regional Pool Association League games will resume this coming weekend.

The games will see intriguing pending fixtures in the Western zone where Correctional Services side France will take on giants Knicks

in what has been dubbed as the match of the weekend.

Sparks are set to fly during the captivating match between Malkerns based giants Way Inn, who will be up against Mankayane.

Experience and pride will be at stake when Mankayane Eagles face-off with Stairs.

Fans will be treated to great action when these two teams meet over the weekend.



MRPA Chairman Muntu Dlamini confirmed the fixtures when contacted yesterday and further invited pool fans to attend the games in great numbers.

"The league will resume this weekend with some pending fixtures of the Western Zone. We will then return to our normal schedule next weekend where the central zone

will also be in action. We are confident the league will continue to be exciting and we are calling upon teams and fans to behave themselves during games," he said.

**The full fixtures:**

**Saturday at 2pm**

Nicks vs France  
Way Inn vs Mankayane  
M. Eagles vs Stairs



# Royal Leopard appeal for financial help - Hurube

By Sibusiso Dlamini

**SOCCER – THE country's CAF Champions League envoys Royal Leopard have appealed for financial assistance from the nation, government, football structures and companies.**

The team would be hosting AS Vita on February 11 and will also travel to DR Congo for the second round of the CAF Confederations Cup. Speaking through their Public Relations Officer (PRO) Frank Hurube, the six-time MTN

Premier League champions will now be representing the country.

He said playing in the continental tournament came with enormous expense and stress on them as they did not have the funds required.

"We are aware of the huge financial outlay that is required for this foray.

"We appeal to the nation, government through the ministry of sports, culture and youth affairs, football structures and companies to assist us as we are representing the country as a whole," he urged.

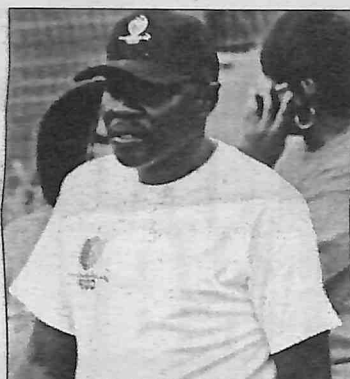
He said this tournament required they flew to other countries which

was very expensive.

"We have to be financially stable to perform to the best of our abilities. We want to represent the country well and lift the Swazi flag sky high. We are not just Royal Leopard, but we are now the country's representatives."

He said any contributions would be welcome and appreciated.

Royal Leopards are expected to begin the continental campaign on the weekend of February 10 – 12, whereby they host the first match at Somhlolo National Stadium before jetting to Congo for the return leg on the weekend of March 17 – 19.



**PLEASE HELP: Royal Leopard PRO Frank Hurube.**

## Pirates' Mabaso rejoins Matsapha United

By Sibusiso Masilela

**SOCCER – MONENI Pirates have since lost the services of South African midfielder Peter Mabaso, who has since rejoined Matsapha United.**

This comes after Mabaso's six-month loan stint with the 'Sea Robbers' came to an end and has been recalled by the ambitious National First Division side, who are the rightful owners of the playmaker.

Mabaso joined Pirates from United at the beginning of the season together with countryman Clifford Molebatsi, who was shown the exit door by the black and white outfit last month. Pirates Chief Executive Officer Thami Dlamini confirmed the developments when contacted yesterday.

"It is true that the player has re-joined Matsapha United since he was with us on loan. We would like to thank him for the contribution he made to the team and we wish him the best of luck in his future endeavours."

He said they were grateful to Matsapha United for showing co-operation throughout the duration of the deal.

"We thank them for their professionalism," he said. Meanwhile, Matsapha United acting Chief Executive Officer Victor 'Mavikane' Dlamini said he was yet to verify the matter with the team's directors when quizzed on the issue yesterday. Mabaso is set to reunite with his two countrymen in Vusumuzi Zungu and John Neguyani, who are both in the books of the Saul Chaminuka-led charges.

The skillful player's last Pirates appearance was during the Ingwenyama Cup quarterfinal loss against Manzini Sundowns about three weeks ago at the Somhlolo National Stadium.



**CONFIRMED: Pirates Chief Executive Officer Thami Dlamini.**

## Leopard opt for Moz team in preparations for AS Vita

By Sibusiso Masilela

**SOCCER – CAF Champions League bound side Royal Leopard is working around the clock to secure a friendly against Mozambican side Liga Deportiva in preparations for their international assignment against AS Vita Club next weekend.**

The police service side is expected to sneak out of the country this morning for the match slated for the Machava Stadium later on the day.

Information gathered is that Leopard are yet to seek permission from the Premier League of Swaziland before heading to the neighbouring country. Leopard Chairman Mxolisi Dlamini confirmed the matter when asked yesterday, saying the friendly was part of their CAF Champions League preparations.

"We are currently working around the clock to secure the friendly match and we are still working on several logistics of the match. We are yet to consult with the football authori-

ties for protocol procedures since the match will involve two countries," he said.

'Ingwenzamalabala' has already recalled towering Sihlangu defender Phumlani Dlamini from Manzini Sundowns to try and bolster their squad ahead of the match against the Florent lence-led side.

The blue and white ensemble previously played the Kinshasa based side in the CAF Confederations Cup two years ago where they were eventually knocked out of the competition on the third round stage.

## CORBAN presents Mafutseni referees with E 800 worth kit

By Sibusiso Dlamini

**SOCCER – CORBAN Builders Hardware presented referees of the E150 000 Mafutseni League they bankroll with a kit worth E8 000.**

The presentation held on Sunday was attended by Mafutseni MP and Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Christopher Gamedze. Speaking on behalf of the Manzini Regional Football Association (MRFA) Chairman, Peter 'Samora' Simelane thanked the minister for helping the association get the sponsor.

"Firstly, I would like to thank the minister for helping us get this sponsor. The sponsor loves football wholeheartedly as you have seen that today they decided to take care of referees, who are very important people in a game. They will now look presentable during games. I would like to thank CORBAN for everything they have done for this league."

CORBAN Head of Marketing Reggie Kunene commended teams for their good behaviour, and further congratulated the minister for his appointment into the Cabinet.

"I would like to thank teams for the good behaviour during



**CORBAN LOVES MAFUTSENI: Referees of the Mafutseni League being presented with their new kit which was courtesy of the league's sponsor, CORBAN. Looking on are Mafutseni MP, Christopher Gamedze, MRFA Chairman Peter 'Samora' Simelane and CORBAN head of marketing Reggie Kunene.**

games.

"We have not heard of any negative reports, and this is what we want. All we need is competition in the league and we see that every week. Kunene also applauded the MRFA for their good work. "I cannot leave out the MRFA, headed by Simelane. They are a workaholic team, and Manzini football is benefiting from the association. Keep up the good work guys."

Mafutseni MP and Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Christopher Gamedze thanked the sponsor on behalf

of the teams and the constituency.

"I want to thank CORBAN for their contribution towards the development of football in the country. Being appointed minister coincided with the very same day of the presentation. So, after we launched the league, later on the day I got the news of my appointment. CORBAN is the good luck charm." He said challenged the referees to be fair in their judgement during games.

"I urge them to make fair decisions, so that we don't have incidences of violence during games."

## 'Buffs' lose their first game in Under-17 league

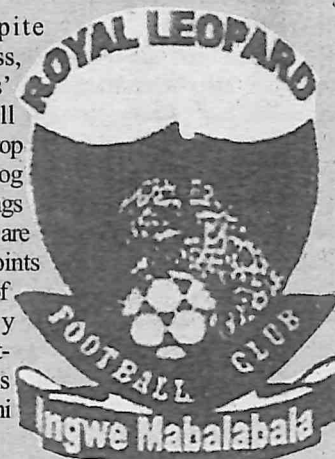
By Sibusiso Dlamini

**SWAZI – POLICE Leopards' first game in the Under-17 league, when they edged the defending champions 1 – 0.**

This was during the E200 000 Esibayeni Lodge Under-17 League match played at Somhlolo National Stadium on Saturday.

The match was a tightly contested affair but Leopard managed to eventually get a win.

Despite the loss, 'Buffs' are still on the top of the log standings as they are four points ahead of early pacesetters Manzini



Wanderers.

The maroon and white outfit capitalised on the army side's slip and made sure they collected maximum points, beating struggling Midas City 5 – 0, to close the gap.

The result leaves the 'Weslians' third on the log, tied on 32 points with correctional services side

Green Mamba with 'Inyoka eluhlazana' having a better goal difference.

Mbabane Swallows complete the top four bracket with 30

points after convincingly beating Manzini Sundowns 4-0.

Moneni Pirates and Mbabane Highlanders shared spoils after playing to a 1-1 draw.

Manzini Sea Birds won 2 – 1 against Tambuti FC, who lost 0-5 to Manzini Wanderers last week.

## THE FULL RESULTS:

Green Mamba	6	Red Lions	0
Swallows	4	Sundowns	0
Moneni Pirates	1	Highlanders	1
M.City	0	Wanderers	5
Sea Birds	2	Tambuti	1
Buffaloes	0	R. Leopard	1

## THE LOG

	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Young Buffaloes	15	11	1	3	40	10	30	36
Green Mamba	15	10	3	2	51	20	31	32
Manzini Wanderers	15	10	2	2	36	11	25	32
Mbabane Swallows	15	9	3	3	36	12	24	30
Royal Leopard	15	8	3	4	33	12	21	26
Mbabane Highlanders	14	5	3	6	21	17	4	21
Sea Birds	15	4	6	5	18	33	-16	17
Tambuti	15	5	9	1	20	31	-11	16
Red Lions	15	4	7	4	26	34	-8	13
Manzini Sundowns	14	3	9	2	12	19	-7	12
Moneni Pirates	15	2	7	6	20	41	-21	12
Midas City	15	1	12	2	12	60	-48	5



# 2017 FIXTURES

Burkina Faso vs Egypt 21:00  
Cameroon vs Ghana 21:00



# FIXTURES

West Ham United vs Manchester City 21:45  
Manchester United vs Hull City 22:00  
Stoke City vs Everton 22:00

**'Bull' offers Maruwa E10 000 salary**

By Sibusiso Masilela

**SOCCER - MBABANE Highlanders have reportedly offered their head coach Herbert Maruwa a E10 000 salary until the end of the season.**

It is understood the former Green Mamba coach will also be entitled to E250 winning bonuses as part of his renewable contract that will be reviewed at the end of the current campaign. Maruwa's mandate is to secure a top eight finish for the black and white outfit currently lying at position nine in the MTN Premier League standings.

## Games

He has so far managed to secure one point which was during the recent goalless draw against Manzini Sundowns and the Ingwenyama



Cup loss to Tambuti FC after replacing his countryman Terisayi Changara three weeks ago. He is expected to at least secure 10 points in four

league games where they are still to play Tambuti, Green Mamba and Manzini Wanderers.

They have already played against Sundowns where they got points and this means he now has to win the three next games. The team's General Manager David Litchfield said he was not aware of the contractual issues of the coach when quizzed yesterday.

"I am not aware of the issue regarding the contract of the coach as it is handled by the board of directors.

They have not yet briefed me regarding the matter you are talking about hence I cannot commit myself until otherwise," he said.

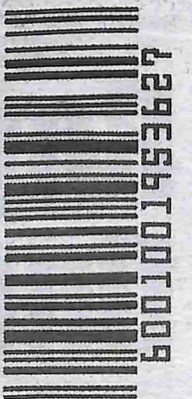
The team's board of directors has fulfilled their promise to beef up their squad after signing several players including Cosmas Kabaza, Reagen Kangumbi, and Ndumiso Mabuza.

The team is working around the clock to secure the services of former Zesco United striker Michael Musonda.

# SWAZI OBSERVER Sport

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Wednesday February 1, 2017



## 'NKOMISHI' DOUBTFUL FOR INGWENYAMA CUP FINAL

By Sibusiso Masilela

**SOCCER - IN what will sound as a huge blow, Mbabane Swallows goalkeeper, Sandile 'Nkomishi' Ginindza, could possibly miss this weekend's Ingwenyama Cup final against army side Young Buffaloes after picking up a back injury.**

The team is racing against time to have the player ready for the match, although the severity of the injury is not yet known.

### Pain

He picked up the injury during an MTN Premier League match against Sea Birds at Somhlolo National Stadium last Sunday.

Even though he continued to play, he was obviously in pain until the end of the match.

While the extent of 'Nkomishi' back injury remains to be seen, it is believed he will miss this weekend's game, with Ntokozo Shabangu set to stand in for him.

The acrobatic shot-stopper sat out of yesterday's training session while the rest of the players including Mandla Phalma, who was reportedly arrested, went through their paces.

The team's medical panel yes-

terday took the player to hospital to undergo x-rays where they were told the former Sivutsa Stars player could by chance resume training before the end of the week ahead of the eagerly anticipated final against the army side.

However, Swallows Chief Executive Officer Sibusiso Manana said they were confident the Sihlangu goalkeeper will be available for selection for their match against Buffaloes.

"He is still being assessed by our medical team and they are doing everything they can to have him fit for the final where we hope to have an injury free squad.

### Trophy

We are hoping he will return to training and prepare for the eagerly awaited match as we want to continue making our supporters happy by winning the trophy," he said. Manana further encouraged their supporters to continue registering to accompany the team to their CAF Confederations Cup assignment against Orapa United of Botswana next weekend.

"We are appealing for more support from the entire Swallows family and the nation at large to travel with us to Botswana where we are on a mission to make the country proud in the international scenes," he further stated.



## ...E40 to watch final

By Sibusiso Dlamini

**SOCCER - FOOTBALL supporters will pay E40 to watch the highly anticipated Ingwenyama Cup finals slated for Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday.**

The entrance fee was confirmed by the tournament's PRO Lenhle Masuku, who urged fans to come in great numbers to witness football blended with culture.

Masuku thanked the nation for their support from the beginning of the tournament up to this stage.

"We have been seeing large numbers in all the stages of the tournament and applaud the fans for their support. All is set for the final and the entrance fee is E40," he said.

The PRO said everything had been finalised and they were only sorting a few logistics here and there.

### Support

"In supporting this tournament, the nations are not just supporting the sport, but they are also sup-

porting his Majesty's vision 2022.

This is the King's dream, and it is great to see the nation supporting it."

He said this year, they kicked-off with the regional competition, and it was encouraging to see fans supporting the tournament from the beginning. The finals will mark the end of the second edition of the ground breaking tournament that brings together culture and football, and will bow off in style with a humdinger final between defending champions Mbabane Swallows, who have won 24 games consecutively, and the determined army side Young Buffaloes.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE SMVAF INGWENYAMA CUP IN A NUTSHELL:

- \* To create more awareness on services offered and what Sincephetelo MVA Fund stands for.
- \* To create a positive image of Sincephetelo MVA Fund on the minds of the populace.
- \* Get more young people to play the game and stay away from drugs.
- \* Promote road safety to the thou-

- sands of captive audience who patronise the game (in their language).
- \* Improve the standard of the game; thus improve its attractiveness.
- \* Create role models who live positive values and have a clean profile; and inspire the youth.
- \* Make the sport of football attractive and meaningful to traditional structures.

### PRIZE BREAKDOWN:

Champions	E1.2 million
Runners-Up	E500 000
Semi-finalists	E400 000
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Participation fee (Regional teams)	E60 000
Best finisher (Regional and NFD)	E30 000
Participation fee (NFD teams)	E60 000
Player of the tournament	E15 000
Top Goal Scorer	E10 000
Goalkeeper of the tournament	E10 000
Best Referee	E6 000

**DOUBTFUL: Mbabane Swallows goalkeeper, Sandile 'Nkomishi' Ginindza,**

