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8 ARRESTED FOR HACKING, SCALDING MAN

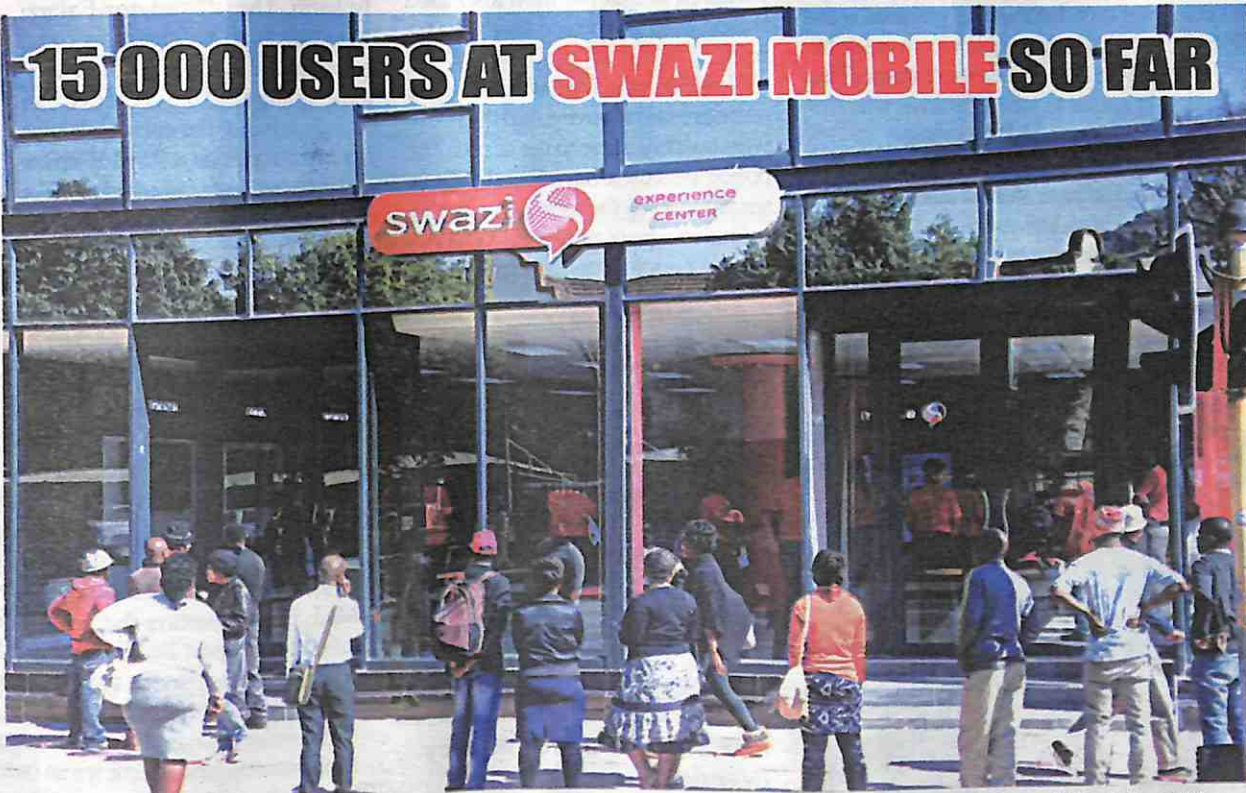
Story on Page 2

MACFORD LANDS SWAZI MOBILE TOP POST

SEE PAGE 4

THERE IS CENSORSHIP AT STVA, RADIO - MPs

SEE PAGE 3



VULA: Some of the members of the public waiting for their turn to purchase Swazi Mobile SIM cards. This was during the official opening of Swazi Mobile Experience Centre in Mbabane yesterday by ICT Minister Dumisani Ndlangamandla. (Pic: Lucky Simelane)

SUPER SPECIALS

Reinforce R6 x 6m -	E16.⁹⁰
Reinforce R8 x 6m -	E27.⁹⁰
Reinforce R10 x 6m -	E45.⁹⁰
Reinforce R12 x 6m -	E62.⁹⁰
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2 NATIONAL NEWS

OUR LIVES MATTER

A journalist of this newspaper, who showed bravery amid a violent situation, was attacked by drunken revellers while going about her duties. Her sin was that she was at the wrong place—a place full of drunk revellers who went berserk and destroyed property at the Mhlume Country Club.

This is a cause for concern. In fact, this is unacceptable; but more unacceptable is that a promoter put our journalists' lives at risk—and those of other innocent fun lovers who went to the club looking for entertainment. The culprit here is not those fans who went crazy; or those two men who attacked a female journalist and injured her, even when she had begged for them not to harm her but to delete

the pictures they were concerned with.

This promoter who organised this show, advertised an artist who would not pitch, and knowing fully well that he would not, should be locked behind bars—or made to pay for the damage caused to the club. He must be made to pay for putting the lives of hundreds of people in danger, because if he is not made to do so, he will do it again. Not only that, others too, will take chances and continue to lie to the gullible public that they have such-and-such artist coming for a show when they have not even paid for their services.

This also applies to the group that also let down desperate gospel music lovers on Saturday; the aborted Dr

Tumi show, who was supposed to perform at Esibayeni Lodge. The truth is that these promoters took the public for a ride. They have no right to be advertising events using musicians who have not been paid.

Questions

However, all this said, we need to ask the serious questions of both events. For starters, where were the police on Saturday when the crowd went about in the destructive manner at the Mhlume Club? How were the police not inside the hall, at a packed hall? Surely, they knew of this event, having been advertised? How is it that people were held hostage when there was no security on sight?

Where is the Swaziland National

Council of Arts and Culture when dubious promoters are going to risk our lives like this?

It is also shocking to read the comment attributed to the RSSC, who own the club, and who are seemingly refusing to take responsibility for this mayhem; the club has its own security, has a duty to protect those who live around the club in case of any danger. How then did it not insist on its own security here? Is this because our lives do not matter? The club can't just fold its hands to promoters hosting events, it needs to insist on security, because this is still in their premises—their venue, their name, and therefore, it has to make sure everything is

considered.

For a company that puts safety and security measures in everything, it is mindboggling how they left this in the hands of one individual—and would not even ensure the police were there.

As for the police, well, they owe our journalist an apology—for she even called 999 when it was clear that there was no one to save the situation inside the Club.

Yet, the National Commissioner can warn the Swaziland National Union of Students about conduct long before they embark on their march. How did this escape his very good attention to detail?

It is uncharacteristic of the police to expose us to such danger.

8 ARRESTED FOR HACKING, SCALDING MAN WITH BOILING WATER

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi

EIGHT people from Mangozeni area have been arrested for allegedly hacking and assaulting a man with bush knives and all sorts of weaponry in a gang rival battle.

The assault which saw the complainant Sibusiso Ndlovu being admitted to RFM Hospital in a critical condition is alleged to have been a rather disturbing mob justice incident.

Witnesses alleged that Ndlovu was heavily assaulted with bush knives, stones and sticks and also scalded with hot water on his back before being further paraded on the streets by the mob in front of his girlfriend at Mangozeni area.

The mob of about 15 men is said to have pounced on the victim while at a drinking spot known as KaFakudze in Malkems. The bone of contention is that Ndlovu once assaulted one of the gang members in the company

of his friends.

It is alleged on this day Ndlovu was spotted by one of the accused while visiting his girlfriend near the drinking spot. Information gathered is that suddenly the people who were drinking at the shebeen were immediately called to where Ndlovu was.

Witnessing

Upon reaching Ndlovu the mob is said to have started assaulting him with bush knives, kicks, fists, stones and sticks all over the body. Information



gathered is that the mob also used boiling water and poured it on Ndlovu's back.

Residents who were witnessing the scene are said to have called the police who quickly came to the scene. The police are said to have found Ndlovu surrounded by the mob lying unconscious in a pool of blood.

Eight people among the mob were

arrested, the accused Lucky Masimula (28), Mandla Maziya (30), Mncedisi Nkambule (28), Lungelo Nongwane (24), Sandile Hlatjwako (22), Ndumiso Shabalala (25), Mayibongwe Shabangu (25) and Lungelo Zwane (28) appeared before Magistrate Lucia Lukhele at Matsapha Circuit Court yesterday.

They were charged with assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. The prosecutor Fakazi Mngomezulu applied that the accused be remanded back into police custody; he informed the court that bail is opposed since the complainant is in a critical condition at RFM Hospital.

The accused were informed to make bail application during their next court appearance which is next week Tuesday.

SwaziMed vs Medscheme:

JUDGE SETS ASIDE INTERIM ORDER

By Lungelo Nkambule
Mbabane

THE High Court of Swaziland delivered its judgment in the marathon case of Swazi Med and Medscheme wherein Swazi Med had approached the court on an urgent basis seeking the removal of the Arbitrator and to set aside the interim order issued by the Arbitrator.

The High Court last Friday ruled in favour of SwaziMed following an application by SwaziMed to have Manzini removed as arbitrator in their ongoing arbitration process with Medscheme. They further wanted the court to set aside an order issued by Manzini, wherein Manzini granted an interim order in Medscheme's favour.

The interim order stated that pending the finalisation of the arbitration proceedings between SwaziMed and Medscheme, SwaziMed was interdicted and restrained from cancelling the management agreement between the two parties. According to SwaziMed the order was not interim but definite of the parties' rights and final in nature and as such could not be classified interim.

The order removing Manzini and rescinding his order was granted by Judge Mumsy Dlamini on Friday.

In her judgment Dlamini said Manzini's judgment to grant the interim order as per Medscheme's application was



erroneous in that SwaziMed had already replaced Medscheme's software with one Cana II and Medscheme was no longer dealing with SwaziMed's clients except for payments of 2016 outstanding bills.

"Had the Hon. Arbitrator considered the status quo as so ordered by him on March 21 he would have reached the conclusion that the balance of favour that the status quo pronounced by him on March 21 ought to have been maintained.

The effect of the interim order changed the status quo and therefore it was erroneous to so order," reads the judgment.

The judge said the order by Manzini was reversing the current status quo something that could be costly considering that SwaziMed was now doing

most of its administration work. "It would be costly to reverse the status quo by calling upon Medscheme to take over the administration work of SwaziMed when SwaziMed has been doing so prior to April 3 (The day Manzini issued the interim order)," continues the judgment.

The second prayer by SwaziMed was that Manzini recused himself from the case.

Decision

SwaziMed argued that Manzini sits on the Competition Commission Board hence he would be biased towards them as the commission was currently investigating them and he was privy to some information that could inform his decision.

They further argued that when issuing the interim order Manzini showed



PRESIDING: Judge Mumsy Dlamini.

bias towards SwaziMed as he had made findings against SwaziMed which disposed of the central issue for determination for arbitration.

In her judgment Dlamini granted SwaziMed their second prayer as she ordered that Manzini recuse himself from the case. In delivering her judgment, Judge Dlamini stated that Hon. Arbitrator ought to have recused himself for failure to disclose that he was a member of the commission seized with a continuing investigation against Swazi Med.

Argued

SWAZI MED had argued at the hearing of the case that the complaint before the Competition Commission was still pending. In her findings, the judge held that "It was common cause that during the hearing of the application for recusal before Hon. Arbitrator that the Hon. Arbitrator was still a member of the Competition Commission. What was raised as an issue was whether the complaint against Swazi Med was still pending before the Competition Commission. Swazi Med asserted that

it was still pending and investigations against it were ongoing".

"From the above, it is clear that Hon. Arbitrator was of the view that Swazi Med having been investigated, the matter came before the commission where they as members of the board of the commission discharged Swazi Med. In so asserting the Arbitrator relied on a report by the Secretariat which was presented to the Board on 23 January 2015", said the judge.

The order also declined a counter application by Medscheme for an order turning the arbitrator's award into an order of court.

In her judgment, Judge Dlamini emphasizes that her judgment by no means suggests that the management agreement between the two parties has been terminated.

The parties will now have to find a new arbitrator in the matter where the major issue of dispute is the termination of the partnership by SwaziMed where Medscheme was the administrator.

The dispute between the two parties started when SwaziMed informed Medscheme of an intention to terminate their five year renewable contract which dates back to 1980 in a quest to save money.

In her final analysis the judge ordered the removal of Arbitrator Manzini in the arbitration proceedings and also set aside the interim order of April 3, 2017.

Appearing for SwaziMed was Mangaliso Magagula from Magagula & Hlopho Attorneys whilst Kenneth Motsa from Robinson Bertram appeared for Medscheme.

MPs COMPLAIN OF SBIS, STVA'S CENSORSHIP

Stories by Mbono Mdluli
Lobamba

THE state broadcasters should serve interests of Swazis because they belong to Swazis and they are funded by Swazis.

This was said by Members of Parliament (MPs) who are members of the portfolio committee of the ministry of information, communication and technology (ICT). The MPs even made an example of the verbal showdown that happened in Parliament on Monday in the House of Assembly. The showdown involved MPs, Prime Minister Dr. Sibusiso Dlamini, and Attorney General (AG) Sifiso Khumalo.

Nkwene MP Sikhumbuzo Dlamini wondered if the SBIS personnel knew if balanced reporting existed, which he said was written in the policies of the national radio station. What made the

Nkwene MP complain was that SBIS only broadcast a statement that was made by the prime minister and Buthelezi was never given a forum to respond to the statement on the national radio, yet he was part of the Swazis that funded the radio station.

What was even worse, according to MP Sikhumbuzo, was that the Matsanjeni North legislator was verbally assaulted through the national radio because the statement was repeatedly aired and was aimed at hurting Buthelezi.

Horrible

Motshane MP Phesheya Hlathwayo said it was unfortunate that there was a horrible mandate at the radio station. That horrible mandate was the one that made the people less interested in accessing the state broadcasters.

He wondered how the directors of the broadcasters were going to make people pay for the Swaziland Television Authority (STVA) if it did not serve the

needs of the people. People could not tolerate being fed government news every time. This contributed to people not wanting to pay for television licences.

Hlathwayo urged the leadership of the national radio station to find ways of ensuring that people were not allowed to use the station to assassinate other people's characters. The radio content had become so boring such that people knew what would be broadcast there. The only news that dominated was on police, government, road updates, and weather update that would, in most cases, be the same throughout the day.

Hhukwini MP Saladin Magagula also stated that there was nothing like balanced reporting at SBIS. He also made an example of the Monday verbal showdown that happened in Parliament. The national radio did not broadcast the side of Buthelezi on the showdown. They only told the nation that the MP said they were in good terms with the PM.

There is more rot at SBIS

MINISTER for Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Dumisani Ndlangamandla should conduct intensive investigations at SBIS.

The MPs said there was a lot of rot at the national radio station, citing last week's four-hour black-out as being part of the rot currently taking place at the station. Nkwene MP Sikhumbuzo Dlamini accused SBIS Deputy Director Gcinangaye Tsabedze of doing as she pleased at the station.

"It is like she is the one running the show at the station, making SBIS Director Martin Dlamini to appear as someone who was doing nothing," he charged.

The MP further alleged that the situation is so serious that a senior engineer has been reduced to driving around the deputy director in a government vehicle registered GSD 006 BT. The black-out, the MP said, was caused by the fact that the engineer was busy chauffeuring Tsabedze, even in the thick of the night. What made matters worse, according to MP Sikhumbuzo, was that the car had

already developed mechanical problems, without the knowledge of the officials at Central Transport Administration (CTA). The car was reported to be parked somewhere next to the High Court in Mbabane, where the engineer stayed.

The MP also wanted to know why ordinary people were allowed to go on external trips even before the Head of State. He said it was procedural that people who were the first to go were security professionals like the police and/or soldiers. But in this case, other professionals were made to go with the security professionals.

He did not understand what security measures were to be provided by those professionals. What was painful was that the said professionals would pocket around E30 000, which came at a high cost to taxpayers. The MP wondered how financial resources could be hindrance to the operations of the stations. He was of the view that such could not be the case because money was wasted on external trips at the station.

...SEX IS STILL DONE AT SBIS

SEX is alleged to be done at SBIS, despite the call for MPs for such an act to stop happening.

This was said by Mbabane West MP Johane Shongwe, when telling ICT Minister Dumisani Ndlangamandla to investigate what was happening at the radio station.

Shongwe said he was once approached by a certain woman at Mbabane city centre. She told him that her husband was still being 'chewed' at SBIS.

Lucky

"The woman told me that she was lucky to come across me because she wanted to talk to me. She told me that her

husband was cheating with some woman at SBIS. It is shocking that we think the people at the station are working yet *kudlahva bhabhosa! bhabhosa! bhabhosa!* (sex is being done)" the MP said, provoking laughter from the MPs and ICT officials, who were listening to him.

SPTC SLEEPS ON THE JOB

WORKERS at Swazi Telecomms are accused by Members of Parliament for sleeping on the job.

The legislators urged Minister Ndlangamandla to find out why the communications company was failing to serve people in their areas. Lugongolweni MP Joseph Souza said 40 people applied for landline telephone services in 2014. Nkwene MP Sikhumbuzo Dlamini also complained of SPTC's lack of service delivery. The company had installed poles at his constituency and nothing was done ever since.

Nkhaba MP Menzi Dlamini said the case was true in his constituency. Many people in his place had applied for the company's services, but the company failed to render the services. Hhukwini MP Saladin Magagula also complained because the services were not availed in his area.

GOVERNMENT HOUSES TO BE AUDITED

Stories by Mbono Mdluli
Lobamba

CIVIL servants who are benefitting from renting out government houses might be caught red handed.

This is supposed to happen from now until at least the end of this year. This was said by Minister for Public Service Owen Nxumalo. He was telling MPs who are members of the ministry's portfolio committee yesterday at the House of Assembly. This was during the debate of the first quarter performance report yesterday.

Nxumalo told the MPs that the issue of the abuse of government houses was a cause for concern in his ministry. He was responding to concerns of the MPs because of the houses, which they said were being abused on a daily basis. Some of the houses, according to the MPs, were now used for something they were not built for.

The minister stated that he was one person that did not like to disrespect Parliament resolutions. He urged the MPs to work with him as he embarked on an exercise to check if the government houses were still used for the right reasons. He promised the legislators that the ministry would soon start compiling the number of houses and the places where the houses were located.

Nxumalo promised that he would have a full report on this exercise during the debate of the second quarter performance report of the ministry. The MPs showed concern in the manner which the government houses were abused. Some civil servants were given the houses to stay in,

...Armed forces waste money

THE country's security forces are consuming a lot of the country's financial resources and contribute to increasing the wage bill of the government.

Armed forces include Umbutfo Swaziland Defence Force (USDF), Royal Swaziland Police Service (RSPS), and His Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS). MPs feel the forces are not making money for the country yet they recruit often. They wanted to know what the ministry of public service was doing to alleviate the situation. Manzini North Member of Parliament Jan Sithole said armed forces only rendered services to the country. This meant they only took money from the Swazis,

meaning they added to the increase of the wage bill. To make matters worse, the forces increased by hundreds almost every year, yet the country failed to create the same number of investments to make money into the purse of the country.

The Manzini North lawmaker also told Nxumalo that the armed forces also promoted their officers in their hundreds. This also contributed to the increase of the wage bill. He wanted to know what the ministry was doing to alleviate the situation. The issue of the wage bill was a thorny issue among the MPs. They urged the ministry to ensure that such a situation because it was bad for the country.

while they also got housing allowances.

Issue

Mbabane West MP Johane Shongwe spoke aggressively on this issue. He accused the whole ministry of not attending to the problem concerning the government houses. "For how long are we going to talk about this issue to this ministry? What do we have to do to ensure that something is done about the houses?" Shongwe enquired.

The MP told the ministry that he was sending a strong and last warning to the ministry to stop acting lazily on the matter. "I am now going to check some of these houses if they are still used in a good

manner. Once I do my own confirmations, I will then come back and table a report here in Parliament," he said.

Somntongo MP Sandile Nxumalo urged the minister to do as he promised and get a compiled report on the houses because some civil servants could not get accommodation yet there were undeserving people occupying the houses.

Some companies, according to Nxumalo, issued housing allowances to its workers, so that they workers could be able to get loans and build houses

He suggested that even government could do that and rent out the houses to make money.



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4 NATIONAL NEWS

NEW JOB:
Gamedze introducing the Brand and Communications Manager Macford Sibandze.



MACFORD SIBANDZE LANDS SWAZI MOBILE TOP POST

Stories by Lungelo Nkambule
Mbabane

MACFORD Sibandze has bounced back—not in the entertainment or political spectrum—but in the corporate space as Swazi Mobile Brand and Communications Manager.

The former Minister of Tourism and Manzini North member of Parliament was unveiled yesterday when Swazi Mobile officially launched their experience centre in Mbabane, an event which was attended by the Minister of Information, Communication and Technology Dumisani Ndlangamandla.

Unveiling Sibandze, company chairman Victor Gamedze said Sibandze was a relevant person to their company as he was seasoned and they believed he would represent the company well because of his past experiences in many different areas. "Minister, I present to you a man you are familiar with Macford Sibandze who has joined us as our Brand and Communication Manager, Sibandze will now be our focal person who will address issues of the public and communicate with the media," he said.

He said they had brought on board Sibandze as their PR manager because he had expertise in different fields and they believed he had what it takes to be a part of the Swazi Mobile team.

"This is the first time you see Sibandze at our events because he hasn't been around for a while, he was away where he was being trained and equipped with the necessary skills for his position," he said.



NICE PHONE: Minister of Information Communications and Information (ICT) Dumisane Ndlangamandla with acting PS, Swazi Mobile Chairman Victor Gamedze and Chief Marketing Officer Khulile Dlamini during the Swazi Mobile Experience Centre in Mbabane official opening yesterday. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)

This happened yesterday when Swazi Mobile officially opened their first shop in Mbabane. Speaking at the event acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jeff Penberton said their shop was not an ordinary service centre but it was an experience centre a place where potential customers could get to experience Swazi Mobile services before buying them.

Developed

"Experience centres are common in developed countries, but it is the first of its kind in Swaziland.

We want people to get a feel of the services we are offering, so they make informed decisions," he said. "People will be allowed

to test the speed of our internet while in the centre," he said. Penberton added that this would not be the only service centre as they would have at least two others in areas yet to be announced.

"We are looking at having 24 shops around the country so, at least two more will also be experience centres and the rest will be normal service shops," he said. He said the objective was to bring their customers the best services and experiences possible.

The experience centre opens everyday from 9 am to 8 pm. "We open from 9am and we close at 8pm every day, even on public holidays and weekends," he said.

15 000 already signed up

PEOPLE who are looking to become Swazi Mobile shareholders still have a shot as at least 15 000 Swazis have registered with the network since Friday.

At least 15 000 Swazi are now Swazi Mobile users since the company started selling its SIM cards on Friday.

According to company acting CEO Jeff Penberton the company has sold at least 15 000 SIM cards between Friday and Monday.

"From the stats received, about 15 000 people have registered with us and that's just between Friday and Monday," he said. He said the demand for their SIM

cards had been very high ever since they had gone live and the numbers seemed to be increasing with each day.

"On average we have about 5 000 registering with us on a daily basis and that is an impressive turn out," he said.

Stores

The Swazi Mobile SIM cards are sold at all malls in the country. "We have pop-up stores at malls in the country, until we open all our service centres that will open on different days that will be revealed in due course," he said. The SIM cards cost E50 and they come with a weekly bundle that encompasses E250 minutes on-

net bundle, 50 minutes off-net bundle, 50 SMS and 50MB data bundle.

A week ago the company revealed that the first 100 000 Swazis to buy SIM cards and be active on the network would automatically become shareholders.

Making the revelation company chairman Victor Gamedze said the first 100 000 Swazis who would buy SIM cards and stay active on the network by receiving 30 different calls, from 30 unique Swazi numbers and load E600 airtime, would be shareholders. "To be shareholders the 100 000 should have bought E600 airtime after three months and should have received 30 calls from 30 unique Swazi numbers from either networks," he said.

Users to register numbers on WhatsApp platform next month

SWAZI Mobile users will have to wait until end of September to register their numbers on WhatsApp.

According to Swazi Mobile acting CEO Jeff Penberton said Swazi Mobile users would have to wait until September 30 before they could register on the popular social media platform WhatsApp.

Penberton said they were still waiting on the GSMA trade body that represents the interests of mobile operators worldwide to inform all other networks of the new network that is Swazi Mobile.

"What you have to do as a network is register with GSMA and they then inform all other networks around the world that there is a new member called Swazi Mobile.

Now, that information has gone out, so these networks now have to update their databases that are currently not accepting

Swazi Mobile, that process is ongoing and we expect it to be completed end of September," he said.

He explained that WhatsApp is based in San Francisco and the network used to send SMS to verify numbers when registering still didn't have Swazi Mobile in its database.

"WhatsApp is based in San Francisco, so the network they use to send SMS to verify your number when registering has not yet registered Swazi Mobile on its database hence when you register it says not recognised," he said.

He said people should be patient and wait for September 30 because there after they would be able to register for WhatsApp and all other social media platforms that needed one to register using their mobile numbers. "On September 30 the process



WAIT: Swazi Mobile acting Chief Executive Officer Jeff Penberton making his remarks.

will be done, we will be recognized by all networks worldwide and only then will customers be able to register on WhatsApp," he said.

TRADE FAIR SPECIALS!!



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KING'S VISION BEING REALISED

SWAZI Mobile is in line with His Majesty King Mswati III vision 2022.

These were the sentiments of Information, Communication and Technology Minister Dumisane Ndlangamandla yesterday when Swazi Mobile officially opened the first ever experience shop in the country.

Speaking yesterday when the company opened a first of its kind in the country experience centre, the minister said the products, services and initiatives of the company were manifestations of the King's vision.

"We thank His Majesty for the vision and we applaud you for being in line with it because what we see here today is a manifestation of the vision," he said.

Ndlangamandla said from the presentation by the acting CEO is that people would be allowed to experience the services provided by the company for free at the experience centre, he said that was the benefit of a Swazi owned company because they were aware of the socio-economic status of the country.

Ndlangamandla said the company was changing the face of telecommunications and he was adamant that there were exciting times ahead for the industry as a whole. He added that he had been worried on behalf of the company after he had



VISION 2022: Swazi Mobile Experience Centre building which was official opened yesterday.

received calls from members of the public who had queries about the company services.

"The demand for Swazi Mobile products is high, I have received many calls and this worried me to some extent but after today I realise I need not worry myself because the company is working hard to meet local demand," he said.

The minister said that while they appreciated that the company was working hard to bring the nation the best services and products, it was important that they adhere to labour laws and other laws that govern the coun-

try. "We don't want this good work that you are doing be tainted by anything, hence we implore you to adhere to labour laws, to always take care of your employees because we don't want to see your employees picketing for whatever reason," he said.

Ndlangamandla said it is important for the company to always solve its problems, disagreements with employees amicably. "The employees must also be understanding, take care of the jobs and know that this is an opportunity that many wanted," he said.

Second Experience coming at Ezulwini

ON Friday Swazi Mobile will open its second service shop at Ezulwini.

According to company acting CEO Jeff Penberton the second company will be opened on Friday at the Gables.

Speaking yesterday when the company officially opened the first ever experience centre in

the country, Penberton said they would be opening outlets all around the country and they were hoping they would have opened most of them by October. "We will be opening another shop over the weekend, down at Gables, and we will be opening more in different towns as we are looking to have 24

service centres around the country," he said.

He said in the mean time they would be pop-up shows in different malls and complexes around the country where people could buy SIM cards.

"For now we have pop-up shows where people can buy SIM cards," he said.



WE CONNECT: ICT Minister Dumisane Ndlangamandla posing with Swazi Mobile management and staff.

The Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation

TENDER FOR THE PROVISION EXTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES

RSSC069/FIFIN/2017

The Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation Limited (RSSC) invites sealed competitive proposal from registered audit firms to provide external audit services.

Interested companies with the necessary experience and capacity may obtain tender documents from the **Simunye Administration Reception** after paying a non-refundable amount of **E500.00** at the Simunye or Mhlume Cash Offices.

Completed tender documents must be deposited into the Tender Box situated at Reception in the Simunye Administration Building before **10:00AM on Thursday, 14 September 2017**.

No late tenders will be accepted.

Tenders submitted by fax or e-mail sent to RSSC employees will not be accepted.



The Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation
P.O. Box 1 Simunye Tel: (+268) 2313 4000 Fax: (+268) 2313 8171



Do you have your **FREE** Swazi Mobile SIM card yet?

GET ONE TODAY from your nearest Swazi Mobile trade vendor or retail outlet. You can also get your cellphone number personalised for free and OWN THE NUMBER YOU WANT

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Swazi Mobile SIM cards are free with the purchase of packages from E50 upwards. Each package has voice minutes, SMSes and data. For a personalized number: Get a free Swazi Mobile SIM card with a standard number. All SIM cards are active and ready for use upon purchase. Visit an official Swazi Mobile Experience Centre with your SIM card and ID. The personalized number needs to still be available, and not already bought by someone else. Some verification of ownership or entitlement may be required. Deadline for converting to a personalized number is 31st October 2017. Customers who had reserved numbers are being contacted with collection arrangements.

swazi
mobile
we work we connect we serve



NO SEX IN THIS SCHOOL

● *Mhlatane High Principal Dr. Mandla Dlamini says the school would expel any pupils found engaging in sexual activities.*

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

MHLATANE High Principal Dr. Mandla Dlamini has warned pupils against engaging in sexual activities while still in school.

Dlamini said the school was against pupils engaging in such activities at a tender age, thus they have been banned from any sexual activity.

He said this was a written rule in the school's prospectus and anyone who defied it would be expelled from the school forthwith.

He was addressing reports that a kombi conductor was disciplined by a Mhlatane High teacher for allegedly having an affair with a pupil from the school. He dismissed the reports as untrue, saying no such thing would happen at Mhlatane High.

"Those rumours are false, there has been no such thing at Mhlatane, as a journalist you are free to ask any of

the over 80 adult staff members who work at the school about the matter.

I highly doubt that all of them would hide the truth from you and if you want to further investigate the matter I am inviting you to the school to ask any of the pupils.

We have not disciplined any bus conductor for having a relationship with a pupil. However, I have heard the rumour as another media house also asked me about the same story and I told them the same thing that I am telling you now," he said.

He said what happened was that in January this year the school reminded pupils in an assembly about the schools prospectus that prohibit them from engaging in sexual activities.

He said those who disobeyed this rule and other rules written in the school's prospectus would be expelled immediately. "I want to reiterate the point that Mhlatane High will expel any pupil involved in any sexual relationship," he said.



NO MONKEY BUSINESS: Mhlatane High Principal Dr. Mandla Dlamini has warned pupils not to engage in any sexual activities while they are still at school.

Lawyer Leo successfully moves for release of two more convicts

By Sandile Nkambule
High Court

CONVICTED of robbery by the Manzini Magistrate's Court, a convict who took His Majesty's Correctional Services to court for failure to implement the Prerogative of Mercy by the King is now a free man after his lawyer Leo Dlamini successfully moved an application at the High Court.

Mduduzi Skomu Dlamini had filed an urgent application seeking an order in terms of a writ of *mandamus* issued against the commissioner general compelling compliance with paragraph C of the Prerogative of Mercy by the King Notice of 2015 and that of 2016 in commuting the period of his imprisonment.

He is not the only to be released as yesterday Mafutseni based lawyer Leo Dlamini also successfully moved another similar application which saw the release of Theminkosi Satiso Masina who was incarcerated at the Pigg's Peak Correctional facility.

Masina had also been pardoned by the King both in 2015 and 2016, but the commissioner had not been commuting the period of his imprisonment.

According to a court order issued by Judge Mumcy Dlamini, on Skomu's urgent application, the respondent (Commissioner General) is ordered to comply with paragraph (C) of the Prerogative of Mercy of the King of 2015 and 2016.

Prayer

On prayer two, the Court ordered the respondent to correct the time (period) of serving imprisonment by the applicant to be in line with the provisions of paragraph (C) of the Prerogative of Mercy of the King Notice 2016 and further that the applicant is declared to be entitled to the benefit stated in the Prerogative of Mercy as at the time of its promulgation he was already convicted.

Last week Dlamini also received a judgment in favour of former member of Parliament Charles Myeza who had also been granted such pardon but had not been released following his five years imprisonment.

Dlamini yesterday confirmed that his clients have been released by the court and Skomu's application was before Judge Dlamini while that of Masina was heard by Judge John Magagula.

Mduduzi Dlamini, who had been in custody since his arrest in 2014, wants the commissioner general to correct the time period of his serving sentence to the time line with the provisions of the King's pardon.

The convict in his founding affidavit stated that he was arrested by the Manzini Police in

● The two received Royal Pardon under the Prerogative of Mercy by King just like former MP Charles Myeza but had been languishing in jail despite that

connection with a robbery case on August 13, 2014 and was in custody before he was sentenced on May 29, 2016 as he had been detained at the Zakhele Remand Centre to date of sentence.

This was due to the fact that he had been denied bail on the charge he was facing and has been in custody till the date of instituting the present application.

He submitted that he was convicted and sentenced to five years in prison, which according to prison calculations amounts to 50 months without a fine option and total period of imprisonment which is 60 months. To date he states that he has spent a total of 31 months in custody and as per the pardon he received from His Majesty during the 2015/16 Correctional Services days, he stands to be released from prison.

Remission

"I verily believe that in terms of the Prison's Act as read with Section 78 and 275 of the Constitution of Swaziland of 2005, I am entitled to remission of four months per calendar year which is 40 months remission and 12 months reduction of sentence in terms of paragraph C of the prerogative of mercy by the King Notice 2015 and that of 2016," the convict stated in his affidavit.

He further stated that it is common cause that with the remission, his stay in prison is with effect from August 13 2015 (day of arrest) to December 12 2017 and further that it is common cause that on August 2015 he was already serving sentence at Bhalekane here he was awarded six months remission of his sentence by the King and that in terms of the prerogative of mercy he is entitled to 12 months remission for the both the 2015 and 2016 periods.

In his supplementary affidavit, the convict had submitted that a well established practice that gives effect to the provisions of the Prerogative of Mercy by the King in 2015 and that of 2016, same was applied to a similar matter involving similar convict's calculation of sentences by the Correctional Services in Sicelo and Phakamiso Dlamini at Nhlanguano Correctional facility.

He further stated that latter convicts benefited from the 2015/16 prerogative of mercy and were standing along side him and further submitted that the same applied to some convicts who received same pardon from the King at the Big Bend Correctional facility which included about 10 convicts.

Police boss intimidating us – Students

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

SWAZILAND National Union of Students (SNUS) has accused National Commissioner of Police Isaac Magagula of applying intimidation tactics so that students may fear to take part in the 'Right to Education Campaign' organised by the students union.

This comes after the national commissioner stated that SNUS remains unknown in the domain of officialdom in the country.

Magagula went on to state that SNUS is all out to hold the country hostage through sowing fear by stirring up anarchy and lawlessness. The national commissioner is said to have cautioned that instigating violence was not the way to go and should never been a viable solution.

SNUS in response to the statement made by Magagula stated that violence has never been their principle. In a statement released by SNUS Communications Officer Tengetile Masuku, she stated that Magagula was attacking the students union for its Right to Education campaign.

"Fortunately, we could locate from the



ATTACKED: National Commissioner of Police Isaac Magagula.

statement that it is driven by nothing else but a shocking level of ignorance about general students affairs," Masuku stated, adding that the statement made was misleading the public and only meant to intimidate the students community.

Violence

Masuku said violence had never been their principle. She stated that while the NATCOM questioned the relationship of SNUS with the government, presumably the ministry of education and that of labour and social security, Masuku pointed out that the organisation is for and by the students of Swaziland.

"Whosoever denies its existence is denying the existence of students in Swaziland and most unfortunately, to his or her own peril," Masuku stated that by talking about the issue on national radio, the NATCOM, as usual was taking advantage of the easily accessible national radio sta-

tion to mislead the public knowing very well that they stand no chance to respond in the same medium.

"This is the same platform where a year and a half ago, he announced a commission of inquiry for an attempted students massacre by the same institution he preside over and to date he has not cared to update the public on its progress but never cease to mislead it using it," Masuku stated. Masuku stated that as students they had expected the national commissioner to address the issue in a different manner in that if he saw anything wrong about students calling for the full recognition of their right to education to merely facilitate an explanation session on that and to further advise them as students from a security perspective on how best they can cooperate.

Stated

The student body stated that they were disappointed in that instead the NATCOM resorted to demonising and intimidating said as a students' union they were affirming their call for students not to be deprived of their right to education because of their economic background.

"We will throw our entire weight and exhaust the last atom of our joule for the realisation of this right. The leadership of SNUS further calls for students to remain confident and not be intimidated by the NATCOM statements," Masuku said.

Masuku said the year 2017/2018, SNUS is engaging in a campaign that seeks to pressurise the government to ensure that no students who are admitted in institutions of higher learning are hindered to enrol because of their economic status.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL CONSENT IN TERMS OF THE MATSAPHA TOWN PLANNING SCHEME OF 2015

I ASADUZZAMAN MD, The owner of Classy Collars Investment (Proprietary) Ltd T/A Matsapha Curry & Tandoori Restaurant Takeaways who is a tenant on plot 14, Matsapha, hereby make a Public Notice in terms of Clause 9.4 of the Matsapha Town Planning Scheme, that I wish to apply for a Special Consent to operate a Restaurant on plot 14, 5th Street which is Zoned as Zone 14. Anyone having an objection to this application may lodge their objections, in writing, with the Town Clerk at Matsapha Town Council, P. O. Box 1790, Matsapha, Swaziland, not later than 30 August 2017, that is 21 days from the last publication of the notice namely 9 August 2017.



MANZINI NEWS

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



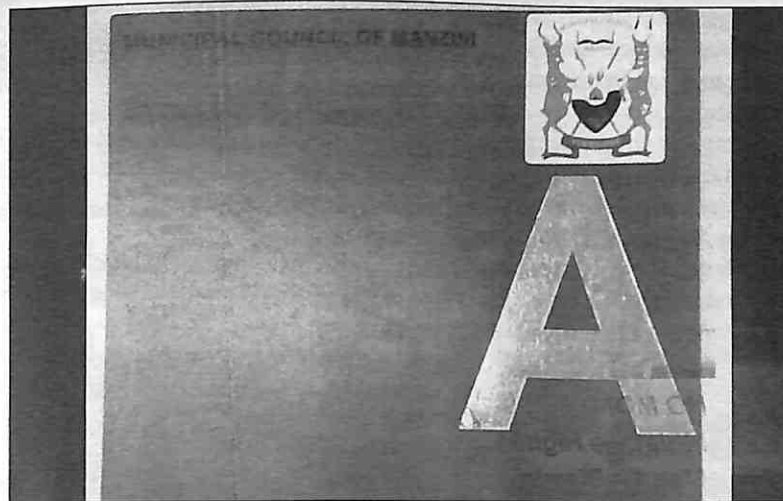
QUICK ROUND UP:

WHAT MANZINI COUNCIL HAS BEEN UP TO IN RECENT MONTHS

DEAR reader. You undoubtedly desire to know what your hard working Municipal Council of Manzini has been busy with in the recent past. The following are some of the services that have been delivered by the local authority in the last one or two months. Please read on...

● 42 BUSINESSES GRADED. DO THEY MEET HYGIENE STANDARDS?

A total of 42 business outlets were graded within the city of Manzini in the last two months or so. The purpose of the grading exercise was to ascertain whether or not they met the laid down hygiene standards and to assist them improve in that aspect. The grading certificate, which should be placed in a visible spot within the outlet, also helps the customer make a decision whether or not to carry on and buy from the shop. Dear customer. Next time you get into a shop, please look around for either an A, B, C, D, E or even F grading certificate. If the shop has displayed a grading certificate "A", it means it is between 80 and 100 per cent hygienic and it is safe to buy from. A "B" grading means the outlet is between 79 and 70 per cent hygienic. It is also safe to buy from but the owner needs to attend to a few things so to improve the health and hygiene standard. A "C" grading means the



LOOK FOR THIS CARD: One of the health and hygiene grading certificates certificates you should look for in any business outlet. A (D) grade is a red alert. Be careful.

hygiene standard is only average; between 69 and 60 per cent. In other words, it's not that safe. In fact, the Manzini News crew would not buy from such an outlet for health and safety purposes. If you lay your eyes on a "D" grade it means a red alert. The business outlet is in the range of 59 and 50 per cent in terms of hygiene condition. It is not safe to buy from that outlet. Grading "E" (49 to 40 per cent) and "F" (39 to 1 per cent) mean you must run and never look back. No matter how cheap the items on sale may be, if you consume them you run the

risk of a booking into the nearest hospital. Out of the 42 business outlets that were inspected and graded, 30 were restaurants, three were bakeries, seven butcheries and two were groceries and supermarkets. Please note that Council does not only inspect and grade them but makes follow-ups in an effort to see to it that the outlets improve their state of hygiene. Those that fall under grades "E" and "F" are shut down in order to protect the consumer. The table below gives a summary of the grading results;

TYPE OF BUSINESS	NUMBER OF OUTLETS	A	B	C	D	E	F
Restaurants	30	11	8	8	3	0	0
Bakeries	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
Butcheries	7	3	2	2	0	0	0
Groceries & Supermarkets	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	42	18	11	10	3	0	0

● 27 BUILDING PLANS SCRUTINIZED. 17 APPROVED, 10 DEFERRED

A total of 27 building applications were received last month. Seventeen (17) were residential, six were business related, one was industrial, another one was institutional and two related to building of boundary walls.

Following careful scrutiny, 17 were approved and the remainder did not

make it due to various reasons. The applicants were advised to revisit their building plans and attend to a number of issues. One of the applicants was advised to remove all illegal structures on their plot before the plan could be considered. Another was told the size of the main house was too small. Another was told they had underestimated the

value of the proposed structure. Three were told that the proposed development/use is prohibited in the sited zone. Another was advised to submit a locality plan with street names. A number of applicants were advised to revisit the size of their proposed rental units. The following is a summary of the building applications report;

TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT	NUMBER OF BUILDING PLANS	VALUE (E)
Residential	17	3 872,000
Business	6	0 092,000
Industrial	1	1 050,000
Institutional	1	3 500,000
Boundary Wall	2	0 330,000
TOTAL	27	12 844,00

● A BIG THANKS TO PREMIER BAKERIES, CHURCHES FOR DONATION

YOU most certainly are aware, dear reader, that the Municipal Council of Manzini, with assistance from other partners, takes care of over 1 300 vulnerable children in eight social centres that are located in various townships within the municipality. The children benefit one meal per day in the social centres. Some of them also benefit from the early childhood care and development programme that is offered in the social centres.

Council is grateful to the individuals and organisations that continually contribute towards the sustenance of the social centre programme by way of donations. May Almighty God bless them abundantly. Council is appreciative to Premier Swazi Bakeries

which, in June 2017, donated 640 and 100 sandwiches to the Moneni and Zakhele social centres, respectively. Special appreciation also goes to Light Zion which donated a 10kg bag of rice, 10kg mealie-meal, 10kg packet of potatoes as well as clothes to the Ngwane Park social centre.

The Synagogue Church of all Nations donated a 10kg bag of rice, 10kg mealie-meal and a 5 litre bottle of juice concentrate to the Zakhele social centre. Council also appreciates and is grateful to the many other individuals and institutions which have made it their culture to donate to the social centres. God Almighty is watching and shall accordingly reward them in due season. Amen.

● 35 STRAY CATTLE IMPOUNDED FROM URBAN AREA

YOU will recall, dear reader, that animals that are found roaming within the Manzini urban area are impounded in accordance with the Urban Government Regulations, 1969, as read with the Pound Act, 1969.

Indeed, in June Council sprang to action and impounded 35 cows that were found within the urban area. The figure indicates a slight decline when compared to 43 that were impounded in May 2017.

All 35 animals were released subsequent to payment of the requisite fees by owners. The fee is

E75 per cow, per day spent at the municipal pound plus trespass and driving fees. Livestock owners are urged to see to it that their animals do not trespass into the urban area lest they find themselves having to pay the hefty release fees.

Always remember that the urban area is no grazing zone under any circumstances. Keeping of livestock is prohibited in the urban area. Residents are urged to continue alerting Council whenever they come across stray animals. They are urged to make use of the Council Call Centre numbers (800 2004 or 2505 7000).

● COUNCIL EMBARKS ON BILHARZIA SCREENING, 84 TREATED

COUNCIL, through its social welfare office as well as assistance from the ministry of health, embarked on a bilharzia screening exercise in Murray Camp, an informal settlement within the Manzini urban area.

Urine samples were taken for screening and the results were positive.

A total of 84 children in the informal settlement were treated for bilharzia.

● MKHOSI TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT 82% COMPLETE

DEVELOPMENT of phase 1 of the multi-million worth of residential township just below Coates Valley in Manzini (to be known as Mkhosi Township) is now 82 per cent complete and pointers indicate that the project will be wound up at the end of this month.

The scope of works consists of construction of surfaced roads, road marking, water reticulation, sewerage reticulation, electrical reticulation and area lighting. On another note, Manzini News has learnt that the other projects that are taking place in the city are also coming up okay.

Eagle road rehabilitation (in

Coates Valley) is 90 per cent complete, D98 (road stretch from Zakhele Remand Centre via Old Zakhele and kaZakhali school and down to Sihlahleni and Mathayini near the Ngwane Park cemetery) rehabilitation is 37 per cent complete and indications are that the project will be completed much earlier than anticipated.

Upgrading of Zakhele gravel roads into bitumen status is also progressing well. Overall progress on site is at 35 per cent. More intense works are currently happening on Goal street. The project covers Dlamini, Musi, Nkambule and Goal streets.

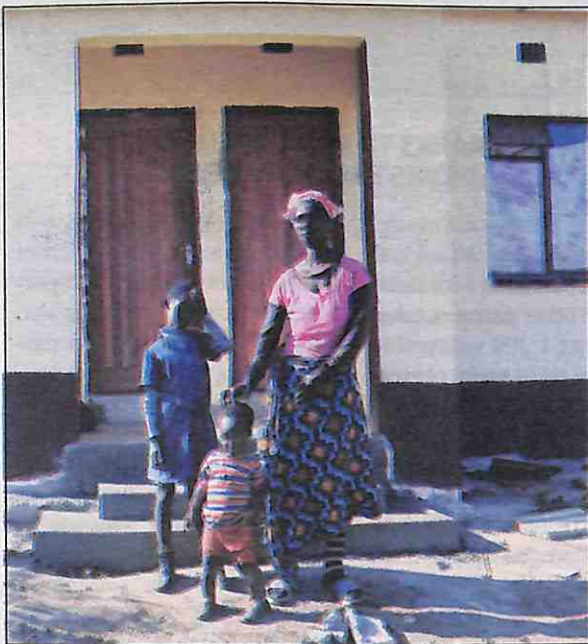
I FEEL BLESSED WITH THE NEW HOUSE – LOMATHEMBA

By Observer Reporter

LOMATHEMBA Dlamini has expressed gratitude for the house and well ventilated pit-latrine toilet that she has received recently.

Thanks to the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) who supported the Food for Assets programme that was implemented by World Vision at Lawini Community under the Ekutsimuleni constituency.

Lomathemba is a widowed mother of six children and lived in a one room made of stones and mud with her children.



BENEFICIARY: Lomathemba Dlamini with two of her six children in front of their new house donated by USAID.



OUT WITH THE OLD: The newly built house and the old abode.

The room totally collapsed in June this year during the construction of the new

house. She also did not have a toilet in her yard and used the forest for defecating. Her late husband had built the house in 2010 and they all shared it although she admits that it was a very uncomfortable set up.

"I really love the house and it's been so good to me. If it wasn't for USAID and World Vision I don't know where I'd be with my children," said Lomathemba beaming with joy.

Lomathemba added that the house is much safer and spacious and now enjoys a peaceful sleep unlike before.

Confident

"Now I'm very confident that even during winds and storms the house will remain intact. I'm also excited about the toilet because I didn't have one before. I had only dug one but still used the forest for defecating. Now this one is clean and more sanitary, I just feel blessed with the new house and toilet," said Lomathemba.

She also revealed that if the house had not come she would have fixed the old one as much as they would have break-ins losing a lot of food as the burglars would only steal food. Now with the new house a heavy burden has been lifted off her shoulders, she said.

"My warmest and humble gratitude goes to the donors. My children are half orphans and now have a proper home. We would have died if this help had not come. I'm so happy and forever thankful," said Lomathemba happily.

Make everyday special. Great deals, great phones.



Hurricane Maxx

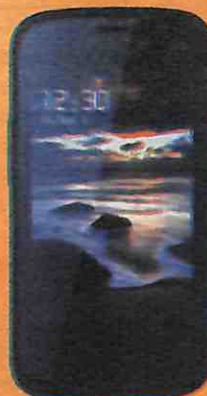
Total Cost

E 299

MTN PayAsYouGo

Top Features

- 2.4" Display
- FM Radio & MP3 Player
- VGA Rear camera
- Dual Sim



Hurricane Bolt

Total Cost

E 599

MTN PayAsYouGo

Top Features

- Android OS, v5.1 (Lollipop)
- 3.5" Display
- Dual-core
- Memory 4GB, 512MB RAM
- 1.3MP Rear & VGA Front Camera



Hurricane Volt

Total Cost

E 969

MTN PayAsYouGo

Top Features

- Android OS, v5.1 (Lollipop)
- 5" Display
- 1.2GHz Quad-core
- Memory 8GB, 512MB RAM
- 5MP Rear & 2MP Front Camera



Samsung Galaxy Grand Prime Plus

Total Cost

E 2199

MTN PayAsYouGo

Top Features

- Android OS, v6.0
- 5.5" TFT Display
- 1.6 GHz Octa Core, LTE
- Memory 16GB, 3GB RAM
- 13MP Rear & 8MP Front Camera



Samsung Galaxy J7 Prime

Total Cost

E 4499

MTN PayAsYouGo

Top Features

- Android OS, v6.0
- 4" Display
- 1.3GHz Quad-core
- Memory 4GB, 512MB RAM
- 5MP Rear & 2MP Front Camera



Samsung Galaxy S8

Total Cost

E 15449

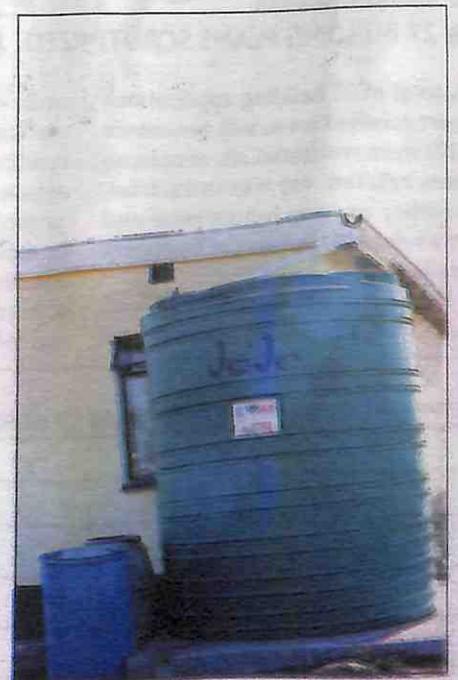
MTN PayAsYouGo

Top Features

- Android OS, v7.0 (Nougat)
- 5.8" Display
- Octa-core
- Memory 64GB, 4GB RAM
- 12MP Rear & 8MP Front Camera

Terms and Conditions:

Offer available while stocks last. Device colours may vary from those illustrated. Prices & values include VAT. The devices are available at the following shops; Mbabane & Manzini Service Centre, MTN Bhunu Mall, Manzini 1, Moneni, Big Bend, Matata, Nhlanguano, Simunye & Sikhuphe. MTN Swaziland and MTN Service Provider Terms and Conditions apply. E&OE.



ALL SET: The water tank for the family.

EXAMINATION COUNCIL OF SWAZILAND

Examination dates for 2017

- Swaziland General Certificate of Secondary Education (SGCSE): 2 October to 3 November 2017
- Prevocational Education (PREVOC): 1 November to 9 November 2017
- Junior Certificate (JC): 2 October to 10 November 2017
- Swaziland Primary Certificate (SPC): 6 November to 16 November 2017.

Candidates

- Each candidate must be entered by a Centre.
- Candidates may not enter for the same syllabus code at two different Centres in the same examination session.
- All candidates must meet the full requirements of the examinations for which they are entered.

Private Candidates

- These are candidates who do not attend ECOS Centres but who may wish to enter for examinations.
- Private candidates must be able to meet the full requirements of any examination for which they are entered.
- It is the responsibility of private candidates to make their own arrangements with a Centre.
- Private candidates must present documentary evidence (e.g. Identity card or a passport) for every examination session.

Transferred candidates

- Candidates may only transfer to a Centre registered with ECOS at a transfer fee of E58.00.
- The original Centre and the receiving Centre must both complete a Candidate Transfer Form.
- A candidate who transfers to another ECOS Centre becomes the responsibility of the receiving Centre.
- The deadline for transfers is 30 September each year.
- Entry fees, late entries and entry amendments
- ECOS will charge entry fee per syllabus per candidate.
- ECOS will charge late entry fees for any entries received after the final entry closing date.
- Candidates who wish to make amendments to their entry information must do so through the Centre.

Deadlines for each of the above are communicated to Centres at the beginning of each year.

Malpractice

- Malpractice is an act, in examinations, that is illegal, improper, unprofessional and unethical which may give unfair advantage to candidates over others. Candidates should report instances of malpractice to ECOS.

The following are examples of malpractice. The list is not exhaustive

- misuse or forgery of examination material
- behaving in such a way as to undermine the integrity of the examination failure to abide by the conditions of supervision designed to maintain the security of the examinations
- disruptive behaviour in the examination room (including the use of offensive language)
- introduction of unauthorised material into the examination room (e.g. notes, study guides and personal organisers, own blank paper, calculators (when prohibited), personal stereos, mobile phones or other similar electronic devices)
- obtaining, receiving, exchanging or passing on information which could be examination-related (or attempting to) by means of talking or written paper/notes
- impersonation; pretending to be someone else, arranging for another to take one's place in an examination
- the inclusion of inappropriate, offensive or obscene material in scripts or coursework
- copying from another candidate
- collusion; working collaboratively with other candidates
- plagiarism; the failure to acknowledge sources properly and/or the submission of another person's work as if it were the candidate's own
- theft of another's work
- the deliberate destruction of another's work
- the alteration of any results document, including certificates
- failure to abide by the instructions of an Invigilator
- failure to abide by the conditions of supervision designed to maintain the security of the examinations
- seeking or posting confidential information on the internet including social media during relevant series
- organised cheating carried out by Centre administrators, invigilators or teachers assisting candidates in the production of coursework, beyond that permitted by the regulations
- assisting or prompting candidates with the production of answers

Late arrival of candidates

Candidates must avail themselves to sit for the examination to sit for the examination before the prescribed starting times. However, Centres must warn candidates who arrive late that ECOS reserves the right not to accept that script.

Reasons which ECOS may consider acceptable for late arrival

- sudden illness
- Transport difficulties beyond the candidate's

Control.

Non-acceptable reasons for late arrival
reading timetable incorrectly
oversleeping

Lost certificates and certifying statements

A candidate who has lost an ECOS certificate may apply for a certifying statement of results. Centres may apply to ECOS for a certifying statement of results at any time.

ECOS will charge a fee for issuing certifying statements. All payments should be made to NEDBANK account number: 020000026458. To apply for a certifying statement the candidate must produce the following:

1. A copy of their national identity card (PIN)
2. A letter from their school
3. A Police report in case of a lost certificate or one that was destroyed by fire
4. Bank deposit slip as proof of payment of E315.00 for SGCSE and E105.00 for JC certificate.

Candidates with Special Educational Needs

ECOS recognises that although some candidates cope with the learning demands of a course and demonstrate attainment in the skills being assessed, they still face unnecessary barriers when it comes to the standard assessment. Some barriers may result from:

- a permanent long-term impairment or learning difficulty
- a temporary impairment, illness or indisposition the immediate circumstances of the assessment
- To cater for the special needs of these candidates there are access arrangements offered by ECOS.

Access Arrangements

- Access arrangements are pre-exam arrangements made on behalf of a candidate
- with special educational needs, for example, the use of a scribe, modified papers or extra time. The purpose of access arrangements is to
- remove any unnecessary barriers to the normal assessment, without compounding the standards being tested, so that the candidate
- can receive recognition for their attainment. For some subjects certain access arrangements are not available. A candidate may require a particular type of access arrangement in one type of assessment but not in another.

How to apply for access arrangements

The Centre making the entry must submit the application. Each application must be accompanied by a medical certificate from a recognized medical practitioner. ECOS will not accept any application from candidates or their parents/guardians.



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OVER 66 000 BOGOGO BENEFIT FROM GRANTS

Stories by Mbono Mdluli
Lobamba

OVER 66 000 elderly people benefitted from grants that were disbursed to senior citizens in the 2016/2017 financial year.

This is contained in a preamble of Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) Paul Dlamini's report which he presented in the House of Assembly last Thursday. This was during the debate of the first quarter performance report of the Deputy Prime Minister's Office (DPMO).

The report states that a total number of 66 480 elderly people benefitted from the payment in the last quarter of 2016/2017. The payment of the elderly grants is divided into two forms. One of them is the manual payment by Swazi Post and the other is through electronic payments in various banks.

The number of those who are paid manually is higher than that of those electronically paid. The ones paid manually receive their grant every after three months while those paid electronically are given their grants every month.

A total of 51 547 are being paid manually while 14 933 are paid through the electronic system. The number of



REVEALED: Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini.

such people to be given the money is supposed to increase because it appears that some have not been given because they have not been in a position to receive the money.

Some of the elderly could not receive the money because they could be bedridden, while some could be out of the country. The elderly people are one group of people which the DPMO has a mandate to support. It is also man-

dated to support people living with disabilities, ex-servicemen (*Umsizi*), children, and those affected by disaster.

The office of the DPM has also disbursed E3 425 100 to a total of 6 918 OVC beneficiaries. This is done under the OVC Social Safety Net Pilot Cash Transfer Project.

Welfare

This exercise is still done under four constituencies. It is done to see if the hard cash will be able to help the children to meet their needs in a better way.

The department of social welfare has attended to 201 cases of counselling and 132 cases of abuse. Furthermore, 425 ex-servicemen beneficiaries were reached by the DPMO and were given various kinds of assistance. About 54 494 OVC were given bursaries for their education at secondary and high schools.

Child maintenance cases seem to be high in the country, as 1302 child maintenance cases have been reported to the department. The social welfare department resolved 729 cases, while 279 cases were referred to the courts for further deliberation.

Children who are 30 in number have been reported to be in conflict with the law, committing serious offences ranging from robbery, rape, housebreaking and theft.

HOSEA INKHUNDLA RAVAGED BY HUNGER

WITH most people in different parts of the country happy from the bumper maize harvest received this year, the same cannot be said for Hosea constituency.

This was said by Hosea Member of Parliament (MP) Thulani Masuku who pleaded with DPM Paul Dlamini to assist his constituency because people were hungry.

He said it was not only his constituency that was hungry. He made examples of constituencies such as

Sigwe and Matsanjeni South, saying they needed urgent help because the situation was very bad.

He complained that government, through the ministry of agriculture, was fooling people into believing the country had received a bumper harvest while that was not true.

Constituencies

"We urge the DPMO to help us. The ministry of agriculture is the one that causes us not to be helped because it is the one that rushed to the nation-

al radio station to announce that we have made some bumper harvests, which is not true," Masuku said.

Masuku was supported by Matsanjeni South MP Sikiza Mhlungu, who said the situation in their constituencies was not as portrayed by the agriculture ministry.

He said they last received good harvests a few years ago and now the situation was worse.

He also pleaded with the DPMO to help them in their constituencies.

Philani Maswati.

MP Mjulukoko asked DPM Paul Dlamini to have a look at this issue because at times, children could be made to worship idols. They could not object to this because they were just children and they could be suffering and therefore, they could not be able to object to that. The DPM promised to look into this and bring back written answers.

'Children at Amitofo worship idols'

CHILDREN at Amitofo Care Centre are made to worship false Gods, something which is in contrast with what Swazis believe in.

This was said by Mtfongwaneni MP Mjulukoko Dlamini at the House of Assembly. He was asking if the centre was not interfering in the religious

upbringing of the children who are living there.

Amitofo Care Centre is situated in Nhlanguano. It is meant to take care of children who are either orphaned or vulnerable. It is originally from the Republic of China on Taiwan and is said to have come to Swaziland through

Speed up Disability Bill – MPs

MEMBERS of Parliament (MPs) want the Disability Bill to be sped up and enacted as legislation to address the issue of the disabled.

The MPs were directing their comments to Sandleni MP James Simelane, whom they accused of slowing the process. Simelane is the chairperson of the portfolio committee of DPMO. It transpired that the Bill was still

with his committee and a report had to be tabled before the House before it could become legislation.

MPs had expressed concerns about disabled people because it looked like they were not receiving the attention they were supposed to receive, like the elderly.

The Bill is supposed to enable all disabled people to register with the

DPMO.

The DPM told the committee that the Bill would play a vital role in ensuring that the disabled people were recognised.

He said the problem was that his office could not be able to help the disabled because some of them were made to stay inside houses in home-steads.

Simelane promised the MPs that his committee would attend to the matter.

PASSENGER LOSES E1.1M SUIT AGAINST PHINDUVUKE

By Phesheya Kunene
High Court

A passenger in Phinduvuke Bus Service has lost his case where in he was suing the bus owner a sum of E1.1 million after an injury he claimed was caused by the bus.

Judge Nkululeko Hlophe dismissed the case of Sifiso Mabuza, plaintiff, as he said it was an unfortunate and sad incident. The incident occurred on September 2009, at an area known as Ematfuntini, in Lomahasha.

The passenger claimed a bus conductor of Phinduvuke, defendant, threw a bottle under a bus from which Mabuza had just alighted and was trampled on by same, causing a stump from the crushed part to spring up and hit Mabuza in the eye causing him a serious injury.

Defendant

"Whether plaintiff is entitled to damages arising from the injuries sustained from the defendant, whether defendant's employee was negligent, that is whether damage reasonably foreseeable and reasonably preventable, court finds damage neither reasonably foreseeable nor reasonably preventable, plaintiff's claim dismissed with costs," the judge said.

He said the bottle thrown away had been lying idle on the floor of the bus before the bus conductor threw or put it under the bus.

The conductor was rushing to offload the plaintiff's luggage from the side-boot of the bus where it had been kept when Mabuza boarded from Manzini to Lomahasha.

"The evidence reveals that as the bus took off with the conductor running to board it, the bus trampled on the bottle in question with its rear wheels or wheel.

Injuring

The bottle hit the plaintiff who was tending to his luggage, on the right hand side eye and seriously injuring him in the process," he added.

According to evidence, Mabuza made means to get to Good Shepherd Hospital in Siteki for treatment where he was treated.

"Contending to have suffered serious injuries and by extension damages, the plaintiff instituted the current proceedings where he prayed for the following reliefs against the defendant based on alleged negligence; payment of a total sum of E1 138 000, interest thereon at nine



DISMISSED: Judge Nkululeko Hlophe.

per cent per annum a tempore morae and cost of suit," the judgment reads.

Disability

Mabuza had claimed E200 000 for loss of business and E500 000 for disability due to the incident. The other expenses are as follows; medical expenses E2 000, estimated future medical expenses E150 000, transport costs E1 000, pain and suffering E20 000 and costs for trauma stood at E85 000.

"Whatever else had been said in the defendant's plea as regards the claim against it, when the matter commenced and upon evidence having been led by the plaintiff, it became clear that this was more the type of matter that turns on a point of law as opposed to facts.

This is because the disputes as may have existed related to whether the bus conductor threw or put one bottle or several under the bus, including whether such bottles were actually thrown or simply put there, which are irrelevant to the determination of the real question," he added.

Negligent

He said the legal point that came to the fore was whether from the facts of the matter, it could be said that the defendant's employee in question was negligent.

The judge agreed with the defendant's counsel that in so far as it was not shown that the incident that brought about Mabuza's injury was going to bring about that specific injury in the manner done, the bus conductor's action cannot be said to have been negligent in so far as it was not reasonably foreseeable and that the bus owner reasonably failed to guard against it, which is to say legally, the defendant was not negligent and therefore not liable to Mabuza for the damage suffered.



Biggest Braai 2017 generates over E500 000

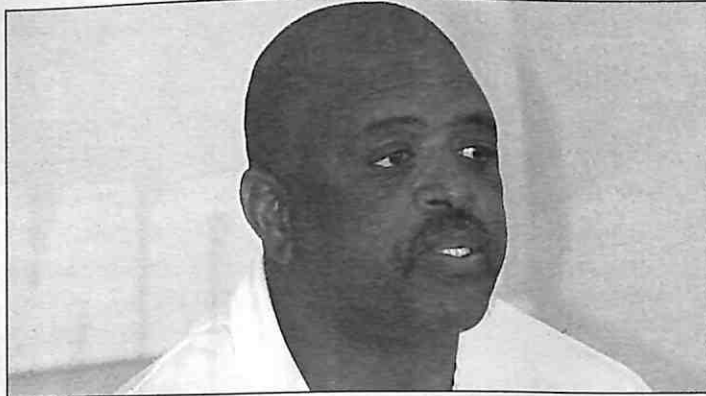
Stories by Samukelisiwe Ginindza
Manzini

THE Biggest Braai 2017 has generated over E500 000.

This was revealed by Philani Maswati Charity organisation's Chairman Lutfo Dlamini, during the organisation's annual general meeting (AGM) at the Global Village in Manzini on Sunday.

"We have managed to collect a total of E512 031, which includes the money from sponsors and gate collections, this was the biggest fundraising we have had so far," he said.

Dlamini said next year they hope



PLEASED: The Chairman of Philani Maswati Charity Organisation Lutfo Dlamini making remarks during the organisation's AGM held on Sunday at Global Village in Manzini. (Pics: Samukelisiwe Ginindza)

to reach a million, as more elderly and destitute people need the

help they offer with the money made from the Biggest Braai.

"The patron, Her Majesty Indlovukazi is pleased with the turn out and has urged us to continue putting the right foot forward, remembering that we are doing all this to change the lives of those who need the help the most," the Chairman said.

Dlamini said the tickets sold were 5 000 and 1 700 were complimentary tickets. "Adding the number of tickets sold plus the complimentary tickets given as well as children who gained free entry plus the number of people present was 9 500. We are pleased that even though we had such a huge number of people, we had an incident free event as police confirmed," he added.

Philani Maswati mortuary proposed

MEMBERS of Philani Maswati Charity want their own mortuary.

Philani Maswati Chairman Lutfo Dlamini said they often struggle when the elderly pass away, as most of their families have financial constraints and fail to settle the mortuary bills.

"It would be wise to have our own mortuary where the elderly could be taken when they pass on, it would benefit even non-members who are destitute, we all know how expensive mortuary bills can be," he said.

The charity organisation has given birth to Philani Malunga Multipurpose cooperative society, whose joining fee is E100.

"The profits of this cooperative will go towards the elderly and the destitute, worth noting however is that a cooperative is different from Philani Maswati, members still have to join the cooperative, it has its own chairman who is Mathokoza Mtsetfwa," Dlamini added.



THIS FORM: Michele showing members of the organisation the cooperative society membership form.



IN THEIR NUMBERS: A section of the members present.



DELIVERED: Part of the executive members listening attentively at the meeting's proceedings.

Inmates can have sex once a month - Magistrate

Stories by Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

SENIOR Pigg's Peak Magistrate Siphosini Dlamini stated inmates were now allowed to have conjugal visitations lasting up to five hours.

Dlamini was speaking at the Pigg's Peak Magistrate's Court during the trial of Quantum driver Mbongiseni Mamba who was arrested for reckless driving as well as driving under the influence of alcohol. Mamba was arrested along the MR6 public road on Sunday morning.

He asked to be allowed to pay a fine and said if he spent time in a correctional facility he might lose his young wife. "I had taken 12 bottles of Savannah Black on Saturday evening. I then



CONJUGAL VISIT

went to sleep only to be woken up four hours later by my boss who told me to drive the Quantum that usually services the Pigg's Peak to Matsamo route to Timphisini. However, on the way I then saw a police roadblock. Unfortunately, in the heat of the moment I panicked and elected to make a U-turn, which attracted the police who

then arrested me after subjecting me to an embarrassing breathalyser test. If I am not allowed the option of paying a fine I could lose time with my wife," he said.

Allow

Senior Magistrate Dlamini told Mamba not to worry as his wife would be allowed to visit him and have sex for up to five hours at the correctional facility, only once a month.

"You should not worry about spending time with your wife; some correctional facilities allow conjugal visitations at least once a month.

I am sentencing you to 20 months in a correctional facility for drunk driving if you fail to pay the E2 000 fine and I am further sentencing you to four months in a correctional facility if you fail to pay the E800 for the reckless driving," said an amused Dlamini.

Man steals car keys from mom's bag, drives off before arrest

A 29-year-old man has been slapped with a E2 000 fine or 10 months imprisonment for drunk driving after he stole car keys from his mother's handbag and going on a drinking spree.

Thabiso Ngwenya (29) was arrested on Saturday afternoon at a three-way stop close to the Northern entrance of Pigg's Peak town. Ngwenya was first asked by the police to produce his driver's licence which he did not have at the time of his arrest.

The police then subjected Ngwenya to a breathalyser test, which also confirmed that he had taken alcoholic beverages.

Appearing at the Pigg's Peak Magistrate's Court on Monday, Ngwenya admitted to stealing the car keys in his mother's hand-

bag and taking her car.

"I had been drinking a few hours before my arrest. I had taken three 750ml bottles of Hansa when I decided to go home to steal the car keys from my mother's handbag. I took the car and proceeded to Pigg's Peak from Mangwaneni to buy more alcohol. Unfortunately, I came across a police roadblock by the three-way stop," he said.

Senior Pigg's Peak Magistrate Siphosini Dlamini sentenced Ngwenya to 10 months in a correctional facility if he failed to pay a E2 000 fine for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Dlamini further sentenced Ngwenya to four months in a correctional facility if he failed to pay the E800 for not possessing his driver's licence.



Benjamin Dube

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SADC MINISTERS OF FINANCE, INVESTMENT MEETING AT THE ROYAL VILLAS



ARRIVAL: Southern African Development Community (SADC) Executive Secretary Dr. Stergomena Lawrence followed by Prime Minister Dr. Sibusiso Dlamini and Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini during the official opening of the meeting of the Ministers of Finance and Investment at The Royal Villas on Monday. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



TOO BIG: Finance ministers chatting during a break.



Delegates from Mauritius listening attentively.



UNITY: Prime Minister Dr. Sibusiso Dlamini and SADC Executive Secretary Dr. Stergomena Lawrence with Finance ministers, governors and other delegates.

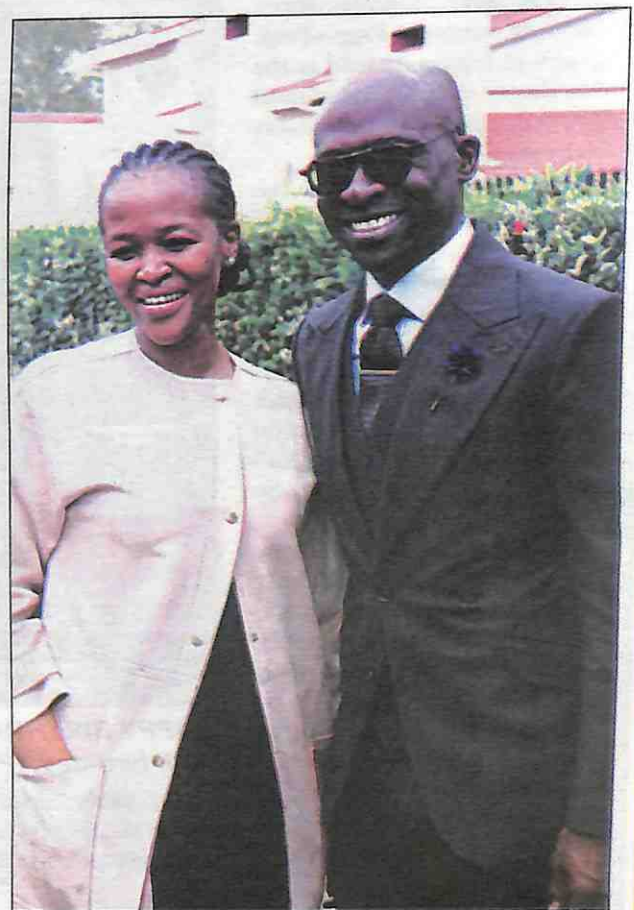
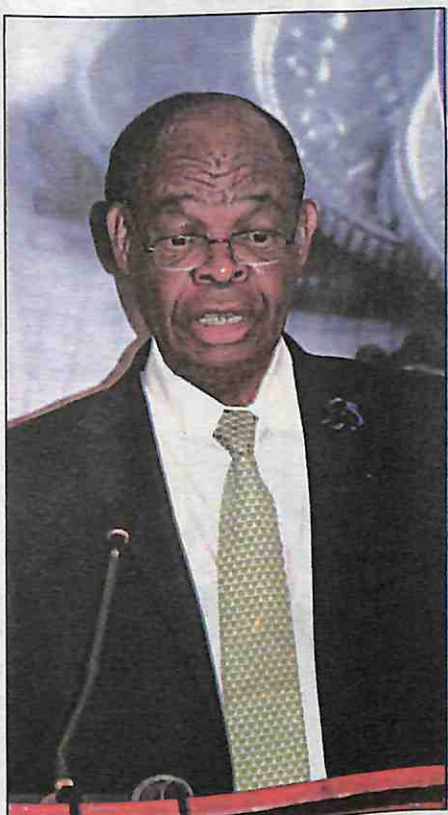


PHOTO-SHOOT OPPORTUNITY: Ministry of Information and Communications Technology's Senani Khumalo with SA Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba.



MONEY MATTERS: Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini introducing the PM.



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MANZINI

NORTHERN HHOHHO NEWS

...With

Sizwe Dlamini

Pigg's Peak Office

Kai Kai Building opposite Shoprite,
Office No:3Tel: 2437 1083 Cell: 7670 0678
Email: observersipiki@realnet.co.szBOXER PIGG'S PEAK AIMS TO REGAIN
TITLE IN 40TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

BOXER Store Manager Jerry Mkhonta wants the Pigg's Peak branch to regain its title as the best Boxer shop in Swaziland during the shop's 40th Birthday celebrations.

Mkhonta was speaking to this newspaper yesterday while Boxer Regional Manager Nicholas Lukhele graded the Boxer Pigg's Peak branch. He said they as the Boxer group of shops are celebrating a 40th birthday ending late this month.

The celebrations are also a chance for all the branches to compete for the Best Shop in Swaziland 2017 title that was previously won by Pigg's Peak.

"We, as Boxer Stores, are happy to be celebrating our 40th Birthday and we believe in giving back to our loyal customers who have supported us throughout these many years.

Our customers have seen us grow from humble beginnings to where we are now. Boxer was launched in Pigg's Peak in 2009 after the group bought out Score group of



HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Boxer Store Manager Jerry Mkhonta excited about the store 40th birthday. (Pics: Sizwe Dlamini)

supermarkets. Since then Boxer Pigg's Peak has grown from strength to strength and currently Swaziland

has five Boxer branches including one in Manzini," he said. The other branches are Pigg's

Peak, Nhlangano, Managa and Simunye. "These are our sister branches but during our birthday

months that happen annually they become our competition; we have judges coming from Boxer South Africa to preside in the competition.

They look for various things such as best product display, best customer service, cleanest shop, best decorated shop and best revenue turnover.

These are some of the criteria used in choosing the winner of the best Boxer shop in Swaziland.

Unfortunately in 2016 Boxer Pigg's Peak lost the title to Manzini in the Best Revenue category because they have more customers. However, in 2014 and 2015 the title was with us (Pigg's Peak branch)," he said.

However, he said they hope to regain their title this year.

"The shop that wins the title will be awarded with prizes for the staff and managers, with the grand prize for 2017 being a week long Atlantic Ocean cruise in Durban, South Africa which goes to the best shop manager.

I have a feeling that Pigg's Peak will win that honour this time around," he said.

He added that during the birthday celebrations they would also award loyal customers.

"We know the essentials our customers need and during our birthday months we want them to buy those at reduced prices, so I encourage all customers from far and wide to come to Boxer Pigg's Peak and buy their daily essentials at competitive prices.

That is our gift to our customers as a token of appreciation.

We will also be having various draws and specials to add to the magic of Boxer turning 40 years old," he added.

900 HOMESTEADS TO BENEFIT
FROM RURAL WATER PROJECT

NTFONJENI Indvuna Mfandzile Jabulani Sibandze says up to 900 rural homesteads will benefit from the Ntfontjeni Domestic Water project that is currently on phase one.

Sibandze, interviewed by this newspaper yesterday, said special thanks were reserved for Micro Projects that helped in co-ordinating the rural water scheme that has taken about three years to develop.

"We, as the Ntfontjeni Inkhundla, would like to send our heart felt thanks to Micro Projects for helping our region kick-start the rural water project.

A lot of people do not know that so many homesteads in the four royal kraals around Ntfontjeni had no direct access to water, so people living in these areas had to walk to the various rivers to collect water.

Now if our calculations are accurate I see about 900 homesteads benefitting from this water project that originally



MORE WILL BENEFIT: Ntfontjeni Indvuna Mfandzile Jabulani Sibandze.

started way back in 2015 but could not get off the ground due to lack of funding. Now we are proud to announce that the project is in its first phase, which involves pipes being connected to the rivers and drawing water to two - 10 000 litre water tanks that will act as reservoirs to allow people of the area to collect the water in a centralised loca-

tion much closer to their homes. We have been told by our engineers that phase one will take up to five months starting in June 2017 and ending in October 2017," he said.

He said what made them proud was that the locals were the ones who came up with the dream of starting the project first.

"They created a fund late in 2015 by donating E200 each per homestead to raise the capital that Micro Projects needed to kick-start the project.

However, not all the homesteads were able to donate the money for the project because they had various domestic problems that required financing.

In the end all the 900 homesteads managed to donate the money and we were able to approach Micro Projects. It is good to see people determined to improve themselves and Northern Hhohho by working together for development," he added.



BARGAIN: Cheaper prizes for all.



GIVE AWAY: Customers swarming the store over giveaway prizes.

CAR WASHERS READY TO TOE THE LINE

By Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlangano

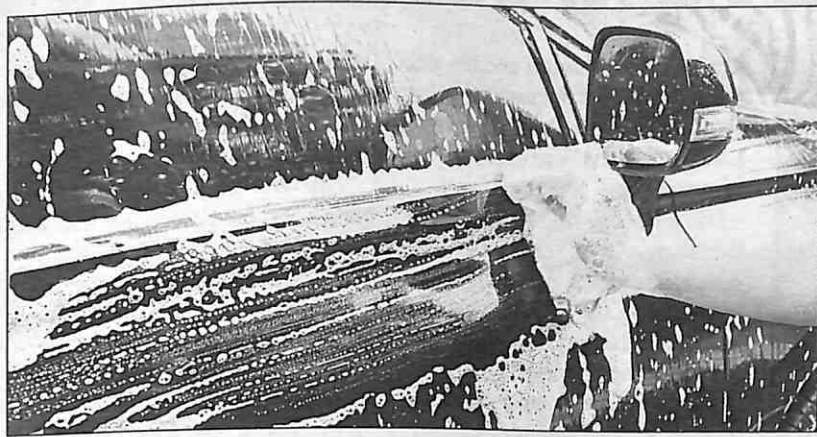
CAR wash business operators in Nhlangano are ready to meet the Nhlangano Town Council in order to get advice on what they need to do to be recognised.

The Nhlangano Town Council is planning to close down all car wash businesses operating without the necessary documents. Car wash businesses have been mushrooming all over the town, something the town council is now planning to address.

Apart from that some of these businesses have been considered as informal trade, which has forced the town council to take a stand. This was after realising the health hazard such businesses pose to the public especially the water used which then flows back into rivers. The town council says it has become a concern when it comes to environmental requirement standards.

Some of the car wash operators have said they did not believe the anticipated action by the town council was meant to frustrate them but it was to help them do things in order.

"We do not want to believe this is aimed at kicking out of the business we rely on it for survival with our families.



Through car washing business, we feed our children and also take care of other needs.

Everyone is aware that a number of us in this trade are young and it is also a known fact that there is job scarcity in the country hence some of us are in this trade to make a living," said one of the car wash operators.

The car wash operator who did not want his name published explained that being in the trade assisted a number of them by not engaging in crime as it keeps them busy.

"Yes, it is true that every house has its own rules and we do not blame the town council for what it intends doing. We are operating within its boundaries and are flexible to hear their advice but not to kick us out. If we are kicked out

it means they are driving us to join criminals, something we don't want to do hence we are in this business.

If the town council wants a levy from us we are ready to pay it but not to close our business. If town council wants us to do the business in an orderly manner, we are also ready to do that but they cannot shut down our businesses," he said.

Many of the car washers said they were prepared to take any order issued by the town council as with the case with any other business or trade within the town.

"We should be treated like any small businesspeople and if we have been not doing things the right way, town council should advise us what to do," one of them said.

Lavumisa recreational facility to be ready in October

By Starsky Mkhonta
Lavumisa

THE construction of a recreational facility in Lavumisa town is expected to be completed in October.

Chief Executive Officer of the town Manzi Mthupha said the project which will cost close to E1 million will change the image of the town. He said for a long time the youth have found themselves having nothing to keep them busy because of the lack of such facilities.

"The sports field is the only facility where young people keep themselves busy but it was mainly soccer. Now the facility will cater for other sporting codes such as basketball, volleyball and tennis," said Mthupha who said the exact cost of the project is E922 000.

Mthupha said the company which was given the job, Khondeni Legacy Construction started work almost two months ago. He said young people of

Lavumisa were already longing for the completion of the facility. He said the youth would now have a place where they could keep themselves busy during weekends and school holidays. He said this would help avoid engaging in shady activities which could lead to serious consequences.

"If there are those not interested in soccer they will have a choice as the facility is to cater for various sports discipline. There will also be competitions in the other disciplines not only soccer as used to be the case. We want the youth of Lavumisa to showcase their talent.

The facility is not only to be opened to youth but even adults. These days we preach that we all should stay healthy

and part of this is to do physical fitness exercise," said Mthupha.

Mthupha said he was also confident that the facility will have all the necessary equipment for everyone to be engaged in sporting activities.

"The sports field is the only facility where young people keep themselves busy but it was mainly soccer. Now the facility will cater for other sporting codes such as basketball, volleyball and tennis court," said Mthupha who said the exact cost of the project is E922 000.

He said he hoped all those who would be using the facility would make sure that it was not vandalised in anyway.

"It's a facility we want to see kept clean at all times. We should ensure it is maintained and everyone has a role to play and not seeing it become a white elephant. It's not going to be a good thing to have this facility used for other things but it

should serve its purpose and those to be using it, they are the ones to see to it that the rules to be outlined are followed," said Mthupha.

Lavumisa's E5m road upgrade to be completed next month

By Starsky Mkhonta
Lavumisa

LAVUMISA Town Board is pleased with progress made so far in the rehabilitation of the main road, a project which is estimated to cost not less than E5 million.

The road which is being refurbished by leading road construction company, Pots Construction is expected to be completed at the end of next month.

According to the Chief Executive Officer Manzi Mthupha, work started almost two months ago. "We are excited with the progress made so far. I think 50 per cent of the work has been done and the way things are going, definitely we are looking at having all done by the end of September," said Mthupha.

Mthupha said property owners also now stood a chance of seeing their properties appreciating as the project covered a number of things.

"Those with plots close by are excited as this project is part of development which is to see even the value of properties go up. The pavement as well as the installation of the street lights means the properties in terms of value will definitely go up. That is what is good with development of this nature as it ends up seeing oth-

ers benefiting in one way or the other," said Mthupha.

Mthupha said the town board was thankful to all road users as they have been cooperative since the project started as they obeyed all road signs and detours directed to.

"It may look an inconvenience to motorists or any other road users but it is just for a while. Soon everything will return to normal. We have not received any complaints from the company since it reported on site and again we have not received any complaint from the motorists. This is the spirit we encourage as this project is for everyone's benefit," said Mthupha.

Mthupha said Lavumisa being a border town it was important that its infrastructure should be up to the required standard. He said visitors coming through the border gate get the first impression about the Kingdom when coming through the border gate.

"Border gates remain the mirrors of the country and therefore it's a good thing to have even the road infrastructure being of world standard. It can be a good thing for government to make it a point that all border gates in the country are up to standard in terms of infrastructure. It should not just be roads but even the buildings," said Mthupha.



Hluti business community happy with speed humps

By Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlangano

THE business community in Hluti is pleased with the construction of speed humps in almost all the areas which were prone to road accidents.

According to the chairman of the business community Bahle Sibandze, the speed humps were erected by a private contractor he did not name last week.

He said there were at least four areas of the main road passing across Hluti which were known to be accident prone.

"It's a job well done and we now feel the rate of road accidents will come down. Our wish is to have no accidents at all. There are now speed humps by the butchery (I operate). There are also speed humps near the post office opposite the police station. There are now also humps by the Swaziland Electricity Company depot and others near Florence (school). It's something we highly appreciate

even though it has taken a long time for this to happen," said Sibandze.

Sibandze said as a business community they were always prepared to assist government especially by giving advice where needed.

Speeding

"The issue of speed humps was long raised and this was after we noticed the way motorists were driving along this road. Speeding has been a major cause of accidents. There are lives which have been lost including those of school children.

Had the speed humps been erected

at the time we started raising this concern, some deaths would have been prevented. We have others who are now crippled as we speak.

Just this year, a sedan which was driven by a police officer plunged into a waiting room and this could have been avoided had the speed humps been there," said Sibandze.

Sibandze said as Hluti is considered a passage for those coming through Mahamba and Lavumisa border gates it was therefore a busy area.

"Some of the motorists are those coming from South Africa and use the two border gates. Some come through these border gates for visit

while others come with the plan of opening business opportunities. It is however sad to see some of them involved in accidents caused by reckless driving or speeding. The speed humps will hopefully save many lives," said Sibandze.

Sibandze said straying livestock was another concern giving them a headache.

"Livestock owners have to be dealt with as they don't take care of their animals which roam freely even during the night thus contributing to accidents. It's an issue which we have to do everything to see tackled," said Sibandze.

A man in a blue suit is kneeling on one knee, holding a ring box, proposing to a woman in a white dress. They are outdoors in front of a building. A circular inset in the bottom right corner shows a close-up of a hand holding a ring.

T h e

On July 22, the couple officially launched the Dr. Keith Harrington Marriage and Divorce Clinic in Siyabuswa, Mpumalanga Province.

"My wife and I's journey has been a glorious one so far, and we thank God for the mentorship and grace on the lives of our parents Apostle Johnson and Dr. Lizzy Johnson Suleman," says Harrington.





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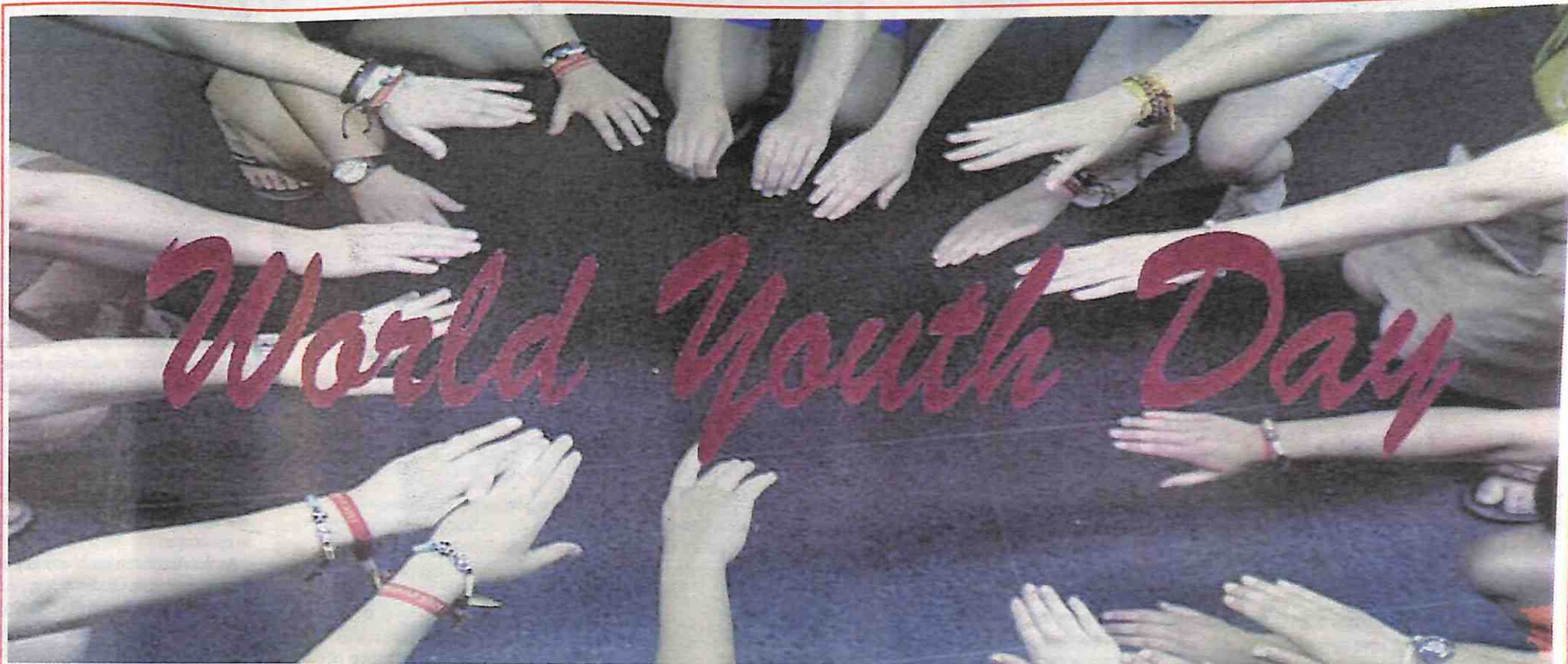
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FEATURES & OPINION

REFRESH WHAT YOU THINK...



1 BILLION RISING REVOLUTION

DURING the past month as we enter the second half of the year we celebrated World Youth Skills Day.

This day is particularly relevant in the current climate as globally, young people are almost three times more likely to be unemployed and are continuously exposed to lower quality jobs, greater labour market inequalities as well as longer and more insecure school-to-work transitions.

This situation profoundly impacts women, as women are more likely to be underemployed and under-paid, and to undertake part-time jobs or work under temporary contracts.

Overall, more young people have greater educational opportunities than previously, but there are too many who are out of school, denied the quality education they deserve and are unable

WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY

● Overall, more young people have greater educational opportunities than previously, but there are too many who are out of school, denied the quality education they deserve and are unable to acquire the skills that they need.

to acquire the skills that they need.

Developing the skills of young people is fundamental to the growth and sustainability of our country and economy, it is also undeniably one of the most important decisions we can have as a nation. The youth are our future and they stand to inherit the consequences of our current decisions and actions.

How then, can we as a people actively neglect this population whose livelihood is impacted by every single policy, law or custom we enforce? On the streets we travel each day, the news we watch or read, we see an understandably frustrated population of young people.

This picture is however, incomplete, because with the right skills, our young people are exactly the force that we need in order to drive progress forward towards building more inclusive and vibrant societies.

The fact is, investing in skills development reduces poverty and better equips the young to find decent jobs.

Swaziland as a country is suffering under the strain of high poverty levels and we cannot ignore this glaring solution for not just our young but also our country as a whole, as it will trigger a process of empowerment and self-esteem that benefits everyone.

Globally, forty (40) per cent of young people are unemployed or ranked amongst "the working poor," this situation prompted the inclusion of youth skills in the prospective 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The agenda recognises the importance of tackling youth concerns, in particular unemployment and calls specifically for promoting youth employment and economic empowerment.

Each and every day, numerous numbers of our young people are placed in positions whereby they must risk their lives in the hopes of finding economic opportunities in distant places. This is why education and training are key determinants of success in the labour market, but unfortunately, existing systems are failing to

address the learning needs of many young people. Skills affect people's economic development in many ways but they are not only limited to economic impacts and playing a positive role in career prospects. Adults with low levels of foundational skills have a higher likelihood of reporting poor health and they also display levels of social anxiety as evidenced by less participation in community groups or meetings. Skills are also key in tackling inequality, therefore investing in human capital is the single most effective way of not just promoting growth but also its fair distribution. The simplest method of understanding the importance of investing in youth skills development is that investing in skills is far less costly, in the long run for our country, than paying the price of poorer health, lower incomes, unemployment and social exclusion – all of which are closely tied to lower skills.

REPEAT

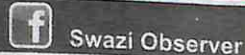
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ON THIS DAY

...AUGUST 2

1776 - Members of the Continental Congress began adding their signatures to the Declaration of Independence.

1791 - Samuel Briggs and his son Samuel Briggs, Jr. received a joint patent for their nail-making machine. They were the first father-son pair to receive a patent.

1824 - In New York City, Fifth Avenue was opened.

1858 - In Boston and New York City the first mailboxes were installed along streets.

1861 - The United States Congress passed the first income tax. The revenues were intended for the war effort against the South. The tax was never enacted.

1887 - Rowell Hodge patented barbed wire.

1892 - Charles A. Wheeler patented the first escalator.

1921 - Eight White Sox players were acquitted of throwing the 1919 World Series.

1926 - John Barrymore and Mary Astor starred in the first showing of the Vitaphone System. The system was the combining of picture and sound for movies.

1938 - Bright yellow baseballs were used in a major league baseball game between the Brooklyn Dodgers and the St. Louis Cardinals. It was hoped that the balls would be easier to see.

1939 - Albert Einstein signed a letter to President Roosevelt urging the US to have an atomic weapons research program.

1939 - US President Roosevelt signed the Hatch Act. The act prohibited civil service employees from taking an active part in political campaigns.

1943 - The US Navy patrol torpedo boat, PT-109, sank after being attacked by a Japanese destroyer. The boat was under the command of Lt. John F. Kennedy.

1945 - The Allied conference at Potsdam was concluded.

1964 - The Pentagon reported the first of two North Vietnamese attacks on US destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin.

1983 - US House of Representatives approved a law that designated the third Monday of January would be a federal holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The law was signed by President Reagan on November 2.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Charli XCX (pop singer)
- August 2, 1992
(25 years)



Sam Worthington (movie actor) - August 2, 1976
(41 years old)

THE CUSTOMER CENTRIC ORGANISATION



By: Phatsimo Mbhamali - Tafa
(Customer Service Consultant)

DEFINING CUSTOMER SERVICE

WE have often heard complaints of "bad" customer service experiences as well as compliments on "good" customer service from our daily interactions with family, friends and acquaintances but what is customer service and why does it matter?

In its most basic definition, customer service has been defined by some as an organisation's ability to supply their customers' wants and needs.

However, for organisations who realize the importance of good customer relations some experts in the field give a more beneficial definition of customer service. That is, "customer service is a business's ability to satisfy its customers." This is because only satisfied customers have the potential to become loyal customers.

Excellent customer service is the ability of an organization to constantly and consistently exceed the customer's expectations.

Recently I visited an organisation to inquire on the procedures to renew a licence. I walked in to be assisted by a customer service officer whom I informed that I need to re-new my licence and would like to know what the procedure is as well as get all the forms I need to apply. The man asked what the expiry date on my licence was and I informed him that I do not have the exact date in memory and

Quote: "Courteous treatment will make a customer a walking advertisement."
- James Cash Penny, Founder J.C. Penney Stores.



he informed me that he cannot give me an application form until I tell him the expiry date of my licence.

I expressed my frustration as I told

him I am not in a position to drive back home just to check a date and come back. He insisted on denying me information on reapplying until I asked if I may call to inform him of the expiry date as driving back to their offices would not be possible today. When I asked for his email so that he forwards me the requirements once I have confirmed the expiry date on my licence, he told me that he prefers not

to give me his email in case he decides to go on leave. He simply gave me the landline to the reception and said

I should call and ask for customer service and someone will assist. Basically, I did not achieve my goal and left the offices more frustrated.

"Excellent customer service is the ability of an organization to constantly and consistently exceed the customer's expectations."

In contrary, I decided to call the landline with the hope of getting assistance from a more "reasonable" person who would not deny me basic information such as requirements and to my relief I was assisted by a lady over the phone who simply forwarded me all the requirements of applying

for a licence without me giving her

expiry date of the licence.

She sent me the email with requirements as we were speaking and I was so grateful for her speed and efficiency. If my last interaction with the organisation was with the first customer service officer I met in person, I would probably not have had any positive customer experience to speak about as the man was not empathetic nor did he communicate in a manner that showed concern. Even if the rules really were as rigid as he tried to portray them to be, showing empathy and courtesy may have had a more positive impact in the customer interaction. Basically, the lady who assisted me over the phone exceeded my expectation as a customer and contrary to the walk in experience, I felt valued.

Service

In a nutshell from my experience I would say, I received good customer service over the phone and I would not say the same about the first walk in encounter.

As the American author and marketing guru Seth Godin wrote, customer service means different things to different organisations, but things aren't going to end well for "the industrial titans who see customer service as a cost, not a profit centre."

Gary Vaynerchuk also echoes that sentiment in 'The Thank You Economy', a treatise on the "undeniable evidence that there is financial gain for any size company that is willing to open the lines of communication with its customers and market to them in a personal, caring way that makes them feel valued."

In today's highly competitive environment, organisations cannot afford to ignore the importance of good customer service. Superior customer service is the most reliable way to grow your business. The business world constantly changes. However, the need for customer service does not go away.

JOHANNESBURG - So the EFF has survived for four years and, unlike the other ANC split-offs, Cope and the UDM, it is still growing.

But my looking glass tells me that the EFF's best chance of being in government soon would be in alliance with the ANC.

The media seem to be more in love with the red berets than the voters.

Having said that, the party has an energy and Julius Malema is a leader that would ensure that it plays an influential role in our political and national life, at least until 2019.

The EFF's 6.3 per cent support in the 2014 general election was impressive, seeing that the party was just about one-year-old then.

Voting patterns are different in national and local elections, but it was still significant that the EFF only increased its support by two per cent between the 2014 election and the 2016 local elections.

This was despite the massive media coverage the EFF had generated at that time.

During the EFF's fourth birthday

Why the EFF is likely to go

- The time for an easy exit for Zuma is long over
- Don't let Jacob Zuma define who you are
- Criminals among us: the culture of impunity should worry us

celebrations last week Malema and his leadership boasted that the party was growing very fast and was on its way to become a majority party.

If the pace of growth between 2014 and 2016 is sustained, the EFF would probably only get 10 per cent or so of the national vote in 2019.

In contrast, the DA's growth trajectory since 2009 could mean they could get to the 30 per cent mark in 2019, as things stand now.

But these are mere calculations. The reality could be very different.

Opinion surveys indicate that most EFF supporters are younger than thirty. Two-thirds of all South Africans are under 35 years old and this is clearly the best market for a political party to capture.

If one accepts that the millions of young, mostly poor and often unem-

ployed black people are the EFF's most natural primary constituency, the party could theoretically have the potential to grow into a major player in years to come.

The reality is that few really poor and marginalised people bother to register as voters, and if they have, to turn up at the polling booths. Their lives are just too desperate. This is also the case in other developing countries.

The EFF hasn't gone out of its way to mobilise this group, organise them into branches and getting them to register as voters.

It seems to believe that radical talk, theatrics and symbolism are its best weapons to grow its support.

It has in fact now decided to grow its support, so far concentrated in Limpopo, Northwest and Gauteng,

to KwaZulu-Natal and last week they went to suck up to the Zulu king.

Its growth potential in this region doesn't look strong.

Malema and senior colleagues like Floyd Shivambu, Mbuyiseni Ndlozi and Dali Mpofu have matured a lot politically and are not as raw as in the early days, but their rhetoric and policy proposals are still rather crude and race-obsessed.

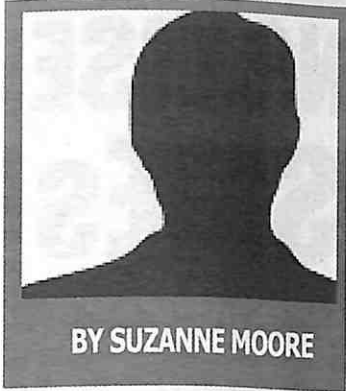
Sometimes they even create the impression that they're more focused on avenging white people than in growing and transforming the economy in the interest of the majority.

Malema's statement last week that all white South Africans, without exception, are white supremacists was a deeply racist thing to say because it suggests a genetic imperative to certain attitudes.

I also found his statement about Indian South Africans gross stereotyping.

No serious economist or agricul-

TWENTY YEARS ON, DIANA REMAINS THE ROYAL REBEL. LET HER SPEAK



BY SUZANNE MOORE

TWENTY years after her death, visions of Diana are reappearing. These are not glimpses of a beatific saint. They are neither neat nor comfortable. Rather, they are full of indications that Diana was a difficult woman.

One of the most difficult things about her was that she voiced her unhappiness sometimes in public. There was the famous Panorama interview, but there were also private tapes made with her voice coach, Peter Settelen, which are the basis of a Channel 4 documentary Diana: In Her Own Words.

Does it matter what she said all those years ago? Apparently it does, because there are those who feel these tapes were a form of therapy and should not be in the public domain. Diana's friend Rosa Monckton expressed this view. Her brother, Earl Spencer, demanded that the programme be dropped as it would upset the princes. The princes themselves have said nothing, but have spoken movingly of what a great mother she was in the ITV documentary *Diana, Our Mother: Her Life and Legacy*. She was a naughty parent full of fun who wanted them to know life beyond the palace walls. Her ability to open up about private distress and relate to "civilians" is carried on through them. Harry's recent frank discus-



DIFFICULT WOMAN: The late Princess Diana.

sion of mental health has been admirable. So, her good works continue.

Yet when we get to hear Diana's actual words, everything becomes more complex. She wasn't simply a pretty young mother. She was trapped in two miserable institutions: one of marriage and one of the royal family in which she was visibly struggling.

She had only met Charles 13 times before they were engaged. She was both naive and manipulative even then, it seems. But also very funny. She talks, for example, of being "absolutely traumatised" by the infamous interview upon their engagement when she and Charles were asked if they were in love. He questioned the meaning of "in love"

and she recalls in the video replying that of course she was in love, adding "like the fat Sloane Ranger that I was".

As the marriage became more and more miserable after five years she went sobbing to the "top lady" asking for advice about what to do. According to her, the queen just said: "I don't know what you do." She also talks of an affair with a bodyguard.

Is this scraping the barrel? Is there anything new here? Is this lowest-common-denominator TV, as it has been called? Or is it an important historical record? As so often with Diana it is all those things, but what is undeniable still is that Diana's "presence", her words, simple as they are, are disruptive of the royal

narrative and cannot just be ignored. She wanted to be seen and heard and that was troublesome. She wanted to voice how unfairly she had been treated by her husband and the entire "firm" – and that was seen by them as betrayal.

Her death made the family realise that they had to modernise – just enough – but also that they had to revert to bringing in marriage material that was not so explosive. Kate – photogenic, bland, almost mute – is a safe bet. Everyone loves the Queen more than ever due to her sphinx-like qualities. Camilla has been accepted, while Charles potters about on his permanent gap year. Few people discuss republicanism as a serious political movement any more. The royals have recalibrated just enough to secure the unthinking consent they need to carry on.

Then Diana's voice comes up again, demanding as she is. Demanding because she refused to accept her lot. When the bulimia no longer worked as a coping mechanism she became more vocal. She would speak her unhappiness. In doing so she revealed not only her own problems, but how alarming and cruel the protocols of the royal family remain.

Diana is still blamed, somehow, for the Dianafication – the open display of emotion – that unfolded after she died, and is said to have ruined our style of repressed, stiff-upper-lip grieving. But her legacy remains precisely to do with this rebellious openness, her refusal to shut up, her demand to be loved and to have some kind of life. Why is there still a need to shut her voice down, to sanitise the image of this turbulent woman? Twenty years on, how much of a threat can her talking of her marital unhappiness really be? And who does it threaten? I say let her speak.

Wit and Wisdom

● "Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." — **Abraham Lincoln**

● "It is easy to love people in memory; the hard thing is to love them when they are there in front of you." — **John Updike, My Father's Tears and Other Stories**

● "The glory of friendship is not the outstretched hand, nor the kindly smile, nor the joy of companionship; it is the spiritual inspiration that comes to one when you discover that someone else believes in you and is willing to trust you with a friendship." — **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

● "Don't bend; don't water it down; don't try to make it logical; don't edit your own soul according to the fashion. Rather, follow your most intense obsessions mercilessly." — **Franz Kafka**

● "endure what is unbearable, and you bear it. That is all." — **Cassandra Clare, Clockwork Princess**

● "The reason it hurts so much to separate is because our souls are connected. Maybe they always have been and will be. Maybe we've lived a thousand lives before this one and in each of them we've found each other. And maybe each time, we've been forced apart for the same reasons. That means that this goodbye is both a goodbye for the past ten thousand years and a prelude to what will come." — **Nicholas Sparks, The Notebook**

● "A purpose of human life, no matter who is controlling it, is to love whoever is around to be loved."

● "Crying is for plain women. Pretty women go shopping." — **Oscar Wilde**

● "I read once that the ancient Egyptians had fifty words for sand & the Eskimos had a hundred words for snow. I wish I had a thousand words for love, but all that comes to mind is the way you move against me while you sleep & there are no words for that." — **Brian Andreas, Story People: Selected Stories & Drawings of Brian Andreas**

● "The best thing for being sad," replied Merlin, beginning to puff and blow, "is to learn something. That's the only thing that never fails. You may grow old and trembling in your anatomies, you may lie awake at night listening to the disorder of your veins, you may miss your only love, you may see the world about you devastated by evil lunatics, or know your honour trampled in the sewers of baser minds. There is only one thing for it then — to learn. Learn why the world wags and what wags it. That is the only thing which the mind can never exhaust, never alienate, never be tortured by, never fear or distrust, and never dream of regretting. Learning is the only thing for you. Look what a lot of things there are to learn." — **T.H. White, The Once and Future King**

● "Go on with what your heart tells you, or you will lose all." — **Rick Riordan, The Lightning Thief**

● "The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore all progress depends on the unreasonable man." — **George Bernard Shaw, Man and Superman**

home to the ANC

tural expert would disagree that the EFF's insistence that all land be expropriated without compensation would be catastrophic for the economy, stability and food security.

The party's simplistic, purist socialist policies have demonstrably failed in every society that had adopted them. It is not an exact science to measure the attitudes of voters, but my sense is that the EFF overestimates the power of radical rhetoric, crude race politics and theatre.

Some voters would join in on social media, but I think the ordinary South African voter is actually more pragmatic and focused on real solutions that would deliver a better and fairer society. Many citizens are entertained by the EFF's violent shenanigans in Parliament, but I don't believe these theatrics have much of an impact any longer. Refusing to be in Parliament when the president was present, for instance, was counter-productive. "Give our land back" has become

a popular slogan, but this is more about symbolism and assertiveness than reality. Relatively few people have the ambition to leave the city for the tough life of working the land – and South Africa is two-thirds urbanised. Malema and Co targets Jacob Zuma all the time, but in reality there is little difference between the noises the Zuma faction and the ANC Youth League have been making recently and that of the EFF.

Talented

Malema is a clever, talented politician with ample charisma. He's not the kind of politician who would want to be in perpetual opposition. He wants power. The EFF has celebrated its fourth birthday, but it might not have a sixth birthday party, at least not as a stand-alone party.

After Zuma had gone, and the ANC further weakened because of irreconcilable factions, a coalition with or even merger with the EFF must be seen as likely right now – if Malema



CELEBRATION: Supporters at the EFF's fourth anniversary celebrations in Durban.

is assured of a powerful position. But until then the EFF will con-

tinue to punch way above its weight. **News24**

BUSINESS UPDATE

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VITALS

Prime Rate	10.75%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	6.9%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	9.75%
Swaziland Building Society	
Bank Rate	7.25%
Central Bank	
Petrol (u)	E11.80 per litre
Replacement	E11.85 per litre
Diesel	E11.70 per litre
Paraffin	E 7.95 per litre
Engen Garage	

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 31 JULY 2017

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	12.9847	13.0347
British Pound/SZL	17.0450	17.1107
Japanese Yen/SZL	8.4866	8.5169
Swiss France/SZL	13.4070	13.4545
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.2764	1.2878
Australian Dollar/SZL	10.3540	10.3965
Canadian Dollar/SZL	10.4128	10.4495
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	15.2285	15.2871
Gold	1,267.9000	
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SWAZI MOBILE OFFERS FRANCHISE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMES

Stories by Manqoba Makhubu

SWAZI Mobile is currently dangling franchise opportunities for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Interviewed during the launch of the mobile company's experience centre yesterday, the recently appointed acting Chief Executive Officer Jeff Penberton said firstly, they would operationalise their customer experience centres in Mbabane and Manzini.

He said they will be launching another experience centre at the Gables in Ezulwini this weekend, another one in Manzini and they will also expand to other towns.

Brand

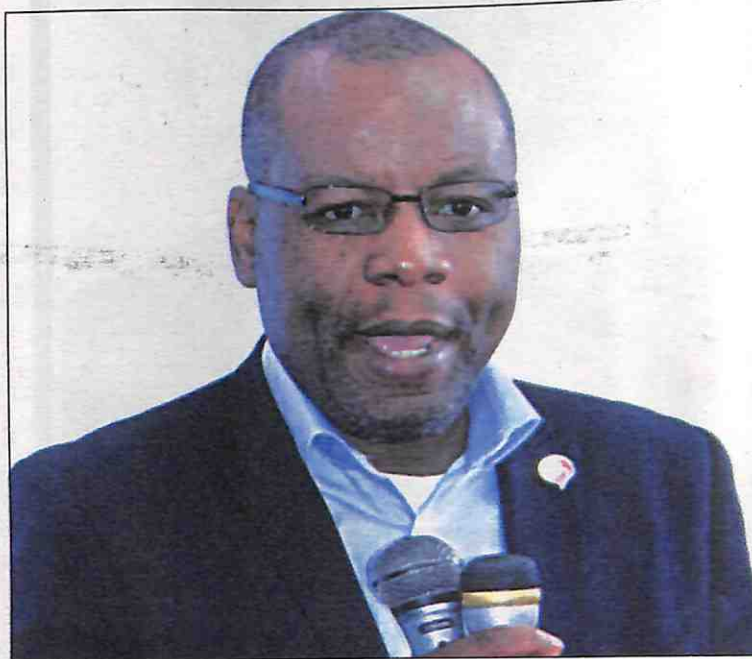
"We will then open franchise outlets around the country where we are looking to work with people. They will run the outlets. We will brand them and stay with the franchisees for three months showing them how everything is done," he said.

The company intends to set up at least 24 service centres around the country before year ends.

Adding, Penberton said they would also be looking for third party resellers, who will independently sell their telecoms equipment accessories.

"They will also join us and sell our products," he said.

He said interested companies or individuals should contact the com-



MORE GOODIES: Swazi Mobile acting Chief Executive Officer Jeff Penberton.

pany's retail manager.

"We are here to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and to further encourage them," he said.

The acting CEO said they are looking at businesses that would reflect high-quality business acumen.

Capability

"They have to show that they have the works capability and we expect them to be legally registered," he said.

The company is currently working with over 50 trading outlets in different parts of the country.

With regards to their customer

service experience centre, which he said was first of its kind; Penberton said it was intended to provide immersive experience for the company's customers.

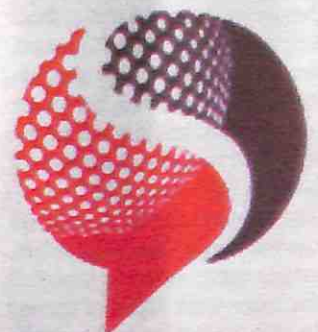
"Customers can come here to experience our fast internet, browse and download movies anytime and update their android operating systems (OS)," he said.

He said the centre was still half done.

"We will soon be adding other resources including smart tables," he said.

As of yesterday, Penberton said

...Intends to open at least 24 service centres before year ends



they had over 15 000 people active on their network since officially going live last Friday.

According to the company's network rollout plan, it seeks to cover 80 per cent of the population by October 1. Swazi Mobile network is already live in Mbabane, Ezulwini, Matsapha, Manzini and 24 other towns.

All sites are expected to provide voice and 2G, 3G and 4G data services.

Other populated areas are anticipated to be covered by December 31.

E15M BID SECURITY FOR LUSIP II MATATA BLOCK TENDER

INTERESTED eligible bidders will be required to present a bid security worth E15 million for the construction of secondary distribution systems to serve approximately 2 826 hectares of irrigation development within three off-take areas of the Matata Block.

A bid security refers to a deposit submitted with a bid to guarantee to the project owner that the bidder, if awarded the contract, will execute the contract within the specified period of time.

The contract falls under the Lower Usuthu Smallholder Irrigation Project II - (LUSIP II) championed by the Swaziland Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise (SWADE).

According to the tender invitation notice, the tender is international and bids are expected not later August 11 at 11:00.

Government applied for a loan from the European Investment Bank (EIB) towards the cost of the LUSIP

II and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to cover eligible payments under the contract.

SWADE was appointed as the executing agency for the project.

"The contract for the construction of the secondary distribution systems and pump stations and roads for contract 1: 2 826 hectares

of the Matata Block (Off-takes 1, 2 and 3) will be procured under open procedures in accordance with EIB

'Guide to Procurement' 2011 edition, as amended where specific considerations within the EIB required a change

as set out in the bank's guide to procurement," said the notice.

The contract includes the construction of secondary distribution systems to serve approximately 2 826 hectares of irrigation devel-

opment within three off-take areas of the Matata Block.

"Works in each off-take area shall consist of pipeline networks with associated booster pump stations, valves and ancillaries and the construction of haulage/ service/ access roads.

"The works will include pipeline

civils components, pipeline mechanicals and structural components (valves, chambers and ancillaries), pump station mechanical, electrical, control and instrumentation (C&I) and structural components and the construction of gravelled access/ service

roads running along certain of the secondary distribution pipelines to facilitate construction and later permanent access into the irrigation area," said the notice.

SWADE was appointed as the executing agency for the project

The contract includes the construction of secondary distribution systems to serve approximately 2 826 hectares of irrigation devel-

opment within three off-take areas of the Matata Block.

"Works in each off-take area shall consist of pipeline networks with associated booster pump stations, valves and ancillaries and the construction of haulage/ service/ access roads.

"The works will include pipeline

The contract is expected to be implemented from October 1 to July 31, 2019.

The notice said the criteria to be used in the tender evaluation include general eligibility, historical contract performance, financial capacity, project experience, personnel and equipment.

A complete set of bidding documents could be purchased by interested bidders upon submission of their application and upon payment of non-refundable fee of E2 000 cash from May 15 and June 12.

The principal objectives of the project are to reduce poverty and to improve the standard of living of the smallholder farmers in the Lower Usuthu Basin by commercialisation and intensification of irrigated agriculture from the subsistence farming currently practiced, to provide on-farm employment and non-farm employment annually.

GEP BEATS TARGET, GETS 300 ENTRANTS

Stories by Majaha Nkonyane

THE Graduates Enterprise Programme (GEP) has beaten its target and registered 300 entrants, signalling how the youth badly needed this initiative.

The initial target for the programme was to get at least 250 applications.

The GEP initiative was introduced by the ministry of commerce, industry and trade, but is facilitated by the Small Enterprises Development Company (SEDCO). Follows the lapse of the programme application deadline last Friday, SEDCO

Stakeholder Relations Specialist Mxolisi Dlamini said they had received an impressive volume of application forms.

The programme targeted graduates between the ages of 18 -35 years.

Targeted

Its intention is to assist the youth through capacity development, provision of loan deposits and linkages with development finance institutions.

"We targeted 250 applications. It is also worth noting that these are over 300 prospective businesses and not individuals as some graduates have opted to apply as part-

ners," he said.

Dlamini said they were yet to conduct the screening exercise of the applicants.

He noted though that the applicants covered a wide range of sectors such as agriculture, IT, retail, hospitality, manufacturing to name just a few.

"As the deadline for submissions of all application forms has elapsed, we shall commence the pre-selection to determine who qualifies for our three week long capacity development program which is set to begin mid-August," he said.

The programme focuses on escalating job creation through gradu-

...The programme targeted graduates between the ages of 18 -35 years

ate owned businesses in high impact sectors that are growth ready and have potential to create jobs.

Study

"We are in support of the creation of businesses formed or owned by the graduates either individually or in groups in their area of study or in any area of interest," said Dlamini.

"It is humbling to see so many young people being involved in the programme; we are looking forward to seeing the successful candidates working towards building their own businesses.

We are more than willing to support them and help them grow in the entrepreneurship field," he added.

Retailers' accelerating WOFACO growth

RETAILERS have been applauded for backing the growth of the Women Farmer of the Year Competition (WOFACO).

Woman Farmer Foundation (WFF) Programme Manager Sibusiso Dlamini said they had received tremendous support from different retailers and had seen more past winners of the competition clinch contracts deals with numerous retailers countrywide.

"We are grateful for the support that the competition winners have been receiving throughout the years, especially the support from various retailers who have signed contracts with our winners to supply them with fresh produce," he said.

He said some past winners even supply meat to butcheries whilst others supply chickens to fast food outlets.

"This promotes and supports the hard work of these farmers," he said.

Dlamini further beseeched businesses to continue supporting the programme.

2015/16 WOFACO winner Fikile Sukati also commended the support she had been getting from different food outlets and retailers.

"It is very humbling to receive such support and this goes a long way to help us stay in business," she said.

Having won the competition in 2015/16, Sukati said she had been supplying different outlets including Nandos, Shoprite Fresh Market and OK Foods.

"We are looking forward to do more business with extra retailers," she said.

Sukati said farming has come in handy and was working towards grooming more young people to assure them that they can make a living and get sustainable income through farming. "It goes without saying that there is scarcity of jobs in the country and it is advisable for young people to join agri-business," she said. She also thanked the WFF for being instrumental in the process of finding markets for farmers.



ALSO COMMENDS: 2015/16 WOFACO winner Fikile Sukati.

RETOSA to help SD increase global tourist arrivals

The Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa's (RETOSA) newly-appointed executive management has decided to increase the Southern African Development Community (SADC) global tourist arrivals and receipts.

The increment is from the current two per cent to five per cent within the next ten years.

This was decided at the Midrand Conference Centre in Johannesburg in South Africa on July 25.

Swaziland Tourism Authority (STA) Marketing Manager Bongani Dlamini said the revival of RETOSA was welcome as it would help with regional integration in as far as destination Southern Africa was concerned.

Dlamini said as an active member of RETOSA, the country has contributed immensely in shaping the ideals of the regional body.

Newly-appointed RETOSA Marketing and Communications, Thembi Kunene-Msimang said the organisation views tourism as essential to economics and trade.

"Tourism is extremely crucial in economic growth, employment creation and poverty alleviation. RETOSA sees tourism and its relations as stimulants of investment and commerce. Tourism is one industry that takes priority in a number of the SADC countries' economies," she said.



WELCOME REVIVAL: STA Marketing Manager, Bongani Dlamini. (File Pic)

The conference was attended by private and public sector representatives of tourism sectors within the SADC bloc member states.

Strategy

The conference sought a results-oriented and sustainable strategy that would identify the SADC region as a destination of choice.

Meanwhile, RETOSA Chairman and Namibia's Director of Tourism

and Gaming, Dr. Sem Shikongo revealed that RETOSA left the conference with a new mandate and key objectives which it would achieve through partnerships with the region's private sector players.

"RETOSA has since identified two key objectives; to increase the competitiveness of the region and, improve and increase the global tourism share for the region. The

two per cent we currently capture will have to be increased in the long-run. Tourism definitely is everyone's business," said Shikongo.

RETOSA CEO Desmond Golding said the organisation would take special consideration of contributions by private sector representatives whether or not they attended the conference, so as to improve their operational strategies.

Work

"RETOSA will work strategically to complement the tourism marketing strategies that are being used in other countries to avoid duplicating activities. Having the private sector present during these deliberations will work for the good of the region's tourism," he said.

Zimbabwe Tourism Council Chief Executive Officer Paul Matamisa indicated that the conference was a positive beginning for the good future of Southern Africa, where RETOSA has to engage all stakeholders, especially the private sector institutions.

South Africa Tourism Chief Executive Officer Sisa Nthshona said the organisation must drive intra-Africa tourism because a robust domestic and regional tourism sector is essential to a thriving tourism economy in Africa.

He said this could be achieved by championing regional collaboration.

REDI, Mapili join hands to help businesses achieve excellence

THE Regional Excellence and Development Initiative (REDI) together with Mapili GmbH of Germany is preparing for the second International Journey to Excellence Conference (J2Ex). The conference is themed, 'Creating a Mindset for Growth and Development' and will be held on September 27.

REDI Research and Business Management Mandla Khumalo said the conference forms part of the two

companies' corporate social investment (CSI).

"It is based on the premise that sustainable development will not happen unless a critical mass of people have the mindset, vision, and skills to support it," he said.

He said the conference would provide multiple platforms for sharing exciting new ideas and new approaches to current business challenges.

"It will provide opportunities for learning, and for personal and pro-

fessional growth: all with the aim of helping individuals, businesses and other organisations develop a vision, mindset, and skills set," he said.

Khumalo said through a series of workshops and other interventions, the programme supports individuals, teams, businesses, and organisations in their quest to turn dreams into reality. "In doing so, it introduces them to a pragmatic set of tools, new ways of thinking, and a new paradigm of excellence," he said.

The programme was developed by Mapili GmbH Managing Director Nina Mapili, MD with the support from the Southern Africa Initiative of German Business. J2Ex programme workshops have been presented throughout Southern Africa.

"Many local facilitators have been trained through the programme, including Dr. Sikhumba Gumbe of REDI," said. He said the programme will feature concise, well-prepared presentations by international and local group

speakers with a variety of areas of expertise.

"They have been selected to showcase forward looking ideas, challenge mindsets, and explore alternative viewpoints. Presentations will be recorded on video and made available over the internet," he said.

"We are also to work on implementation and skills, presenters, and participants will have the opportunity to interact in workshops, discussion groups, and creative labs. These sessions will explore the implications and implementation of ideas presented, as well as offer insight," he added.

RAND WEAKENS AS SARB BATTLES MANDATE INSTRUCTION IN COURT

JOHANNESBURG - South Africa's Reserve Bank yesterday asked the court to reverse an instruction from the nation's anti-graft ombudsman to change its mandate, as it seeks to protect its independence.

The High Court in Pretoria, the capital, is due to hear the central bank's application to set aside Public Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane's June 19 instruction that lawmakers must change the constitution to make it focus on the "socio-economic well-being of citizens" instead of inflation.

This roiled market, with the rand being the most volatile among major and emerging-market currencies this year, was condemned by the ruling party and parliament.

Concern

The independence of the central bank is cited by rating companies as a key strength, and any move to erode that could lead to further downgrades, particularly after President Jacob Zuma removed Pravin Gordhan as finance minister in March.

The move raised concern that National Treasury decisions would become more political, and sparked cuts to junk status by S&P Global Ratings and Fitch Ratings Ltd. A court judgment will bring certainty and settle the matter for investors, said Azar Jammene, chief economist at Econometrix in Johannesburg.

"The decision won't create too much of a stir if it goes the way



of the Reserve Bank," Jammene said by phone.

Ratings

"The real issue comes if the decision is in favor of the Public Protector, which may cause a little bit of panic with fears from ratings agencies as well."

While Mkhwebane has said she

won't oppose the application, her instruction remains in place until it's reversed by a court.

"Far-Reaching Consequences" "Simply by not opposing the matter she is now accepting that she did not have the authority or jurisdiction to do what she did," Lawson Naidoo, the Executive Secretary

of the Council for the Advancement of the South African Constitution, said by phone from Johannesburg.

"Given the far-reaching consequences of the original findings of the Public Protector, it is very prudent to have it set aside properly so that there can be no ambiguity about the matter."

Economy

The Reserve Bank's mandate is to target inflation at three per cent to six per cent. The Monetary Policy Committee cut the benchmark repurchase rate on July 20 for the first time in five years as its inflation outlook improved and it halved its economic growth forecast for 2017 to 0.5 percent.

Governor Lesetja Kganyago and his three deputies will be in Parliament, briefing lawmakers about the nation's economic outlook, the lender's mandate and Mkhwebane's report at the same time as the court application.

The timing of the Public Protector's report "points to growing political pressure for less independent monetary policy, a key pillar in our assessment of South Africa's gradually deteriorating institutional strength," Moody's Investors Service lead sovereign analyst for South Africa, Zuzana Brixiova, said in research report on Monday.

"It also sends another unclear signal about the policy direction." The rand weakened 0.2 per cent to 13.2142 per dollar by 9:23 a.m. yesterday in Johannesburg.

Bloomberg

JSE bullish as it breaches record highs

JOHANNESBURG - The JSE all share index, which reached a fresh record of 55,367 points on Monday before settling back to close at 55,207, looks likely to make further gains yesterday.

Chinese stocks continued their rally ahead of the JSE's opening yesterday morning, buoyed by the Caixin manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) for July coming in at 51.1 points, far higher than the expected 50.4.

This helped Hong Kong's Hang Seng index gain 0.73 per cent, the Shanghai composite index gain 0.41 per cent and the Shenzhen composite index 0.06 per cent.

Sydney's S&P/ASX 200 was 0.81 per cent higher, with BHP Billiton gaining one per cent to A\$26.11. On the JSE on Monday BHP closed 2.88 per cent higher at R239.62.

Much as China had the NBS manufacturing PMI released on Monday and the Caixin manufacturing PMI released on Tuesday, SA has the ABSA-sponsored poll of factory managers released yesterday at 11am and a similar survey sponsored by Standard Bank released on Thursday.

The ABSA manufacturing PMI, done by Stellenbosch University's Bureau of Economic Research, is expected to show factory managers rebounded to the optimistic side of 50 points in July after falling to a pessimistic 46.7 points in June. Trading Economics found the economists' consensus is for 53.6 points for July.

The Standard Bank manufacturing PMI is expected to show a rebound to 50.6 points in July from 49 in June.

Another health check of SA's manufacturing will be provided when the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of SA releases July's new vehicle sales figures. After plummeting to 34,956 in April, new vehicle sales recovered to 45,369 in June. Royal Bafokeng Platinum (RBPlat) said in a trading statement on July 13 it expected to report soon it fell into an interim headline loss per share for the six months to end-June of up to 20c from headline earnings per share (HEPS) of 77.8c. **Fin24**

Energy Minister suspends Central Energy Fund board

CAPE TOWN - Energy Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi has suspended the Central Energy Fund (CEF) board, including its acting chief executive, chief financial officer and company secretary.

Fin24 was tipped off about the suspension by a source on Monday. CEF spokesperson Jacky Mashapu declined to comment, pointing journalists to their shareholder, Kubayi. Her spokesperson, Nomvula Khalo, told Fin24 yesterday that the minister is unable to respond to questions related to CEF as they are "internal matters".

A report in the Business Day confirmed the tip-off yesterday, explaining that the suspension occurred after the board was called to a meeting last Thursday regarding the controversial stock rotation issue. They were given until 17:00 on Monday to respond to questions regarding the issue, the paper reported.

Without naming their source, the newspaper said those suspended included board chairperson Luvo

Makasi, acting CEO Mojalefa Moagi, chief financial officer Lufuno Makhuba and company secretary Abdul Haffeejee.

Makasi, who was appointed by former Energy Minister Tina Joemat-Pettersson, was in the news for his apparent close relationship to Minister of Water Affairs and Sanitation Nomvula Mokonyane this year.

City Press reported in February that Mokonyane is "allowing her young male companion to call the shots in her department - so much so that he has gone so far as giving orders to her director-general".

Khlo told Fin24 that "any correspondence between the CEF and the minister as a shareholder is confidential and not for public consumption. Should there be a need for the minister to brief the public on any matter it shall be done."

"On matters related to the sale of the country's reserves; we are almost at the end of internal process and should be able to brief the nation by September 2017." **Fin24**

Former Prasa CFO must pay back R8.22m

CAPE TOWN - Former chief financial officer and consultant at the Passenger Rail Agency of SA (PRASA) Fenton Gastin must pay back R8.22m to the agency, the high court in Pretoria has ordered.

The court declared certain agreements of employment and consultancy between Gastin and former Prasa group CEO Lucky Montana unlawful, invalid, void from the start and of no force and effect.

PRASA applied to have a contract for professional services regarding finance and strategic advice concluded on September 30 2014 between Montana and Gastin declared unlawful and invalid. PRASA asked for Gastin to pay back R8.2m relating to certain contracts. The amount included about R3.4m as part of a "mutual separation" agreement between Montana and Gastin dated July 16 2013, and about R4.9m in payments made to Gastin in terms of a consultancy agreement of September 30 2014. In an affidavit to substantiate the application on behalf of PRASA, Sipho Sithole, group chief strategy officer of the rail agency, explained that Gastin is a former PRASA



PAY BACK THE MONEY: Former Prasa group CEO Lucky Montana.

employee. According to Sithole, the history of Gastin's employment at Prasa demonstrated that he and Montana maintained a relationship with the purpose of defrauding the rail agency.

Montana had appointed Gastin as group chief risk officer on a five-year contract from August 1 2010. In January 2012 Gastin was appointed acting group chief financial officer and subsequently group chief financial officer at R3m per year.

No board resolution to approve appointment "After a diligent search no board

resolution was found approving this appointment," said Sithole.

A clause in the contract stated PRASA would compensate Gastin a six-month payout if his employment of group chief risk officer was terminated.

Sithole states, however, that by becoming chief financial officer, Gastin's remuneration increased from R2m to R3m per year. "There was no legal basis for (PRASA) to compensate (Gastin) on the basis that his appointment as the group CFP had terminated his permanent employment," stated Sithole. In his view, the payment of the compensation was a "deliberate ploy" by Montana and Gastin to pay the latter monies not legally due to him.

Later in his affidavit, Sithole said "it is wholly inexplicable that an employee's contract of employment could be terminated on the basis that the trust relationship between the employer and employee had irrevocably broken down, only to have the same relationship restored on the very day of termination, moreover at an increased remuneration and for an indefinite period." **Fin24**



LIBYA'S UN-BACKED PM CALLS FOR VOTE ON CONSTITUTION

TRIPOLI - Libya's UN-backed Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj called on Monday for a referendum on a draft Constitution approved over the weekend following years of wrangling in the war-torn country.

Libya had no Constitution throughout the four-decade dictatorship of Muammar Gaddafi, who was overthrown and killed in a NATO-backed 2011 uprising.

Libyans elected a 60-member panel in 2014 to draft one, although the vote was marred by the low turnout as public frustration mounted over the weak central government's failure to restore order in the wake of the uprising.

The panel finally voted through its draft Constitution on Saturday, paving the way for a national referendum to enshrine it into law.

The document defines the structure of power, the status of minorities, the role of Islamic law



UN BACKED: Libyan Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj.

in legislation and seeks to create institutions capable of restoring stability after years of violence.

The vote in the eastern city of Baida was disrupted by protesters, but the draft finally passed

by 43 votes out of the 44 members present.

Sarraj on Monday "welcomed the vote by the Constituent Assembly on the draft Libyan Constitution", according to a statement on the unity government's Facebook page.

Expression

"Freedom of opinion and expression must be respected by all, along with the right of all the Libyans to choose their way of life without terror or threat," he said.

He called on political actors to "create a suitable climate" for holding a referendum on the Constitution.

If passed, the draft text would make Libya a republic with a president and two houses of Parliament. Tripoli would remain the capital, Islam would be the state religion and Islamic law a source of legislation.

AP

Ex-warlord, footballer Weah begins Liberia presidential campaigns

MONROVIA - Liberia's 20 presidential candidates, including a former warlord, footballer George Weah and a former fashion model, started campaigning Monday to succeed Africa's first female head of state in October's election.

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is stepping down and there is no obvious frontrunner to lead the fragile west African state.

The Nobel Prize-winning Sirleaf was elected to run in 2005 following a long civil war which left deep scars on Liberia's economy and social fabric.

Elections for the presidency and House of Representatives take place on October 10, the first time since the end of the conflict in 2003 that the country will hold a vote

TURNED POLITICIAN: Former Liberian soccer star, George Weah.



without UN peacekeepers providing security.

Ahead of candidates opening their campaigns, the UN appealed for the ballot to go ahead smoothly, urging all "to spare no effort in their pursuit of peaceful elections."

Among the final president/vice-president tickets published by the National Elections Commission (NEC) on Monday, key figures from the civil conflict loom large.

AFP

SENEGAL POLLS:

MACKY SALL'S PROSPECTS FOR 2019 RE-ELECTION BOLSTERED

DAK - The ruling coalition of Senegal's President Macky Sall won a widely expected landslide in a legislative election, his prime minister said Monday, bolstering Sall's prospects for re-election in 2019.

The Benno Bokk Yakaar (BBY) coalition swept all but three of the country's 45 electoral departments, Prime Minister Mohammed Boun Abdallah Dionne told the public Senegalese press agency APS ahead of the official release of results.

The ruling coalition had "emerged victorious" following the vote on Sunday, Dionne said, while the turnout was 54 percent among Senegal's 6.2 million registered voters, an increase on voting in 2012.

Dionne said President Sall's opponents were likely to be ahead in the departments of Kedougou, Saraya and possibly Mbacke, but otherwise the BBY list of candidates "had been voted in by the Senegalese people".

However supporters of Dakar Mayor Khalifa Sall (no relation), who is in jail awaiting trial for what supporters say are politically motivated embezzlement charges, claimed his coalition had taken the capital.

The full official results are expected today or tomorrow.

There were a record 47 lists of candidates contesting the election, with 165 lawmakers due to take seats in parliament.

Some voters complained of being left off the electoral rolls on Sunday, and there were delays to voting in several places, partly due to bad weather.

AFP

Clashes in DRC during anti-Kabila protest

Kinshasa - Clashes broke out on Monday in the east Democratic Republic of Congo city of Goma between police and demonstrators opposed to President Joseph Kabila's sustained grip on power and demanding elections.

The youth movement Struggle for Change (Lucha) urged followers and sympathisers to turn out for "a peaceful march" around the country "to say 'No' to Mr Kabila's life presidency

and demand elections before the end of this year".

Several opposition coalitions and prominent figures including Moise Katumbi, business leader and former governor of the southern Katanga province, expressed support for the marches, timed to mark the July 31 date given by the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) to conclude the registration of voters.

AFP

Warrant of arrest out for Joyce Banda

Blantyre - Malawi police on Monday issued an arrest warrant for former president Joyce Banda in connection with the country's 'Cashgate' corruption scandal, which involved large-scale looting of government coffers.

"Malawi fiscal and fraud police have unearthed credible evidence which raises reasonable sus-

picion that the former president committed offences relating to abuse of office and money laundering," national police Spokesperson James Kadadzera told AFP.

Banda has been living in self-imposed exile

since she lost to President Peter Mutharika in the 2014 election.

Kadadzera said Banda is "suspected of abusing her office" in the Cashgate scandal.

He said the warrant of arrest came into "force" from Monday.

Cashgate is the biggest financial scandal in Malawi's history and helped push Banda out of power in 2014.

AFP

BRIEFS

Senegal ruling party claims election

DAKAR - The ruling coalition of Senegal's President Macky Sall won a widely expected landslide in a legislative election, his prime minister said on Monday, bolstering Sall's prospects for re-election in 2019. The Benno Bokk Yakaar (BBY) coalition swept all except three of the country's 45 electoral departments, said Prime Minister Mohammed Boun Abdallah Dionne, speaking to the public Senegalese press agency APS ahead of the official release of results. The ruling coalition "emerged victorious" following the vote on Sunday, Dionne said, while the turnout was 54 per cent among Senegal's 6.2 million registered voters, an increase on voting in 2012.

AFP

12 killed in Somalia Shabaab attack

KAMPALA - Uganda's military said on Monday it had lost 12 soldiers in an attack claimed by Shabaab militants in southern Somalia. The Al-Qaeda linked insurgents ambushed Ugandan troops that are part of an African Union force as they patrolled a supply route in the hotly-contested Lower Shebelle region, the military said in a statement. "From the battlefield, it is now confirmed that UPDF lost 12 gallant soldiers with seven sustaining injuries," the statement from the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces said. Witnesses told AFP the attack occurred in the village of Golweyn, some 120 kilometres from the capital Mogadishu.

AFP

Election official killed before vote

NAIROBI - An official crucial to running Kenya's presidential election next week has been found tortured and

killed, the electoral commission chairperson said on Monday, as concerns grew that the East African nation's vote again would face dangerous unrest. Wafila Chebukati helped identify

the body of Christopher Msando at the city morgue and said he had injuries to the neck and head. Msando had been reported missing a few days ago.

AP

'Witch killings': Women beaten, burned

DAR ES SALAAM - Five women accused of being witches and murdered by a mob last week were among some 80 people killed each month in Tanzania this year by vigilantes taking the law into their own hands, a report said. Thousands of elderly Tanzanian women have been strangled, knifed to death and burned alive over the last two decades after being denounced as witches. The report published by the Dar es Salaam-based rights group Legal and Human Rights Centre showed 479 deaths related to mob justice reported in Tanzania from January to June this year, including women accused of witchcraft.

Reuters

British American tobacco probed

LONDON - British American Tobacco is being investigated for possible fraud regarding company activities in Africa, it announced yesterday. Britain's Serious Fraud Office said that "it is investigating suspicions of corruption in the conduct of business by BAT, its subsidiaries and associated persons", while a spokeswoman for the tobacco giant told AFP that the probe concerned allegations of misconduct in Africa.

AFP

Focus on SA scene

WE WILL NEVER APOLOGISE FOR MALEMA'S COMMENTS - EFF



CONDEMNS CORRUPTION: EFF leader Julius Malema.

DURBAN – The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) on Monday defended Julius Malema's statements about Indians, saying the party would never apologise for condemning oppression.

"Each time we come across the suffering and oppression of our people, we shall not mince our words, nor tiptoe around false minority feelings," EFF spokesperson Mbuyiseni Ndlozi said in a statement.

"When Africans in many townships explode in xenophobic violence against Pakistanis and other

Africans from the continent, we condemn them. "Equally, the racism that African people suffer in the hands of many Indian businesses and families must be condemned and must come to an end."

During the EFF's fourth-year birthday celebrations at Curries Fountain Stadium in Durban on Saturday, Malema said Indian people are "worse than Afrikaners".

"This is not an anti-Indian statement, it's the truth. Indians who own shops don't pay our people, but they give them food parcels," Malema told thousands of supporters.

Following the statement, controversial Durban businessman and former advisor to President Jacob Zuma, Schabir Shaik, said Malema "is misinformed".

Shaik was released on medical parole in 2009 after being convicted on charges of fraud in 2005 and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

"This fool is misinformed and does not have any insight with regard to business ownership in KZN. Why does he not talk about Hulets and other big, white capital and business in the province," Shaik asked.

News24

Radebe nails his colours to the ANC leadership

PRETORIA – The field of candidates who want to lead the ANC keeps growing, with ANC Policy Head Jeff Radebe the latest to put his name forward.

On Monday night, Radebe confirmed for the first time that he is available to lead the party as its president come the December elective conference.

Addressing a Nelson Mandela lecture in Nellmapius in Pretoria, Radebe said he is a servant of the people.

There had long been speculation that Radebe might run, and last month, the Midvaal zone threw its weight behind him.

Radebe was not ready to answer the branch's call directly then, but is now.

"I'm a servant of the people. I thank you for your confidence and I thank you for your trust. I'm prepared to serve the people," he told the audience.

eNCA

ANC MP Gungubele agrees to keep quiet on Zuma

JOHANNESBURG – The ANC in Gauteng has asked ANC MP Mondli Gungubele to stop making public statements about the motion of no confidence vote in President Jacob Zuma.

"After affording comrade Gungubele an opportunity to explain himself, he was advised and requested to desist from making public pronouncements on the matter," the ANC in Gauteng said in a statement yesterday.

He accepted the provincial leaders' advice and undertook not to make any further comments.

The province called on its ANC

members to stop making public statements about issues which it said should be handled internally.

Confidence

Last week, Gungubele told News24 that he would support the motion in the National Assembly on August 8. He said he had lost confidence in Zuma. This was despite calls from both the ANC's Luthuli House headquarters and in its parliamentary caucus for its MPs to toe the party line.

On Monday, ANC Chief Whip Jackson Mthembu said he was guilty of the "most extreme form of ill-discipline" and called on the party to act

against him.

ANC Secretary General Gwede Mantashe said the party's national office would not take any action against Gungubele. He left the matter in the hands of provincial structures.

KwaZulu-Natal is already pursuing disciplinary charges against another of its MPs, Makhosi Khoza. She has publicly expressed disapproval of Zuma.

National Assembly Speaker Baleka Mbete has yet to say whether or not the vote in the motion will be via secret ballot.

News24

Gordhan, Madonsela call for more protection for whistleblowers

JOHANNESBURG – Former Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan says key leaders were chased out of the revenue service because they were standing in the way of wrong things.

He was speaking at the Democracy Defenders Dialogue at Wits Business School on Monday.

Gordhan and former Public Protector Thuli Madonsela called for more protection for whistleblowers who expose corruption.

They also warn that key institutions – mandated to act on whistleblower evidence – were seemingly attacking these whistleblowers instead.

ingly attacking these whistleblowers instead.

The Sunday Times has reported that national prosecuting Head Shaun Abrahams has assembled a team to probe so-called State Capture allegations.

A day after that report, Gordhan again warned that institutions like the National Prosecuting Authority, SARS and the Hawks were increasingly being seen as captured.

eNCA

PROTECT WHISTLEBLOWERS: Former Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan.



NEC DEEPLY WORRIED ABOUT SOES, UNEMPLOYMENT

JOHANNESBURG – The economy featured high on the agenda of the ANC's National Executive Committee (NEC) Lekgotla at the weekend.

The party's Secretary General, Gwede Mantashe revealed some of the party's new plans during a media briefing at Luthuli House on Monday.

The ANC holds a lekgotla twice per year, to assess government's progress in implementing its policies.

Mantashe said there was a focus on jobs and education, with discussions around the unemployment rate which stands at a 14-year high of 27.7 per cent. The NEC also said the government needs to provide free higher education for the poor.

"The NEC further directed the NEC Lekgotla to engage ANC to come up with a concrete proposal on the imple-



PLANS: ANC's Secretary General Gwede Mantashe.

mentation of free education for the working class and the poor, and moving the National Health Insurance from the phase of pilot to the implementation phase, harnessing science as a tool for economic development and growth, as well as strengthening the capacity of the state to deliver," Mantashe said.

Mantashe told the briefing the ANC

wants government to convert student loans into grants, for students from poor homes in 2018.

"Fully subsidised grants should be provided for academically qualifying poor students. Poor students are defined as coming from families who earn a gross income of R150 000 (per annum). So if you are given financial assistance and you are in that category that would be a grant - R150 000 and below. It will be a grant."

Mantashe admitted the NEC is deeply concerned about the health of state-owned enterprises.

"Actually we have nagged government to attend to that issue urgently because it does not instill confidence in this very important tool for economic growth - the state-owned companies."

eNCA

SA, DRC sign visa waiver for diplomats

Cape Town – South Africa and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have signed a visa waiver agreement for official and diplomatic passport holders.

The agreement was signed on Monday by Home Affairs Minister Hlengiwe Mkhize and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior and Security of the DRC, Emmanuel Ramazani Shadari in Tshwane.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Mkhize said the signing of the agreement is a positive step towards enhancing relations between South Africa and the DRC. "The Republic of South Africa and the Democratic Republic of the Congo maintain good diplo-

matic and political relations. The highest expression of our relations is the annual Bi-National Commission (BNC), co-chaired by the heads of state," says Mkhize.

Evident

Mkhize said diplomatic ties between the two countries are growing and this is evident in the recent training programme of diplomats from the DRC. To date, more than 700 DRC diplomats have been trained.

Mkhize says the visa waiver will further enhance cooperation between SA and the DRC by making it even easier for officials to regularly interact with each other without hindrance.

News24

INVISIBLE AIR VENTS AND NOT A DIAL OR KEY IN SIGHT:

THE SPARTAN INTERIOR OF THE US\$35 000 TESLA MODEL 3 REVEALED

LONDON - The Tesla Model 3 was already being hailed as the Ford Model T of the modern age, and now the first look at the electric car's interior shows just how revolutionary it is.

The dashboard lacks all the bells and whistles of every car to come before - it has no speedometer or gauges at all, and owners never need to use a key - instead relying on their phone.

In addition to the complete lack of a traditional dashboard, even hardware features like air vents are invisible.

All the typical features that help drivers navigate the roads have been replaced with a single 15-inch touchscreen display that sits in the centre of the dash.

The screen provides all necessary information - from speed to the car's battery life - on the single display, which can be controlled easily using two buttons on either side of the steering wheel or the touch pad.

Musk has even taken to Twitter to tell customers 'You just won't care' that there is no traditional dashboard.

Even airflow from the discreet vents is aimed by moving spots around on the display, where you can divide the airflow to send it past each ear.

'Model 3 uses two intersecting planes of air for vertical control and lateral fins hidden within the dashboard for horizontal control,' Musk tweeted.

Something truly unique is that you can use your hands to adjust the wheels to exactly how they should be.

While the screen is centered between the driver and passenger seats where a radio would typically be fixed, one test driver said he 'didn't have to turn his head from the windshield' and noted

- The Tesla Model 3 has been described as a watershed moment for electric cars
- There is no speedometer, gauges or typical dashboard components
- Only a tablet digital display sits on the picture perfect wooden dash



BAN: The first 30 models were handed over to customers during a glitzy ceremony at the company's factory in California last Friday. It came two days after the environment secretary Michael Gove announced a ban on the sale of petrol and diesel cars from 2040.

this will take a while for drivers to adjust to. Other moving parts have been fixed as well, leading the makers to boast it is 'virtually maintenance-free'. The car doesn't have a key - instead it syncs to your phone through a bluetooth connection and automatically unlocks as you approach the vehicle.

There are also two 'keycards' supplied, which can be given to valets or parking attendants. These use NFC similar to a travelcard to unlock the car and start it. Over time, they will have the option to pay for iPhone-style updates which will unlock new features and correct any glitches.

Critics are saying that with the Model 3, Elon Musk has finally delivered on his promise of minimalism.

Even at its cheap price, the first test

drivers have reached a consensus that it still drives and feels like the initial luxury-priced models.

While this is a compact Tesla, it boasts 15 cubic feet and feels big and roomy, according to reviews.

Critics are saying that with the Model 3, Elon Musk has finally delivered on his promise of minimalism.

Clever design made it happen - the dash is pulled ahead and pressed down, yet the touchscreen is apart from it and set close to your right hand for easy reach. The premium version, which costs US\$5 000 more, has better-grade materials, a wood-veneered dash, 12-way front seats, heated rear seats, side-by-side inductive phone chargers, 12-speaker sound and a panoramic glass ceiling.

Daily Mail



NO SPEEDOMETER: The dashboard lacks all the bells and whistles of every car to come before. It has no speedometer or gauges at all. All the typical features that help drivers navigate the roads have been replaced with a single 15-inch touchscreen display that sits in the centre of the dash. (*Daily Mail*)

THE MODEL 3'S TOUCHSCREEN

The Tesla Model 3 dashboard lacks all the bells and whistles of every car to come before - it has no speedometer or gauges at all and instead boasts a single 15-inch touchscreen that controls everything.

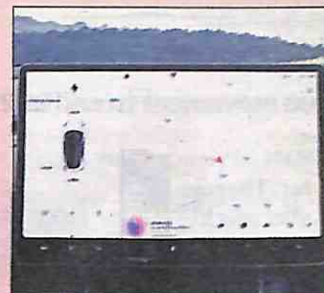
It provides all necessary information - from speed to the car's battery life.

Like Tesla's other car consoles, it also allows drivers to control everything from the car's navigation system to its hifi, allowing access to streaming music services.

Even the cars trunk and 'frunk' (it's front trunk) are opened via the interface.

The screen can be controlled easily using two buttons on either side of the steering wheel or the touch pad.

While the screen is centered between the driver and passenger seats where a radio would typically be fixed, one test driver said he



WORTH THE WAIT: The arrival of the Tesla Model 3 has been described as a watershed moment for electric cars, which have long been considered costly, inefficient and impractical.

'didn't have to turn my head from the windshield.'

Something truly unique is that you can use your hands to adjust the wheels to exactly how they should be..

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BRIEFS

Venezuela set for new protests

CARACAS - Venezuela braced for new protests Monday after a controversial election for an assembly to rewrite the constitution unleashed a wave of unrest that left 10 people dead. Opponents of embattled President Nicolas Maduro vowed another day of nationwide marches, defying an intensifying crackdown on protests that have left more than 120 people dead in four months. Flouting international condemnation — including the threat of new actions by US President Donald Trump's administration — Maduro meanwhile claimed victory in Sunday's election, citing an official turnout figure of 41.5 per cent.

10 slain in central Mexico state

MEXICO CITY - Ten people were slain in several locations in a central Mexico state, among them a police chief in one city and four members of a family in another town, authorities said. The federal Attorney General's Office said Police Chief J Santos Juarez Rocha of the city of Celaya and one of his bodyguards were found dead on Monday morning on the outskirts of the nearby city of Salamanca. The office said its Homicide Investigation Unit and Criminal Investigation Agency would be analysing evidence to try to determine responsibility for the double homicide.

AP

EU free movement to end in 2019

LONDON - Prime Minister Theresa May's office says free movement to Britain from European Union countries will end when the UK leaves the bloc in March 2019, but it's uncertain what migration arrangements will look like after that. Spokesperson James Slack said on Monday that "other elements of the post-Brexit immigration system will be brought forward in due course". May's government is divided over Brexit, and ministers have been sending mixed signals.

AP

Probe into downed flight wraps up

MOSCOW - The Dutch-led Joint Investigation Team (JIT), which is conducting the probe into the Malaysian Boeing MH17 crash in the Donetsk region in 2014, was scheduled to finish its work yesterday. Malaysian Airlines Boeing 777 crashed in eastern Ukraine in July 2014 en route to Kuala Lumpur from Amsterdam. All 298 people on board were killed. In September 2016, the JIT, comprising Australia, Belgium, Malaysia, the Netherlands and Ukraine, announced that the airplane was allegedly downed by a missile launched from a Buk missile system, which was delivered from Russia and returned there after the incident.

African News Agency

Trump dictated son's statement

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump personally dictated a misleading statement in which his son - Donald Trump Jr - said a meeting with a Russian lawyer during the 2016 election was focused on adoptions. The Washington Post reported. It later emerged that during that fateful June 2016 meeting, Trump's eldest son, his son-in-law Jared Kushner and then-campaign manager Paul Manafort met with a Russian government attorney who, an intermediary claimed, had incriminating information about Trump's rival Hillary Clinton. The subject line of the email from Trump Jr inviting Kushner and Manafort to the meeting read "Russia - Clinton - private and confidential."

AFP

World News

TRUMP SWEARS IN NEW CHIEF OF STAFF

WASHINGTON - Anthony Scaramucci is out as White House Communications Director after just 11 days on the job, and just hours after President Donald Trump's new chief of staff, John Kelly, was sworn into office.

Hoping to turn the page on a tumultuous opening chapter to his presidency, Trump had insisted earlier on Monday that there was "no chaos" in his White House as he swore in the retired Marine general as second chief of staff.

Not long after, Scaramucci, who shocked many with his profane outburst last week against then-chief of staff Reince Priebus, was gone.

In the words of the White House announcement, he was leaving because he "felt it was best to give Chief of Staff John Kelly a clean slate and the ability to build his own team". The two-sentence release concluded, "We wish him all the best".

Earlier, in an Oval Office ceremony, Trump predicted Kelly, who previously served as Homeland Security chief, would do a 'spectacular job'. And the president chose to highlight the rising stock market and positive jobs outlook rather than talk about how things might need to change in his White House under Kelly.

Trump last Friday ousted Priebus as chief of staff and turned to Kelly, who he hopes will bring military discipline to an administration weighed down by a stalled legislative agenda, infighting among West Wing aides and a stack of investigations.



NEW CHIEF: US President Donald Trump speaks with newly sworn-in White House Chief of Staff John Kelly at the White House in Washington. (AFP)

The re-shuffling continued on Monday with word that Scaramucci, on the job from less than two weeks, will no longer serve in the White House's top communications post.

Unemployment

While Trump is looking for a reset, he pushed back against criticism of his administration with this tweet: "Highest Stock Market EVER, best economic numbers in years, unemployment lowest in 17 years, wages rising, border secure, SC: No WH chaos!"

In fact, economic growth averaged two per cent in the first half of this year, a pace Trump

railed against as a candidate and promised to lift to three per cent. The stock market first hit a record under President Barack Obama and has kept growing. The unemployment rate, too, started to decline on Obama's watch. And wage gains have been weak.

Trump on Monday convened his first Cabinet meeting with Kelly at his side, telling his team it is "doing incredibly well" and "starting from a really good base". On how he would deal with rising tensions with North Korea, Trump said only: "It will be handled."

AFP

Mexican president denies calling Trump to praise border policy

MEXICO CITY - Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto said on Monday he had not recently spoken to Donald Trump on the phone, after the US leader boasted his counterpart had called him to praise his border policy.

Trump made the comments as he presented his new chief of staff, former Homeland Security secretary John Kelly, who is tasked with restoring order to a White House beset by scandal, infighting and legislative defeats.

"At Homeland, what he has done has been nothing short of miraculous," Trump said of Kelly.

"As you know, the border was a tremendous problem and they're close to 80 per cent stoppage. And even the president of Mexico called me - they said their southern border, very few people are coming because they know they're not going to get through our border, which is the ultimate compliment."

Pena Nieto's office rejected that account.

"President Enrique Pena Nieto has not recently communicated with President Donald Trump by phone," it said in a statement.

It said the two leaders had last discussed migration issues when they met on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Germany on July 7.

AFP

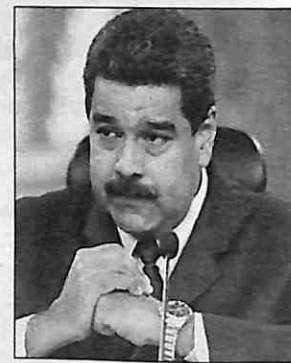


US targets Venezuelan President for sanctions

WASHINGTON - The US government slapped sanctions on Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on Monday, the Trump's administration's toughest move so far against his government in response to Sunday's election of a legislative superbody Washington denounced as a "sham" vote.

No oil-related measures were included in the announcement, but such measures remain under consideration, according to congressional sources and a person familiar with the White House's deliberations on the matter.

Under the sanctions, all of Maduro's assets subject to US jurisdiction were frozen and Americans are now barred



TARGETED: Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

from doing business with him, the US Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control said.

"By sanctioning Maduro, the United States makes clear our opposition to the policies of

his regime and our support for the people of Venezuela who seek to return their country to a full and prosperous democracy," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a statement.

He said anyone who participates in the new legislative superbody could be exposed to future US sanctions for undermining democracy in Venezuela.

In Caracas on Monday, Maduro celebrated the election of the new legislative superbody, which is expected to give the ruling Socialist Party sweeping powers. He mocked US criticism that the vote on Sunday was an affront to democracy.

Reuters

NEW ZEALAND OPPOSITION LEADER QUILTS

WELLINGTON - The leader of New Zealand's main opposition Labour Party quit yesterday, just weeks before a general election, citing 'disappointing' opinion polls.

Outgoing Andrew Little said the centre-left party needed a fresh team at the top for the September 23 election after its support plunged to 20-year-lows

of between 23 and 24 per cent. "Recent poll results have been disappointing. As leader, I must take responsibility for these results," he said.

"I do take responsibility and believe that Labour must have an opportunity to perform better under new leadership through to the election."

Little stepped down immedi-

ately, with the Labour caucus set to elect a replacement later yesterday. He backed his deputy Jacinda Ardern for the role.

The centre-right National Party-led coalition under Prime Minister Bill English is seeking a fourth term in the election and comfortably leads in the polls.

AFP



...The Johannesburg based film festival is one of the sub-continent's leading film festivals and it is a privilege for the young man to be considered amongst the top 10 young film makers

By Susan Dlamini

YOUNG Swazi film maker Manqoba Shongwe has been identified as one of the top 10 young film makers in Africa by the Jozi Film Festival.

Because of this, Manqoba's work will get to be showcased on DSTV Discovery channel where viewers will watch his short story and vote after.

Manqoba started his film career at The Film Lab.

The Film Lab is an Initiative by Swaziland Independent Film and Television Producers Association and the European Union which gives Swazis interested in film a chance to actually be hands on in the making of films. This is where he fell in love with

film making and made his short film called 'Discovery' that has now won him a place in the top 10 young African film makers.

Shongwe said "the film is about exploring your talents and learning from your aspirations".

It is a great achievement for the young Swazi film maker as now his film will be viewed by people from all parts of Africa.

It is amazing that at a young age he has managed to put Swaziland on the map for film making.

Privilege

Shongwe said he makes it a point never to neglect to learn and always to do what he loves with passion.

The Jozi Film Festival is a festival that was started to showcase the work of film makers that do not have the opportunity to have their work viewed in traditional cinemas.

The Johannesburg based film festival is one of the sub-continent's leading film festivals and it is a privilege for the young man to be considered amongst the top 10 young film makers.

The annual festival will be held in

LOCAL FILM MAKER AMONGST JOZI FILM FESTIVAL TOP 10

#VOTENOW

DISCOVERY

Discovery CHANNEL DON'T STOP WONDERING JOZI FILM FESTIVAL

Johannesburg and Soweto over a four day period.

This is the first time that the Jozi

Film Festival has partnered with Discovery channel to launch a continent-wide search for African film mak-

ing talent which means Manqoba is amongst the first young people whose work will be showcased on the channel. Winners will to receive trophies in each category that they are nominated in but the winner of the "Don't Stop Wondering" category that the young film maker is in can look forward to not only a trophy but a cash prize of \$5 000 (USD) (E65 000). The winner will be flown to Johannesburg to receive their prize at the Jozi Film Festival awards event.

Welile Masuku who is the supervising producer for Manqoba's film said that as Film Lab they are thrilled about Manqoba making it to the top 10 young film makers and it was obvious from the beginning that he has a special gift and great potential to soar to even high lengths. She would like to encourage the Swazi nation to rally behind Manqoba and vote for him as he is putting Swaziland on the map. Manqoba revealed that he is greatly honoured by this prestigious opportunity and the fact that he is being recognised for such a big platform is amazing, he is very excited and thrilled about this.

SA STARS TO DESCEND IN THE COUNTRY FOR MTN SWAMAS

By Ayanda Dlamini

A dozen South African and regional celebrities have confirmed they will attend this Saturday's historic night for Swazi music: the MTN SWAMA Music Awards' presentations.

The awards night will be held at the plush Royal Swazi Convention Centre, and will see the crowning of the country's celebrated musicians and spinners following an intense period of public voting that ended Monday July 31.

Chairman of the MTN SWAMA Music Awards organising committee Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini said Akhumzi Jezile from SABC is among the celebrities that will be attending the event.

Drama

Akhumzi Jezile is a South African actor, television presenter and producer best known as a presenter on various YOTV

shows on SABC1, from 2007-2012.

He is also known for his starring role as Tsietsi Zwane in the SABC1 comedy-drama series Khululeka Siyavota, a democracy education drama with comedy produced by Penguin Films for SABC Education in consultation with the IEC.

In 2013 he landed the starring role of Ngulube in the SABC1 drama series Tempy Pushas, set against the backdrop of the lavish fashion world and juxtaposed with the vibrant township culture.

Akhumzi was also a radio presenter for Umhlobo Wenene for SABC, the face of the

Maggie 2-Minute Noodles presenter, and a brand ambassador for the Protex Give Me 5 Campaign. He was also a producer on the biggest YOTV show, The Big Breakfast. He is multilingual, speaking Xhosa, English, Zulu and Sotho. In 2016 he replaced Zuluboy (Mxolisi Majosi) as the host of the SABC1 music variety show Fan Base, joining in Season

5.

Dlamini also said Trompies member and President of the South African Music Industry Council Eugene Mthethwa is among the celebrities that will be attending the awards' night.

"Eugene is a celebrated musician and producer who started his career working with legendary producer Chicco Twala, then achieved distinction with Mapantsula group Trompies, who have delivered hits like 'Sigiya Ngengoma', 'Magasma' and 'Jakarumba' over the past decade," said Dlamini.

Also attending the MTN SWAMA Mas will be the SAMAs CEO Advocate Nhlanihla Sibisi, as well as Kalawa Jazzme's Khapadiya.

Dlamini revealed that South African based Swazi artist Big Dreamz, who has worked with Cassper Nyovest among others, will also be attending the Saturday event.

Meanwhile, Dlamini revealed that the awards night will be succeeded by an after party tentatively scheduled for Esibayeni Lodge.

The MTN SWAMA Music Awards are being bankrolled by Swazi MTN to the value of E474 000.00, and are expected to be an annual event starting this year.



Title Sponsor

BENJAMIN DUBE ALREADY IN THE COUNTRY

By Ayanda Dlamini

TWO days to go before Benjamin Dube's colossal shows 'One night with the King' and 'Victorious in his presence' launch and the Bishop is already in the country, having arrived yesterday.

According to Leserato Events Mandla 'Cheeks' Nxumalo, the gospel master will spend the week with his entire team doing rehearsals for the events where he will be featuring Dube Brothers, Judith Sephuma, Nothando Hlophe, Mmatema Moremi, and many more artists.

Nxumalo also mentioned that the bishop will also be visiting media houses to promote his upcoming events and he will only leave Swaziland after both shows.

"We are excited to confirm that the bishop is already in the country for rehearsals with us and to personally confirm the events are going ahead this weekend," Nxumalo said.

He urged the public to secure their



WE ARE HERE: Benjamin Dube pictured with Leserato Events' Mandla 'Cheeks' Nxumalo at the Swazi Observer Offices yesterday when he arrived. (Pic: Lungelo Nkambule)

tickets ahead of the shows to avoid the disappointment of missing out, or leaving things too late.

Tickets are still available at Mgavuzi in Mbabane and Sdeez in Manzini.

Nxumalo revealed that preparations are at an advanced stage for a world class production and night

never to be forgotten.

Dube and his team will be doing rehearsals as from today till the days of the two shows, 'One night with a King' live DVD recording at Esibayeni Lodge on Friday and 'Victorious in his presence' with 'One night with a King' double

launch at Mavuso Trade Centre in Manzini on Saturday.

For the 'One night with King' show, tickets cost E 1 000 per head and for the double launch; 'Victorious in his presence' and 'One night with the King' double launch cost E450 VIP and E250 general.



AMADODANA COMPETITION FINAL SHOW DOWN

By Susan Dlamini

THE Amadodana competition has reached its final stage as they nearing the day of the finals which are on the August 26 at Mfanyana Hall starting at 5:30pm.

The eagerly awaited final will see a return of all the competitors that were eliminated from the four regions. These groups will show case their talent and perform for the last time. The competition also had guest performances who will also perform on the final night, these groups are Indumiso zabapostile, Izwi Lamawesile, Amadodana Akumatsapha, Amadodana asepostile and Ukuthokoza Kwamadodana. After all the performances the top 12 that were picked from each region of Swaziland will then perform for the number one spot.

At the event a number of church denominations will be in attendance, namely Methodist Church, Independent Methodist



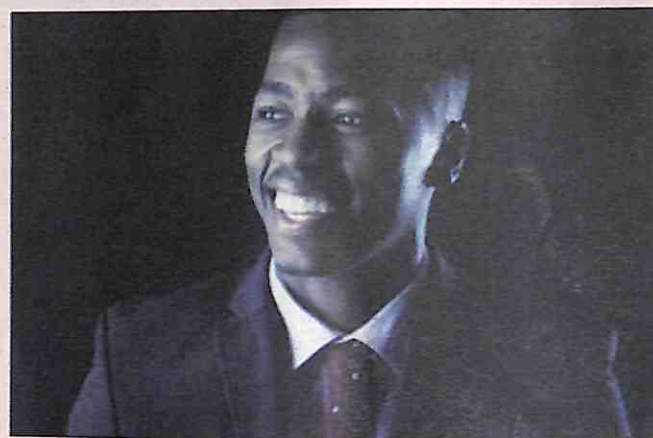
Indumiso Zabapostile.

Church, Sweedish Free Church, African Apostolic Faith Church and Gwamile Apostolic World Faith Church.

Deal

Prizes to be won on the day by the groups include a recoding deal worth E10 000 courtesy of Dem Dem studios for the number one spot, Uniform worth E6 000 courtesy of Sigeja Curious for second place, E2 500 cash courtesy of once off cleaning in Matsapha for third place and participation certificates for the fourth and fifth place.

The competition has been working closely with Swaziland National Council of Arts and Culture, one of the competition coordinators Rooney Dlamini, revealed that they are grateful for the wonderful support that they received from the organisation, it shows that indeed they are sticking to their mandate of promoting music in the country. He also said that they are thankful for all their sponsors and are hoping for more sponsors in the future as they want the competition to be an annual event.



TRENDING: Comedian Mdura Dlamini.

MDURA COMEDY SKITS

By Susan Dlamini

COMEDIAN Mdura Dlamini has started posting his scratches in a different way by following in the footsteps of international comedians and posting videos on his social media pages for viewing by his fans.

The comedian said he started doing these videos as a way of reaching out to his fans and interacting with them because a lot of his fans who are in distant places in Swaziland or outside the country are finding it difficult to always come to shows, so by doing this he is bringing the jokes to the comfort of their homes.

He will be posting the videos weekly on Wednesdays and Fridays on all his social media pages.

According to the comedian the videos are being received very well as even Swazi's that are living abroad have communicated to him how much they are enjoying the videos, he is also getting a lot of feedback from Swazi's locally as they are saying this is one of the things that they look forward to watching when they check their social media on the days that the comedian has posted the videos.

Fans

He has only been posting the videos for a few weeks but they have received over a 1000 views already. Mdura revealed that his fans can look out for more skits in the coming weeks ahead and that he is planning on doing a lot more smaller shows monthly instead of doing the big shows once in a while.

LOCAL MOVIES LAUNCH IN PICS

By Lindokuhle Lukhele

LOCAL film producers celebrated the making of local movies during an event gala dinner held on Saturday night at the Movie Zone.

The event was graced by guests such as Swaziland's National Arts and Culture (SNAC) CEO Stanley

Dlamini, Miss Cultural Heritage Sindiswa Dlamini with her princesses and former Miss Swaziland Nozipho Shabangu.

Event

The event was organised by local film producer Melusi Sikhosana, who appreciated that the event was sponsored by Movie Zone, Swazi TV, Super Signs and Macmillan.



ALSO THERE: Event organiser Abejide Michael with Arts & Culture CEO Stanley Dlamini as well as film producer Bhekisisa Nkambule.



CREATIVES: Film producers, actors as well as Miss Cultural Heritage beauty queens after the launch. (Pics: Lindokuhle Lukhele)



BEAUTIES: Miss Cultural Heritage 2016/17 Sindiswa Dlamini graced the event with her princesses Minenhle Sithole and Nontobeko Simelane.



CERTIFIED: Swaziland National Council of Arts and Culture CEO Stanley Dlamini with some of the film producers carrying their participation certificates.



EMOTIONAL: Melusi Sikhosana narrating how his passion for film production almost never happened.



NEXT ITEM: MC Mhlonishwa Motsa asking the audience to buy the DVDs that were available.



HELLO: Rapper Simanga Mavuso greeting Swaziland National Council of Arts and Culture Stanley Dlamini while Youth Council board member Nozipho Shabangu looks on.



ATTENTIVE: The audience paying close attention to John Pires explaining how digital migration will enable Swazi producers be able to make a living through their products.

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International
Celebrity News

Harry Styles 'smitten' by model Camille Rowe

NEW YORK - The former 'One Direction' star Harry Styles reportedly off the market, having fallen for the womanly wiles of Victoria's Secret model Camille Rowe.

Styles and his lucky lady who are both buddies with Alexa Chung, 33 - were spotted together at a gig in New York this past weekend. And far from being a flash in the pan, a source reckons he's fallen for her big time. "Harry and Camille are in the early stages of dating. He's very protective of his relationships so isn't going to want to make a big show of things. They are well suited and seem



SMITTEN: Harry Styles and Camille Rowe.

happy," a source told the newspaper. "She's a real star on the rise. He seems besotted." Camille is the third VS babe he's dated, with Sara Sampaio, 26, and Nadine Leopold, 23, amongst his former flings.

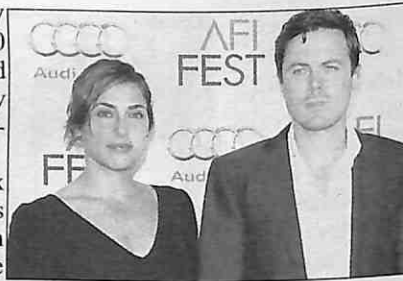
Mirror

Casey Affleck's wife files for Divorce

LOS ANGELES - Casey Affleck's wife of almost 10 years, Summer Phoenix, filed for divorce on Monday, July 31, according to multiple outlets.

The docs filed by Phoenix list the date of separation as November 2015, although the couple didn't announce their split till March 2016.

"Casey and Summer have amicably separated. They remain very close friends," his rep told us in a statement at the time. Affleck, 41, and model-actress Phoenix, 38, were introduced by her older brother, Joaquin Phoenix, in 2000. They wed in 2006 in



DIVORCING: Summer Phoenix and Casey Affleck.

Savannah, Georgia, and are the parents of two boys, Indiana, 13, and Atticus, nine.

Summer is asking for spousal support and attorney fees.

US Weekly

Drew Barrymore reveals gray hair in selfie

LOS ANGELES - Drew Barrymore revealed her gray roots and unplucked eyebrows in a makeup-free selfie she posted on Instagram.

#becomingsheila, the 42-year-old hashtagged the pic, referring to her character in the Netflix horror-comedy series Santa Clarita Diet.

"OH MY GOD How did I let it get this bad," she captioned the photo that showed her from the nose up, leaning back against a pillow. "Base and brows needed. Must become



her. #santaclaritadiet here we go again. Season two."

The mom of two plays Sheila Hammond, a California real estate agent who becomes a zombie and needs to feed on human flesh, in the series that debuted in February. Timothy Olyphant plays her husband, who helps Sheila satisfy her hunger.

US Weekly

GREY: Drew Barrymore.

Patrick Dempsey's wife, Jillian sweet note

CALIFORNIA - Patrick Dempsey's wife, Jillian Dempsey, shared a sweet pic and note on Instagram to mark the couple's wedding anniversary on Monday.

"Happy 18th anniversary @patrickdempsey!" the makeup artist captioned a photo that showed the Grey's Anatomy alum kissing her on the cheek as they relaxed on the beach in swimsuits. "Through thick and thin...I love you." She signed the loving message "wifey." Love is clearly better the second time around for the couple, who were headed for divorce after Jillian filed documents in the Los Angeles



ANNIVERSARY: Jillian and Patrick Dempsey.

Superior Court in January 2015. At the time, she requested spousal support and joint custody of their three children, daughter Tallula, 15, and twins Sullivan and Darby, 10.

Mirror

SA Celebrity News

Zodwa Wabantu wants to meet Mugabe

JOHANNESBURG - Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe has an unlikely admirer in Zodwa Wabantu, who before arrival in the country, was scared of being deported.

Zodwa said before she made the trip to Zimbabwe some fans warned her to 'behave' because that country's president is a strict man.

"They were telling me that Mugabe does not allow nonsense. And as a result I would not be allowed into Zimbabwe because I am



AT HOME: Zodwa Wabantu.

too sexy. Some feel I will be half naked and that he (Mugabe) knows that I don't wear panties," she told local journalists.

Having arrived with nothing but a celebrity welcome at the Joshua Mqabuko Nkomo Airport, Zodwa felt 'at home'. "I would love to meet Mugabe if given a chance," she said. A local socialite paid US\$2 500 (R32 500) to secure the VVIP booth at Club Connect where he and his entourage had exclusive access to Zodwa.

Tshisa Live

Princess Mahlangu still too traumatised

JOHANNESBURG - Before sending an SOS to Police Minister Fikile Mbalula, rescued South African model Princess Mahlangu, 24, had recorded a five-minute video in Malaysia last week, thanking everyone who had supported her. However, Mahlangu's happiness was short-lived when she reported to her brother that she may have fallen into the hands of an alleged human trafficking syndicate.

In the video clip, seen by the Sowetan, a man alleged to have lured Mahlangu and other hopeful models was confronted by a group of women. The video was allegedly taken in Malaysia



TRAUMATISED: Model Princess Mahlangu.

at a hotel the women were allegedly not allowed to leave.

Sowetan

'Parents also have a responsibility'

JOHANNESBURG - While 'Generations: The Legacy' creator Mfundu Vundla has reportedly apologised for offending people with recent erotic sex scenes, he would apparently not take all the blame for 'corrupting children.'

'Generations: The Legacy' found itself in the middle of a storm last week after viewers expressed outrage over recent sex scenes between Smanga Moroka (played by Moopi Mothibeli) and Thabi (Motsoaledi Setumo). Viewers felt strongly about the scenes and inundated the SABC and the BCCSA with complaints. An omnibus which included the controversial scenes was scrapped



TOO SEXY: Smanga Moroka and Thabi.

from TV after the complaints. Speaking to Drum magazine Mfundu said he was apologetic for offending people, but said parents should also take responsibility for what their children were allowed to watch.

Sowetan

It was all for a music video - Bontle Modiselle

JOHANNESBURG - Nearly two weeks after almost shutting down the internet with posts suggesting they were engaged, rapper Priddy Ugly and TV personality Bontle Modiselle have confessed to faking their engagement and subsequent wedding all for a music video.

The couple had posted several pictures over the last week and a half of their engagement, traditional wedding and white wedding, sparking a frenzy among



FOR VIDEO: Bontle Modiselle.

label with Priddy Ugly.

Sowetan

fans. They also spoke openly about their 'engagement' and 'wedding' in an interview with website Zkhiphani, saying that they had turned down several offers for a reality show on their romance. Bontle admitted that the pair had only posted the snaps to promote a new music video for the song 'I Do' by musician LaSauce. LaSauce shares a record label with Priddy Ugly.

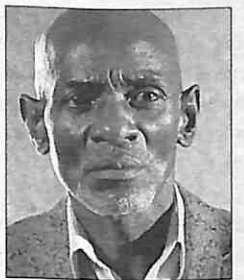
WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST

ISIBAYA

TODAY

eBhubesini wakes up to devastating news. Khanyi witnesses Ngwebedla flexes his newfound muscle.

FLEXES: Ngwebedla.



ISIDINGO

TODAY

Sechaba and Ofentse's dispute is interrupted by an unexpected visitor. Wendy confronts Zandre about being attacked the previous day. Will he tell her the truth? Morongwa and Wendy try to persuade Pipiliza, the security guard, to delete the security footage, but he has an interesting demand.



INTERRUPTED: Sechaba.

Muvhango

TODAY

Ranthomeng goes on a mysterious trip. Matshidiso has some inside information for James. Vhangani demands his money back from Thifhelimbilu.

GOES ON A MYSTERIOUS TRIP: Ranthomeng.



RHYTHM CITY

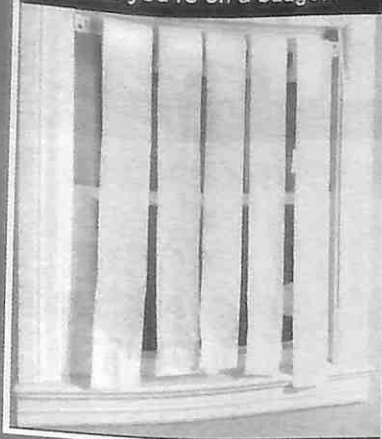
TODAY



GULLIBLE: Reneilwe.

Reneilwe buys into Kgaugelo's lies. Lungile convinces Bongi that she can't trust her own eyes. David ignores Andiswa's warnings, and Pearl auditions.

When you need curtains,
but you're on a budget...



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn December 22 – January 19

You don't have to fear the worst Capricorn. It's permissible to be optimistic and believe that everything – yes, everything – will work out for the best in the end.



Aquarius January 20 – February 18

You don't have to say nice things about a certain person just because you think it is expected of you. But you don't have to say bad things about them either. On the work front especially try to play down your likes and dislikes today.



Pisces February 19 – March 20

Someone is being excessively friendly towards you at the moment and it's making you suspicious. Are they being honest about their feelings? Maybe, maybe not, but you won't know until you investigate further.



Aries March 21 – April 19

Progress on a DIY task could be stymied through lack of experience. Another twist on this could be someone's criticism of your best efforts. Either way, the difference between how you want things to be and how they are could prompt you to take action.



Taurus April 20 – May 20

The best way to get over your fears is to help friends and loved ones get over their fears first. The more you help others now the less time your mind will have to dwell on your own irrational anxieties.



Gemini May 21 – June 21

A choice you make concerning a relationship will determine how that relationship develops in the future, so think before you act and only act when you know exactly what



you are doing.

Cancer June 22 – July 22

Now that Venus, planet of harmony, is in your sign you need to make sure that you don't give too much away. Also, you need to remind certain people that you are a free individual and don't exist merely to satisfy their whims and fancies.



Leo July 23 – August 22

With both the sun and Mars moving through your sign you cannot help but be a whirlwind of activity. If you put your mind to it you will be able to create in a matter of hours what it takes others days, weeks, even months to put together.



Virgo August 23 – September 22

There may be a valid reason why you feel the need to go on the attack but you must control it so that you can focus your anger in the right direction rather than risk hitting everyone.



Libra September 23 – October 23

A creative activity of some sort is sure to go well for you, but only if you start it immediately. Libra has a tendency to put things off until the last moment but if you do that today it's unlikely the project will ever get finished.



Scorpio October 24 – November 21

You are not and never have been a victim of chance, let alone fate, so stop feeling sorry for yourself because something went wrong and focus on finding ways you can put it right.



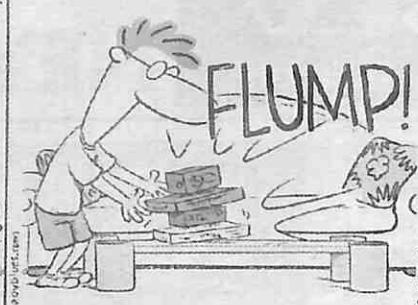
Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

You will achieve results above and beyond what others were expecting of you over the next few days, but you never had any doubts at all that you would do something amazing. As always, it's better to aim too high than too low.



BABY BLUES

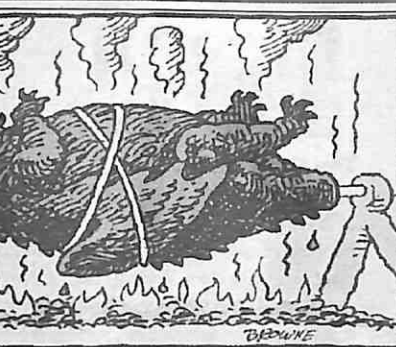
LOOK! I FOUND THE BOARD GAMES!



BUCKLES



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



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SON FORD, HUGH GRANT, JENNIFER LOPEZ, JODIE FOSTER, JOHN CUSACK, JOHNNY DEPP, JOHN TRAVOLTA, KEANU REEVES, KEVIN SPACEY, KURT RUSSELL, LIV TYLER, MADONNA, MEL GIBSON, TOM HANKS.

THE HIRING

A man is hiring for an accounting position, and is conducting interviews for each of the hopefuls. The first accountant walks in and starts to introduce himself, "I'm here for the accounting position." The boss asks him, "What's 2+2?" "4" replies the accountant. The boss tells him to get out. Sad, disappointed, and a little confused, the accountant slowly leaves the office. The next candidate then enters and the boss asks



him, "What's 2+2?" "4" replies the accountant. The boss tells him to get out. Just as confused as the first accountant, the second one leaves thinking that if the boss is that stupid he doesn't want to work there anyway. The next candidate then enters and the boss asks him, "What's 2+2?" The accountant replies, "Anything you want it to be." The boss says, "You're hired."

USELESS FACTS

1. Cat's urine glows under a black light.
2. The largest known butterfly is Queen Alexandra's Birdwing from New Guinea, which has a wingspan of approximately 11 inches (28 cm).
3. The smallest butterfly, the Dwarf Blue from Africa, has a wingspan of only 1 / 2 inches (1 cm).
4. The distance between an alligator's eyes in inches, is directly proportional to the length of the alligator in feet.
5. The honey badger can withstand hundreds of African bee stings that would kill any other animal.

BRAinteasers
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Yesterday's brainteasers

1. What gets wetter as it dries?
Answer: A towel.
2. What has a neck but no head?
Answer: A bottle.

Today's brain teasers

What did the scientist say when

he found two isotopes of helium? Doctor Harish and a bus driver Manish are both in love with the same woman named Priyanka. The bus driver needs to go for a long trip of 10 days. Before he left he gave Priyanka 10 apples. Why?



DStv
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NEWS



HIGHLIGHTS



Salvation

Tonight 20:30 | M-Net (101)

"S1/E1 - Pilot". Humanity hangs in the balance in this suspense thriller that centres on a staggering discovery: an enormous asteroid is just six months away from colliding with the Earth.



The Great Indoors

Tonight 19:00 Vuzu (116)

"S1/E1 - Pilot". Emmy-nominee Joel McHale (Community) stars in this workplace comedy, about a renowned adventure reporter, who, in the series premiere, discovers that the magazine he works for has drastically changed.



Ocean Patrol

Today 13:15 CBS Reality (132)

New Zealand has one of the longest stretches of coastline in the world; beaches and boating shape its national identity, and its enviable aquatic lifestyle is an international icon.

This exciting series follows the men and women who patrol and protect New Zealand's precious waterways—the Ministry of Fisheries and the Maritime Police—from such threats as highly-organised international poachers, gangs stripping paua beds between cannabis growing seasons, and the illegal poaching of fish and shellfish.



This is England '90

Tonight 20:00 | ITV Choice (123)

The year is 1990, the rave scene has just entered England. The sound of the Stone Roses lurks towards Shaun and the gang. This means that Woody and Lol are living in domestic bliss, they are happy again. But this year will see huge changes in everyone. This is the year 1990. This is England.

This final chapter of the iconic series finds the gang embracing the rave scene of the 90s. The hilarity and unadulterated joy of the second 'summer of love' soon gives way to a war-torn winter, as the reality of life takes hold and, ultimately, takes life.

ABANDONED ENGINEERING

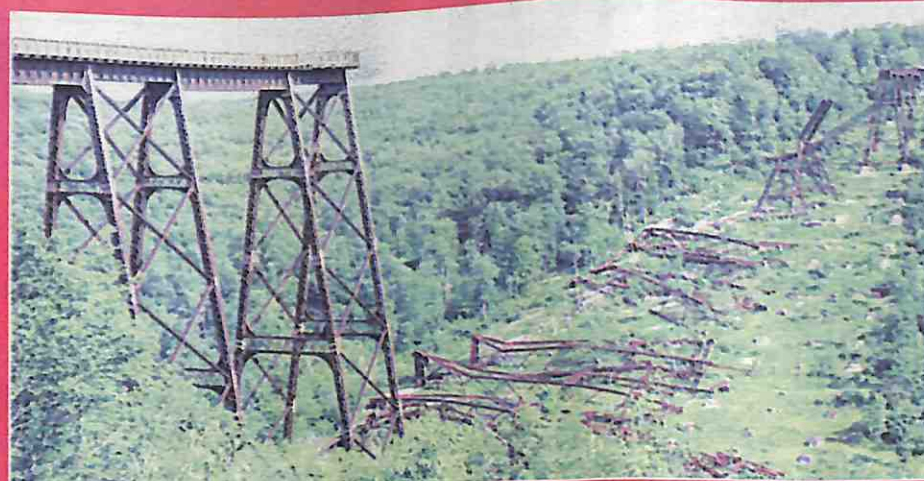
Tonight 20:00 | Discovery Channel (121)
Season 1 | Episode 1

SOME of the world's most amazing engineering projects now lie in ruins.

How and why? These are the stories of the extraordinary people who originally designed them and of those whose ingenuity and brilliance is now giving many spectacular new life. Every one of these extraordinary structures tells a powerful and compelling story.

This series looks at the most spectacular examples of abandoned engineering the world has seen and examines how and why were they built: the financial and social costs of their failure as well as the environmental and ecological impacts. The series also shines a light on making something beautiful or useful from the ruins.

The Nazi 'Holiday Camp' in Prora, Germany;



New York's High Line; the SS Oriskany in Florida; and the Foreshore Freeway in Cape Town, South Africa, are all abandoned con-

structions that have been given a vibrant new lease of life. This eye-opening series shows just how these structures have been reborn.



Inner Beauty
Tonight, 21:00
| BET (129)

ELISABETH is shy with little confidence in herself.

She's also madly in love with her husband,

Charles, but nothing she does ever satisfies him. When she discovers that he's having an affair with his PA, her world

comes crashing down. Will Elisabeth let this catastrophe keep her in a corner, or will she come out fighting?

Trust Me I'm a Doctor VI (3 episodes)

THE doctors are back for a sixth series, building on the success of the previous series and revealing the science behind the hype, headlines and answering the health questions that matter.

As usual, the series features a lively mix of health-related stories, led by a team of presenters with backgrounds in medicine and medical journalism.

Michael Mosley investigates whether diet or exercise is a more effective way to keep calories in check, and Saleyha Ahsan runs an experiment to find out whether probiotic products really can improve health.

Dr Zoe Williams investigates whether

people can boost their metabolism, Michael asks whether people should be worried about air pollution, and Dr Saleyha Ahsan meets survivors of eating disorders to try and identify the signs and symptoms.

Finally, Michael sets off an ambitious study on the health benefits of omega-3 fish oils, while Zoe goes on a high fat diet and Gabriel discovers a new brain treatment for PTSD.



YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE

WHAT happens when a bad dream turns into a waking nightmare?

With spine-tingling stories, cinematic styling, and tense first-person interviews, the series returns with more unique stories connected by tension so taut, audiences will have their heart racing during every act. Using classic horror movie techniques, these are true crime thrillers of the creepiest, most harrowing kind.

Coming up in the series, Gary Taylor is mesmerised when he meets sexy lawyer Catherine Mehaffey, but when it comes time to break things off, has he made a grave mistake? And, small town girl Frankie Cochran is convinced she's found "the one" in David Gehrard, but soon his behaviour brings rising cause for concern and reclaiming her independence becomes dangerous.



Rhino Blog – Intensive Protection Zone

August 7 at 10:45 with repeats every 2 hours
People's Weather (DStv 180)

THE world's rhinos are in trouble and award-winning wildlife television presenter Bonné de Bod is on a quest to find out why and more importantly, what's being done.

Kruger National Park is one of the world's biggest and wildest national parks, making it incredibly difficult for its 400 field rangers to patrol and protect the world's largest living population of rhinos in the wild. Spread out over an area the size of New Jersey or Israel, the park's scientists have decided to move the rhinos in a massive operation to the Intensive Protection Zone or IPZ. It's here in this zone that the rhinos are away from the porous Mozambican border where poachers infiltrate the park in as many as 15 gangs of three daily.

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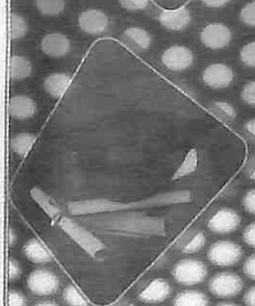
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ESTATE LATE:

MAKHOSAZANA MIRRIAM DLAMINI
ESTATE NO. EH 91/2017

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 51 (2) of the Administration of Estates Act No. 28/1902 that the First and Final Liquidation and Distribution Account will lie open for inspection at the office of the Master of the High Court of Swaziland, Mbabane branch First Floor Miller's Mansion for a period of **Twenty One (21)** days from the date of publication of this notice.

Any person objecting to the account may lodge his or her objection in writing with the executor and with the Master of the High Court at any time before expiry of the said period.

MR. MBUYAZWE STANLEY DLAMINI
P.O. BOX 235
LOBAMBA

R/N 169202

ESTATE LATE:

VELEPHI VIRGINIA SITSEBE
ESTATE NO. EH 195/2016

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 51 (2) of the Administration of Estates Act No. 28/1902 that the First and Final Liquidation and Distribution Account will lie open for inspection at the office of the Master of the High Court of Swaziland, Mbabane branch First Floor Miller's Mansion for a period of **Twenty One (21)** days from the date of publication of this notice.

Any person objecting to the account may lodge his or her objection in writing with the executor and with the Master of the High Court at any time before expiry of the said period.

PETER KHANYA DLAMINI
P.O. BOX 2209
MBABANE

R/N 169204

ESTATE LATE:

DUMAKUDE PHILLEMOM MASILELA
ESTATE NO. EP 37/2017

Debtors and Creditors in the above mentioned estate are asked to lodge their claims and pay their debts with the under-signed within **thirty (30)** days after the date of publication of this notice.

PHINDILE TOBHI MASILELA
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The Applicant must have:

- Masters Degree in Counselling or similar qualifications from recognised University.
- Preferably 2 or more years postgraduate experience in University setup.
- Excellent all round counselling skills and techniques to offer a holistic approach to care of students and staff.
- Extensive experience in counselling of students and staff in university or college setup.
- Commitment to the psycho-social, emotional and spiritual well being of students and staff.

- Problem-solving skills to plan preventative programs and educate students on health issues and how to manoeuvre to difficult relationships.
- Must be flexible in world views and a strong understanding of multicultural issue

It would be an added advantage to have:

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- A) Head of Department (HOD) Mathematics
- B) Development in Mathematics curriculum issues
- C) Theoretical frameworks in Mathematics
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- Must have a minimum of five years teaching experience

DEADLINE: 23rd August 2017

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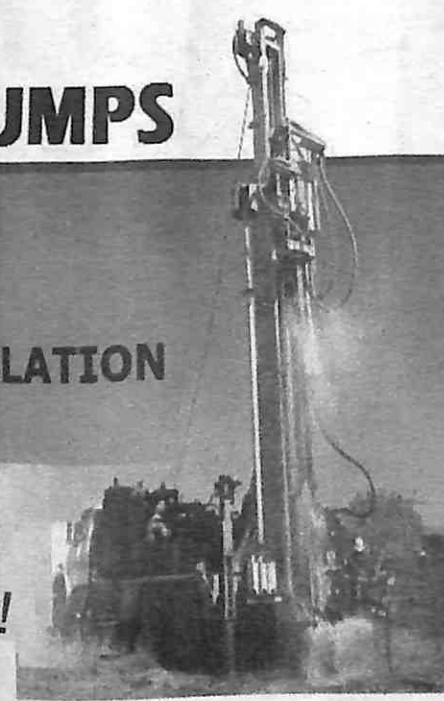
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R/N 169104 Dx 04 AUG 2017

MAYWEATHER, MCGREGOR CIRCUS PROVES THAT MONEY TALKS

LOS ANGELES - First the good news from Las Vegas: Tickets for when the Mayweather-McGregor circus comes to town are still available at face value on the official website.

The bad news: Prices range from £1 596.49 for high up in the back row of the gods at the T-Mobile Arena to £6 155.95 for the inner ringside. The breaking news: Despite rumours of thousands of tickets remaining unsold there were approximately 800 left at the time of writing this, with more than 500 potential buyers queuing on line.

The worst news: Once those seats have gone prices on the black market—or secondary sale as it is more politely entitled in the US—are likely to escalate from their current scale of £2,500 up to, wait for it... £115 000. Which is why Conor McGregor's UFC boss Dana White was sounding off about exploitation when it was mistakenly reported that the Arena sold out within hours of the box office opening a



WORLD CHAMPIONS: Tickets for when the Mayweather-McGregor circus comes to town are still available.

week ago. To put the sales into perspective, 800 tickets equates to four per cent of capacity. That means that despite the exorbitant pricing, 19 200 of the 20 000 places have gone already. So like it or not, spec-

ulation that there could be a financial shortfall in this hybrid fight between Money Mayweather the boxing legend and Notorious McGregor the mixed martial arts star, is currently unfounded. August

26 will see the shattering of the \$50million-plus record for gate revenue for a boxing match, set when Mayweather fought Manny Pacquiao two years ago.

Daily Mail

Salihamidzic Bayern's new sporting director

MUNICH - Bayern Munich named former Bosnian international Hasan Salihamidzic as their new Sporting Director, filling a role that has gone vacant for over a year.

Salihamidzic has signed a three-year contract, taking over the post after Matthias Sammer quit last July due to ill health.

"He will be the responsible man for the next three years," said Chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

President Uli Hoeness added that "there will be no contract negotiations without Hasan Salihamidzic at the table".

Bayern described Salihamidzic as someone they know best, as the Bosnian played more than 300 times for the club from 1998 to 2007 and helped them win the Champions League in 2001. He was named an ambassador of the club this year, and had accompanied the Bundesliga giants on a tour to Asia.

Salihamidzic was however not Bayern's first pick for the role.

Hoeness had initially hoped for Germany's World Cup-winning captain Philip Lahm to take the job, but talks failed.

Lahm in February caught teammates and club bosses by surprise when he not only announced he would retire in June but also said that he would spurn an offer to fill the vacant sporting director role at Bayern.

AFP



'Lacazette can't be replaced'

LONDON - Arsenal's new signing Alexandre Lacazette is irreplaceable, according to the coach of Lyon, who sold the forward to the Londoners last month.

Lyon have been hit by an exodus of top players during the close season including Corentin Tolisso, Mathieu Valbuena, Maxime Gonalons and Rachid Ghezzal.

But none is more damaging than the loss of 26-year-old Lacazette, the club's top scorer in each of the last four seasons.

"We can't replace Alex. We've bought Mariano (Diaz), who has differ-

ent qualities, and we have young players with different qualities too," said Bruno Genesio.

"We're going to have to compensate collectively for his departure."

Lacazette was Ligue 1's top scorer in 2014/15 and finished second to Paris Saint-Germain stars Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Edinson Cavani over the subsequent two years.

He bagged 91 league goals and 113 in all competitions over the last four seasons, convincing Arsenal to splash out £52 million (\$68 million, 58 million euros) to sign the France international.

Lyon finished fourth in Ligue 1

last season and will play in the Europa League during the coming campaign, with the final of that competition played in their own stadium in May 2018.

"That needs to be a positive pressure," said Genesio.

"We can't be over-motivated or allow that to create negative waves by saying we have to win or have to be in the final because it's in Lyon. "It's a great opportunity for us to play in a first European final, and on top of that it's at home."

"It needs to transcend the team and not create a pressure that inhibits us." However, Genesio said the main aim was to ensure the team would not be playing in that competition the following season.

AFP

Barcelona block Neymar's bonus

BARCELONA - Barcelona have blocked payment of a \$31-million bonus for star attacker Neymar as speculation mounts that he will move to Paris Saint-Germain, a source at the club said yesterday.

The Brazilian football star, who is due to come back for training today morning, is at the centre of an apparent tug of war between the two European giants in what would be the most expensive transfer fee in football history. Speculation is mounting that the 25-year-old could quit Barcelona for PSG for a world-record 222 million euros. "These 26 million euros have been placed with a notary pending to see if the player continues," the source, who refused to be named, told AFP.

The renewal bonus was agreed on a year ago when Neymar extended his contract with Barcelona until 2021, and was due to be paid to the player after he com-

pleted a year. But the club has decided to put it on hold pending to see how the situation evolves. The contract Neymar signed also increased an early termination clause from 200 to 222 million euros, which PSG is reportedly willing to pay.

Neymar's future is the talk of Spanish football, and particularly Barcelona supporters. After a successful pre-season tour in the United States that saw Barcelona win against Juventus, Manchester United and Real Madrid, the footballer flew to China for a promotion trip.

But he studiously avoided commenting on the situation.

Today, Barcelona players resume training after their summer break, with a double session in the morning and in the afternoon. Neymar has been called to the training, the club source said, although Spanish sports media doubt he will show up.

© AFP

GRIEZMANN 'THE FAVOURITE' TO REPLACE NEYMAR

LIVERPOOL - Antoine Griezmann has been identified as Barcelona's No 1 target to replace the PSG-bound Neymar.

The Brazilian is edging closer towards a sensational £196m move this summer and the Spanish giants are now desperately lining up a new star for their front three.

According to Sport, Griezmann is 'the favourite' among the Nou Camp hierarchy to take the Brazilian's spot this coming season.

Earlier this summer the France international had been expected to join Manchester United, before Diego Simeone's side were hit with a transfer embargo. But reports in the Spanish press now claim Griezmann has become the preferred option

for Ernesto Valverde, and they will prioritise snaring the Atletico star.

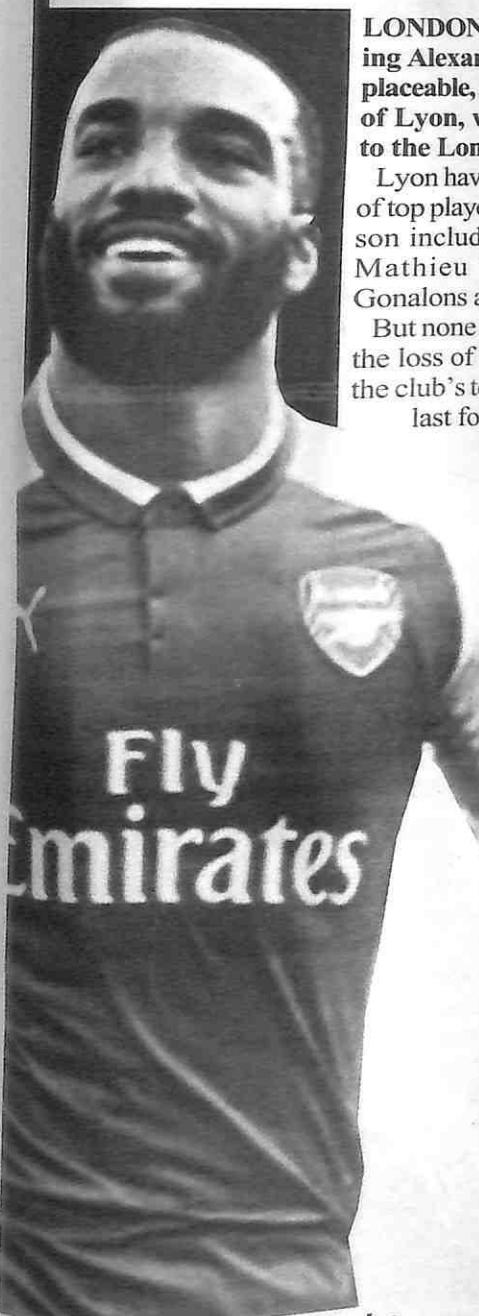
Mundo Deportivo are reporting that Liverpool value Brazilian star Philippe Coutinho at €100m (£90m).

Barca saw a £72m bid for Coutinho rejected in July, with Jurgen Klopp reiterating on Monday that the 25-year-old is not for sale at any price.

When asked if the playmaker was available for sale, the German replied: "You formulate the question in a strange way. Where is the interpretation if you say he (Coutinho) is not available to be sold?"

"The word 'not' means there is nothing to interpret. It is nothing new from our point of view."

Daily Mail



IRREPLACEABLE: Alexandre Lacazette.



BARCLAYS

ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



'MATIC WILL HELP UNLOCK POGBA'S TALENTS'

MANCHESTER - The signing of workhorse Nemanja Matic should allow Manchester United to make better use of gifted France midfielder Paul Pogba in the coming years, the club's former forward Brian McClair said.

United Manager Jose Mourinho acquired the tall Serbian enforcer from Premier League rivals and champions Chelsea for a reported fee ranging from 40 million to 50 million pounds on a three-year contract on Monday.

"United need someone who sits there behind Pogba, who played his best football when (current United captain) Michael Carrick also played last season," McClair told ESPNFC.

"Michael is coming to the end of a wonderful career, so United need someone who can do something similar but who will be more mobile in the coming years."

With Pogba a regular starter for United, Matic looks set to compete for a midfield slot with the



36-year old Carrick, Spaniard Ander Herrera and Belgian enforcer Marouane Fellaini.

"In the short term, I could see that someone like Matic would fit in," McClair said.

"In some games, Paul Pogba has been in the wrong place and it has

stifled his abilities which United bought him for."

Matic, who turned 29 yesterday, won two Premier League titles in his second stint with Chelsea, having been offloaded to Portuguese giants Benfica in 2011 during his first spell with the club under

Mourinho. Pogba, who was shipped out from United to Juventus by Alex Ferguson in 2012 as a 19-year old, returned to Old Trafford last year for a then world record fee of 89 million pounds and endured a patchy comeback.

With Matic boosting the array of ball-winners at United, the physical yet talented Frenchman should be allowed to play further upfield to make use of his greatest skills.

"Pogba's attributes are all about attacking," said McClair.

"He can find a pass, beat a player and has fantastic skills. He can score goals. For him to have the best opportunity of success at Old Trafford, Pogba needs to be playing in the final third of the pitch as much as possible."

Matic could make his competitive debut for last season's Europa League winners United against Champions League holders Real Madrid in the UEFA Super Cup showdown next Tuesday in Macedonia's capital Skopje.

Daily Mail

Liverpool have sights set on title - Klopp

LIVERPOOL - Liverpool are working hard towards their aim of winning the Premier League title, Manager Jurgen Klopp said ahead of the side's friendly against German champions Bayern Munich at the Allianz Arena yesterday.

The Merseyside club were in early title contention last season, six points behind leaders Chelsea at the halfway stage, but faded to finish 17 points behind the champions in fourth place. "Yes, we will be playing for the championship," Klopp told reporters.

"We don't start a season by not having any ambitions. We have to have our goals and I think we have a very good team now. We did have a bit of bad luck last season. I think we can play a little bit better."

"Let's hope everything will work very well and that there isn't much more to improve. We have to work very hard on it and we're doing that." Klopp said that forward Divock Origi and defender Joe Gomez would miss the side's two friendlies in Munich with minor injuries, but both should be fit for the opening league fixture against Watford on Aug. 12. Forward Sadio Mane returned from a long-term knee injury in Liverpool's 3-0 win over Hertha Berlin last Saturday and the 25-year-old praised winger Mohamed Salah, who scored the third goal. *Reuters*

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PL CRACKDOWN ON DIVERS

LONDON - A new era in English soccer begins on Friday with a crackdown on players who cheat referees by diving to win a penalty or get an opponent sent off.

The second-tier Championship games between Sunderland and Derby County and between Nottingham Forest and Millwall will be the first in which players can be retrospectively punished with two-match bans if they are found guilty in a trial by video. Diving for penalties

has been a growing problem in the English game. Most clubs in the top two divisions were accused of it at some point last season, with Marcus Rashford of Manchester United, Leroy Sane of Manchester City and Harry Kane of Tottenham Hotspur coming under the spotlight on a single weekend.

The crackdown, announced in May, is aimed at players who go unpunished during the match for actions that have a significant bearing on it. The Football

Association will be able to charge them with "successful deception of a match official". Its implementation follows a year of feedback from players and officials and it is adapted from a similar regulation in force in Scotland.

While controversies there are settled by a compliance officer, in England a three-person panel consisting of an ex-player, an ex-manager and an ex-referee will sit in judgement. All three must agree there is a "clear and overwhelming case" for a charge to be brought. *Reuters*

NATHAN AKE EXPLAINS CHELSEA DEPARTURE

LONDON - Nathan Ake insists that a footballer's career is too short to wait around on the bench, as he explained his recent switch from Chelsea to Bournemouth.

Blues boss Antonio Conte had lamented the impatience of young players wanting to leave the club, but the 22-year-old Netherlands international disagrees.

"I understand what he said but I think we also know that Chelsea is a big club and for myself it was going to be difficult to come in and play straight away," Ake told reporters.

"It is a short career, but I'm 22 now and I feel like I have had a good experience playing games and you just want to continue doing that."

"The decision to come here

was to be able to play more games which is important for me and that is why I came here.

"There are no guarantees that I will play coming here but if I train hard and play well then I will have a chance. Hopefully, I can be in the team from the start of the season." Ake's experience as a Chelsea academy player is in many ways typical: Having been signed from Feyenoord as a teenager, almost all of his first-team experience has come while on loan elsewhere.

Sport24



SHORT CAREER: Nathan Ake.

South African SOCCER



Fullback Mabaso signs for Chippa

JOHANNESBURG - Chippa United have added fullback Abel Mabaso to their roster for the new season after he was let go by Ajax Cape Town at the end of the last ABSA Premiership season.

The Port Elizabeth-based club confirmed a two-year deal for the player after series of trials in the off-season.

Mabaso began his career at Mamelodi Sundowns but was loaned out to both Mpumalanga Black Aces and Maritzburg United in successive seasons.

He also went on loan to Ajax in 2015 and then signed permanently for the Cape club.

But in the last ABSA Premiership campaign he started just six matches for Ajax and was among a handful of players who were let go in May.

Mabaso joins Samuel Julies, Kurt Lentjes, Mark Mayambela, Brighton Mhlomo and Moeketsi Sekola among the new faces in coach Dan Malesela's squad.

© Mzansi Football

SUNDOWNS SIGN GHANA 'KEEPER RAZAK

PRETORIA - Mamelodi Sundowns have bolstered their goalkeeping department with the signing of experienced Ghanaian goalkeeper Brimah Razak.

Razak was Ghana's first choice shot-stopper that played in the Africa Cup of Nations final against Ivory Coast, to which the Black Stars lost 8-9 on penalties.

For the majority of his career,

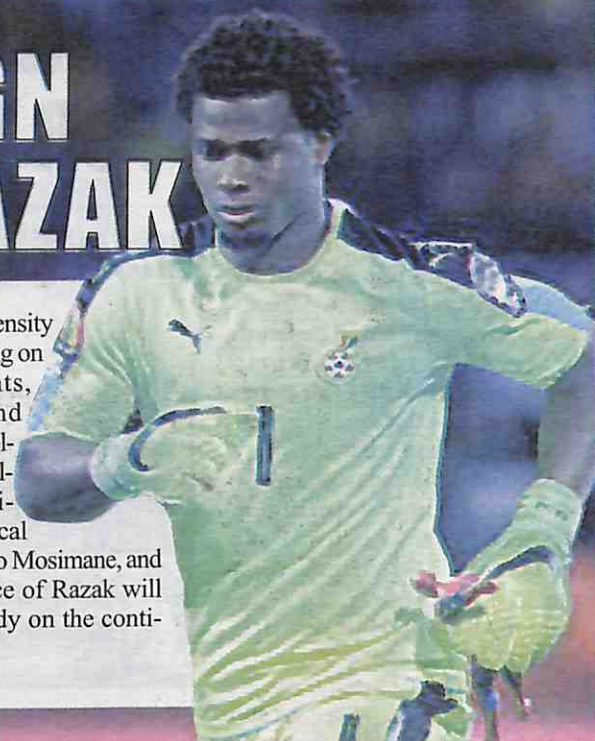
the 30-year-old played in Portugal and Spain, with his last club being Cordoba FC.

According to the club's official website, Razak penned a five-year-contract with Premiership giants.

Departure

Razak joins Denis Onyango, Kennedy Mweene and Thela Ngobeni on the goalkeeper roster following the departure of Wayne Sandilands.

With the intensity of participating on several fronts, domestic and continental, bolstering the goal-keeping position was critical for coach Pitso Mosimane, and the experience of Razak will come in handy on the continental stage
Sport24



REJECTED: Bongani Kama.

Stars say no to Kama

JOHANNESBURG - Free State Stars will not be signing Chippa United defender Bongani Kama after he spent several weeks on trial at the club, officials said yesterday.

But the Bethlehem-based club are still to make a decision about former Bafana Bafana international Edward Manqele.

The 25-year-old Kama made 15 starts for Chippa United in his debut ABSA Premiership season but fell out of favour with coach Dan Malesela in the second half of the season.

Signed

He had been signed by Chippa at the beginning of the campaign from Mthatha Bucks.

Manqele has also been on trial with Stars where he started his top flight career in 2011.

But a decision on whether the 30-year-old striker is offered a contract will only be made if the players loses more weight, officials added.

© Mzansi Football

BIDVEST WITS LAUNCH NEW 2017/18 KIT

JOHANNESBURG - Bidvest Wits have launched their new home and away playing kit for the upcoming 2017/18 season as the Premier Soccer League champions look to defend their domestic title.

The unveiling took place at a press briefing with the Clever Boys' new signings donning the 2017/18 jerseys that sees the club remain true to their traditional blue and white colourway.

Coach Gavin Hunt introduced his new acquisitions by highlighting the importance of never resting on their laurels - despite being crowned league champions last season.



NEW KIT: Bidvest Wits players with their new kit.

“A club of our size needs to value every single match and treat it like a cup final,” Hunt said. “We are always trying to improve our squad, we definitely do want something more

up front.” New signing, Steven Pienaar detailed how he was settling in to his new surroundings at their Sturrock Park training base and that it was an easy decision to join the club. *Sport24*

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SA LONG JUMPER MANYONGA HAS HIGH HOPES FOR WORLD CHAMPS

LONDON - Having taken the silver medal at last year's Olympic Games, missing out on gold by just one centimetre, South Africa's Luvo Manyonga should be heading to this year's World Championships with high hopes of going one better.

However, due to an ankle injury sustained while winning at the IAAF Diamond League meeting in Stockholm in June, the 26-year-old hasn't been able to show any recent form.

Securing the world title, which at one point looked like a formality, is therefore no longer quite so certain, despite an African record and world-leading leap of 8.65m to his name alongside three other jumps beyond 8.60m in 2017.

It says a lot for the current crop of jumpers from South Africa that two of Manyonga's closest challengers hail from that same country.

Ruswahl Samaai leads the IAAF Diamond League standings after winning in Rabat in Manyonga's absence in July.

He also jumped 8.49m in finishing second at the South African Championships in April. Zarck Visser, the 2014 African champion, finished third that day and has since recorded an 8.22m leap.

HIGH HOPES: Luvo Manyonga.



Bermuda's Tyrone Smith lies third on this year's world list with an 8.34m jump, but that was back in May and the 32-year-old has been beyond eight metres on just one occasion since, meaning that it is likely to fall to the trio of jumpers from each of the USA and China to prevent a South African victory.

Jeff Henderson, the man who beat Manyonga to the Olympic title last year, has had a quiet season so far, but following an 8.28m jump at the US Championships in June, he took victory at the IAAF Diamond League meeting in London to complete his preparations in a satisfactory fashion. Jarrion Lawson, who was fourth in Rio, is, perhaps, the best placed

US jumper to challenge, winning the US title with a windy 8.49m and finishing second behind Samaai in Rabat with 8.33m, while world indoor champion Marquis Dendy has a successful championship experience on which to draw.

For China, Huang Changzhou, Wang Jianan and Shi Yuhao all have season's bests within five centimetres of each other, the best of which is Shi's 8.31m.

Yet it is Huang, with a bronze medal from last year's World Indoors, and Wang, who finished fifth in Rio and who secured bronze in Beijing two years ago, who have the championship pedigree.

African News Agency

Traditional 'Big Four' still rule - Thiem

LONDON - Austrian tennis player Dominic Thiem believes he and the 'next generation' are nowhere near the standard of the traditional 'Big Four' yet.

The 23-year-old world number seven says despite his victories over Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic this year, he and the other youngsters hoping for grand slam success have a long way to go before emulating the likes of Nadal, Djokovic, Britains Andy Murray and Wimbledon champion Roger Federer.

"We still have to win a lot of matches to deserve to be called the next big things in tennis," Thiem said, as quoted on Yahoo. "It's nice to hear that but I think it's still a pretty long ways for both of us."

Thiem said further that the Big Four's recent decreased participation in tournaments will only help upcoming players like himself, Germany's Alexander Zverev and Nick Kyrgios of Australia to improve and close the gap.

"They are really special," he added. "It's very unusual you have four players like this in one generation. I think it's getting a little better for the other players."

"They are starting

to take a few tournaments. In the grand slams, you would have to beat two or three (of them) in a run. That's why other players haven't won the big titles."

The final grand slam of the year, the US Open, starts on August 28 and Thiem feels if he is playing well going into the event he could surprise the big guns.

His build up for the US Open begins with the Washington Open where he faces Finland's

Henri Laaksonen in Tuesday's first round.

"It's important to find a strong game. It's the start of a very long journey," Thiem explained.

"I hope it works out well here in Washington."

We have a lot of tough matches ahead. From round one basically, there are only really tough matches.

"Of course it's nice to be top seed here [in Washington] but it doesn't affect anything because the guys behind me are really strong."

Sport24



BELIEVES: Dominic Thiem.

SERENA SERVES ACE FOR BLACK WOMEN'S EQUAL PAY

NEW YORK - Serena Williams served up a rallying cry for equal pay for black women on Monday, decrying that they would have to work on average eight months longer to earn the same as male counterparts in one year.

The record-breaking tennis star and world's highest paid female athlete - who has spoken candidly about sexism and racism - wrote a nearly 1 000-word essay in Fortune magazine to mark Black Women's Equal Pay Day.

For every dollar made by a man, black women make 63 cents in the United States. Black women earn 17 per cent less than white women, and black women with graduate degrees get paid less at every level, wrote Williams.

The 23-time Grand Slam singles champion quoted data showing that only 44 per cent of white men recognise the pay gap as an issue.

"I have been treated unfairly, I've been disrespected by my male colleagues and - in the most painful times - I've been the subject of racist remarks on and off the tennis court," wrote the 35-year-old.

"The cycles of poverty, discrimination, and sexism are much, much harder to break than the record for Grand Slam titles," she added, calling for legislation and

action to change the status quo.

Williams, who announced her engagement to Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian last December, is pregnant with her first child. She plans to return to competitive tennis next year.

"Black women: Be fearless. Speak out for equal pay. Every time you do, you're making it a little easier for a woman behind you," she said.

"Most of all, know that you're worth it. It can take a long time to realise that. It took

me a long time to realise it. But we are all worth it."

AFP



ACTIVIST: Serena Williams.

12 ARRESTED AFTER CELTIC BANNER CONTROVERSY

GLASGOW - Scottish police have arrested 12 men after illicit banners were displayed at the politically-charged Champions League clash between Celtic and Linfield last month.

UEFA, European football's governing body, charged the Scottish champions over the illicit banners and blocked stairways during the qualifying round clash with Linfield at Parkhead on July 19.

Linfield fans are drawn from Northern Ireland's Protestant community, putting

them at odds with Celtic, who are historically seen as a Catholic side, and there were pitch invasions and missiles thrown during the first leg in Belfast.

Celtic responded to the UEFA charge by imposing a two-game closure on the section of their stadium used by the ultras-style 'Green Brigade' fans who displayed the banner.

Police Scotland yesterday said 12 men, aged between 18 and 49, have now been arrested after a "proactive police investigation into banners and

material displayed".

They have all been released on an undertaking to appear at Glasgow Sheriff Court later this month.

Celtic's partial stadium closure, thought to have affected 900 season-ticket holders in the safe-standing section of the ground, will be lifted after the Scottish Premiership match against Hearts on Saturday.

However, the Glasgow club said "a number of fans within this area remain suspended" while investigations continue. *AFP*

ANDREA PIRLO SLAMMED BY NEW YORK CITY FANS

NEW YORK - Andrea Pirlo has built his reputation on sauntering and gliding around the football field, effortlessly exerting control with his trademark Italian swagger.

It's seen him win six Serie A titles and lift the Champions League on two occasions, but while he will go down in the football history books as one of the most technically gifted players of his generation, he certainly will not be remembered as a player who put his body on the line to help his team.

New York City fans are finding that out at the moment, with the 38-year-old Italian coming under scrutiny for his lack of effort which some fans believe cost their side victory in their recent clash with Toronto.



The men from the Big Apple lost 4-0 on their trip to Canada, with Pirlo's former Italy team-mate Sebastian Giovinco setting the Reds on their way as he put them two goals ahead.

Pirlo was partially at fault for the third

as he stepped out to casually try to close Giovinco down, barely putting him under any pressure, before his Italian counterpart fired into the top corner past goalkeeper Sean Johnson.

Daily Mail

Ronaldo denies tax fraud at court hearing

MADRID - Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo denied hiding millions of euros in income at a court hearing near the Spanish capital on Monday where he was charged with tax evasion.

The Portuguese - the world's highest paid sportsman according to Forbes magazine - is the latest football star to fall foul of Spain's taxman. He follows in the footsteps of his arch-rival, Barcelona forward Lionel Messi, who was found guilty of the same offence last year.

"I have never hidden anything, nor have I had the intention of evading taxes," Ronaldo, 32, told the court, according to a statement from the sports agency which represents him, Gestifute.

"I always voluntarily file my tax



DENIES:
Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo.

returns because I think we all must file a return and pay taxes according to our income.

Those that know me, know what I ask my advisors: that they have

everything up to date and properly paid, because I don't want problems."

Accused of having evaded €14.7 million (\$17.3 million) in tax, he

entered and left the court in Pozuelo de Alarcón, a wealthy suburb of Madrid where he lives, via an underground garage to avoid the press.

AFP

Real Madrid to give MLS stars intense match

CHICAGO - Veteran goalkeeper Tim Howard says top North American club players should expect "cut-throat" competition from Spanish giants Real Madrid in today's Major League Soccer All-Star Game.

The All-Star match at Soldier Field, home of the NFL's Chicago Bears, marks the end of a four-match, 11-day pre-season US tour for Real Madrid that included a 3-2 loss to rival Barcelona in a Clasico match-up at Miami.

But Howard expects Real Madrid to bring their best as they prepare for the upcoming La Liga campaign.

"When you get to play for a team like Real Madrid, there's no days off," Howard said. "There are no easy games. They have a world-class coach that they are



trying to impress.

"They have got to play well to earn a spot coming up for the La Liga season. World football is intense and it's cut-throat. There aren't any days when guys just take it easy. When you put your jersey on and cross the line - whether it's a tournament, a regular-season game, a pre-season game, an All-Star Game - these guys are going to be up for it."

Colorado Rapids goalkeeper Howard

will start in goal for Chicago Fire coach Veljko Paunovic in the mid-season exhibition.

In 2001, Howard represented the East in a conference versus conference All-Star Game and in the following year he was part of an MLS All-Star squad that took on US national team.

He played against the MLS All-Stars when he returned with English Premiership side Everton in 2009 in the current format that pits the All-Stars against top-flight European competition.

"I'm not sure which one's better," he said of the various permutations of the All-Star Game he has experienced. "But it will be certainly exciting to play Real Madrid - there's no question about that."

AFP

Alexis Sanchez back in training with Arsenal

LONDON - Arsenal star Alexis Sanchez has reported for pre-season training yesterday.

The Chilean was due back at London Colney on Sunday but was permitted an extra two days off due to illness.

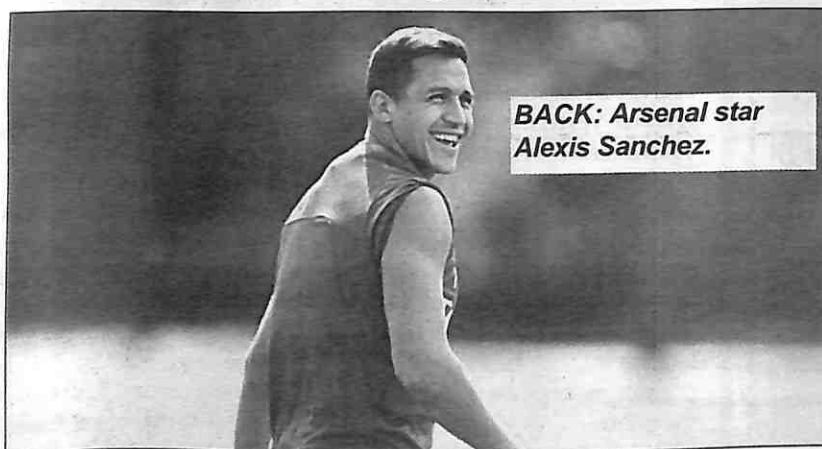
There were fears the Chilean may not report back to the club's HQ as he looks to force his way out of the Emirates Stadium, with Manchester City his preferred destination, but Sanchez has allayed concerns of a potential no-show by reporting back to the club's training ground as expected.

The club confirmed Sanchez's return tweeting a picture of him smiling at the training ground, with the caption: "Look who's back in training".

Earlier, Sanchez touched down on British soil ahead of his return, and shared a picture after stepping off his private jet in London, alongside his two dogs Atom and Humber.

He was initially pictured at Santiago Airport alongside his lawyer Ruben Inostroza on Sunday, as he boarded a flight to London via Paris.

His brief stop-off in France led to some



BACK: Arsenal star Alexis Sanchez.

fans questioning whether PSG is his next destination, while Manchester City supporters are still hopeful he will arrive at the Etihad.

Regardless of his next move, Sanchez has returned to Arsenal as Arsene Wenger looks to keep his star man.

The forward wants to play Champions League football but despite Manchester City's interest, Wenger has insisted that he will not be sold, despite having only a year left on his contract.

"There is no development in his future

it is always the same. He is staying, of course," Wenger said last week.

Asked whether Sanchez has told him he wants to leave, Wenger added: "I cannot reveal what he says, I can't reveal secret conversations."

City are said to be confident he will join but Gunners chief executive Ivan Gazidis promised that this summer would be a 'catalyst for change'. Both boss and board agree that they need to retain Sanchez, even if he runs down his current deal. **Daily Mail**

Chelsea set sights on Leicester's Drinkwater

LONDON - Chelsea are interested in Leicester City midfielder Danny Drinkwater.

Manager Antonio Conte wants to bolster his options following the sale of Nemanja Matic to Manchester United and has drawn up a list of targets.

England international Drinkwater is on that list as well as names such as Renato Sanches at Bayern Munich, Alex Oxlade Chamberlain at Arsenal and Everton's Ross Barkley.

The 27-year old Drinkwater, who would also boost Chelsea's home-grown contingent, signed a four year contract at Leicester and is key to Craig Shakespeare's plans. Though he would be interested in a move to Chelsea he is con-



scious he could end up with a peripheral role as Conte aims to pair Tiemoue Bakayoko with N'Golo Kante as his midfield engine room of choice.

Daily Mail

Carlton Cole set for axe in Indonesia

INDONESIA - Former West Ham and Chelsea striker Carlton Cole is to be sacked by Indonesia's Persib after failing to find the net since his arrival in March, the team's manager said yesterday.

Cole has played "very badly" and will be replaced for the second stage of the season, which starts on Saturday, Persib Manager Umuh Muchtar told AFP.

"It's the management's decision to dismiss him, we will have a new player in the second round of the season," Muchtar said.

"He plays very badly compared to the other (foreign players) who have joined Persib. He had the worst

performance," Muchtar added.

Cole joined Persib two weeks after his former Chelsea teammate Michael Essien in what was a buying spree for the Bandung-based club.

Cole signed a one-year contract for an undisclosed sum with Persib, owned by Indonesian businessman Erick Thohir - who is also president of Italian giants Inter Milan.

Eighteen teams play in the new Liga 1, which was formed after a row between Indonesia's sports ministry and football association prompted the country's suspension by FIFA, and left it without a soccer competition for two years.

AFP



MHLAB'UHLANGENE

THE DEEP BLUE OCEAN

With: Victor Dlamini



...If anyone ever thought our sky blue replica was the best ever merchandise the club has put on the shelves of the Sports Shop, think again

ON OUR NEW SIGNINGS

"WE have signed Xolani Papi Sikhondze, Solomon Aladele and Afrani Bismarck."

Status of Kola, "We won't be signing him anymore, we had an agreement with him prior to the trip to Mbombela believing he was out of contract with Manzini

Wanderers, meaning which we thought he was now a free agent, but he has chosen to play games with us and we have realized he was an opportunist and as a team of integrity, we won't be associated with such."



KEEP IT SLIM IN OUR NEW TRACKSUITS

MHLAB'UHLANGENE, Keep it slim in our tracksuits, Mhlab'uhlangene Deep Blue Ocean.

GREETINGS Mhlab'uhlangene, welcome to another subscription, hope you are all well!

It's yet another week and more news, and yes more good news from your chosen home of soccer, Matsapha United.

Perhaps let me dress up in this sparkling brand new product the family has just launched on the market called the tracksuit.

If anyone ever thought our sky blue

replica was the best ever merchandise the club has put on the shelves of the Sports Shop, think again. The new range, club tracksuit is set to rock the market, believe me.

Made up of large-ly sky blue track top with a navy blue stripe, running down from the neck to the wrist and at the back with a UNITED inscribed at the back, accompanied by a navy blue bottom or perfectly cut to slim fit, trust me, it's certainly a must

have. I already have

mine and you can have yours too for E750 from the Sports Shop *uswenke nawe* or or possibly buy using the

Matsapha United's MTN Mobile Money number **7864 2550** then make collection arrangements.

They are flying off the shelves!

Swimming with the Sharks - Matsapha United General Manager, Sifiso Shongwe was on Swazi TV Sports Show last Wednesday, declaring that the team is ready to swim with Swaziland's football sharks, which sets our season's mandate.

Insights - How was last season? "It was a productive season with us achieving some goals, being in the SwaziBank Cup final and winning the NFD league were simultaneously our greatest achievements as we are only a 11 month old team yet we managed to achieve something most well established teams in the country could not achieve."



WE OFF TO RUSTENBURG THEN POLOKWANE!

WE are in Rustenburg where we arrived yesterday afternoon for out intensive training camp. We immediately got down to business.

We will travel to Polokwane before heading back to Swaziland. We might not have any practice match but if ever we have one or two we will advise you. As you may know practice matches are rarely open to the public.

We now have an assistant coach!

As a professional team, we have made new appointments to go with our new status. Some of the requirements demand that we appoint an assistant coach and we might also be required to appoint a goalkeepers coach. It is in this vain that we announce the arrival of Zwelibandzi Botsotso khoza as our assistant coach. He assumed his new role last week and we hope both parties will benefit from each other for future suc-

cess.

Work on Under-17 and 20 begins!

Now that we are in the MTN Premier League of Swaziland, the FIFA/CAF Club Licencing Policy requires that we put together a football talent developing and sustainability structure with the juniors. I am glad to announce the appointment of Raul P Mavie as the head of the development structure and will work hand in glove with the senior team head coach, Saul Chaminuka in devel-

oping a linkage feed between the two levels. Raul has started with the trainings and possible next week we will be able to give more details.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, we as Matsapha United, we are ready to learn from the best and equally so beat the best. *Sibloma ekasi, siphethe i-vibe, sizobashiya be-dizzy*. Until next week, Mhlabuhlangene - The Deep Blue Ocean wishes you a Fair Play filled weekend.



SPOT THE BALL AND WIN E150 WEEKLY



HOW TO PLAY: Cross the alphabet, tear the entry form and post it to Spot the Ball P.O Box A385 Swazi Plaza Mbabane or drop it at any of our offices in Siteki, Pigg's Peak, Nhlalanga, Manzini or at the main office in Mbabane. *Dlala sibone*. Good luck!

Sports Editor.

NAME:

CELLPHONE:

MBABANE DIRT BIKERS CHALLENGE A SUCCESS

BIKING – THE Mbabane Dirt Bikers Challenge which was hosted over the past weekend was a huge success.

As much as this was the first challenge, dirt bikers came from differ-

ent corners of the country for the challenge. The race started in Mbabane and the route passed through Lamgabhi, Hhukwini, Ludzeludze, SIMPA, Nokwane, Malkerns, Mhlambanyatsi and finished at the Luphohlo Dam

where the bikers later had a braai. Club President Sipho Mkhombe thanked all those who came for the challenge adding that they are looking forward to hosting the challenge again.



IN JESUS NAME: Mbabane Dirt Bikers praying at the Prince of Wales before their departure on Saturday morning. (Pics: Courtesy pics)



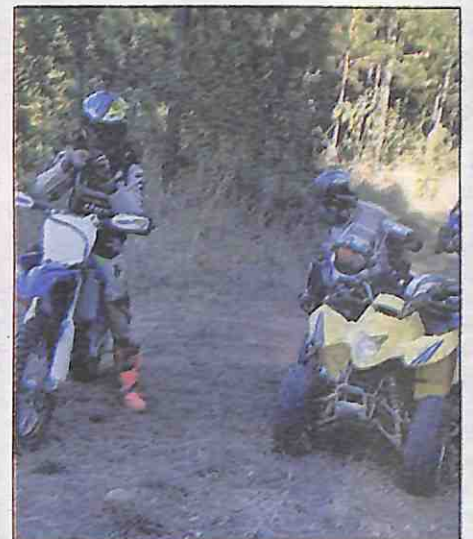
RELAX: The bikers taking a break after safely arriving at Hhukwini.



IN THE BUSH: The race started in Mbabane and the route passed through Lamgabhi, Hhukwini, Ludzeludze, SIMPA, Nokwane, Malkerns and Mhlambanyatsi.



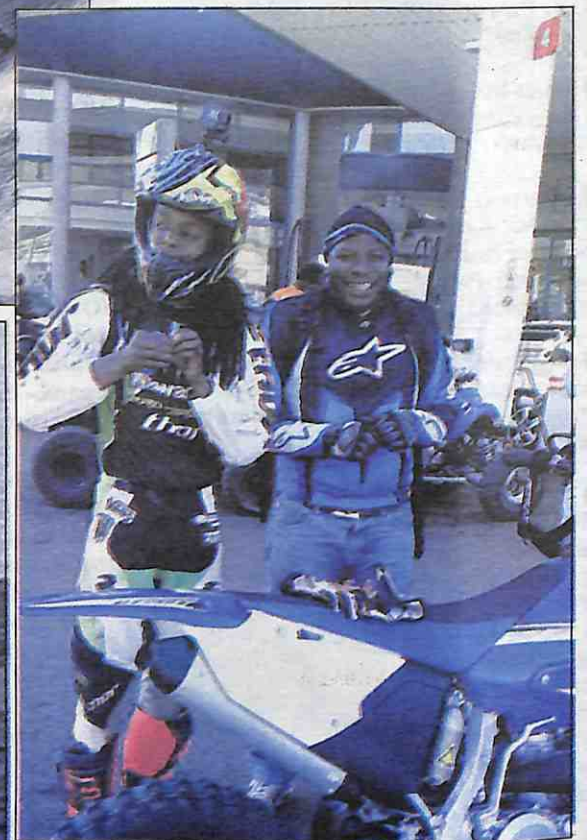
THEM BOYS: Udo Smith, Vusi Simelane, Musa Sithole, Nhloso Mabuza and Bongai 'Bobo' Dlamini chatting.



IN THE WOODS: The bikers also passed through Mhlambanyatsi Forest.



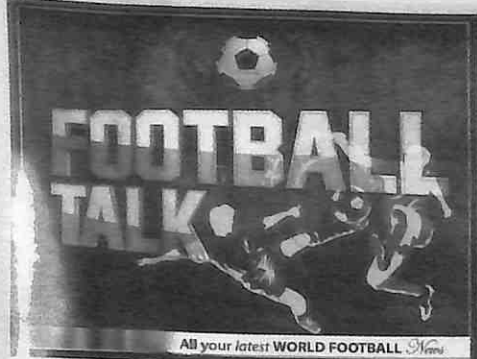
IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY: The bikers at Lamgabhi.



FILLING UP: Nhloso and Vusi filling up their bikes before the start of the challenge.



OH HAPPY DAY: After finally reaching the end, the bikers took time to pose at Luphohlo Dam where they later had a braai.



Chelsea are struggling to convince Bayern Munich midfielder Renato Sanches, 19, to join them on loan and are continuing to look at other targets. (Evening Standard)



Liverpool Manager Jurgen Klopp will not sign another midfielder this summer despite missing out on RB Leipzig's 22-year-old Naby Keita, says former defender Jamie Carragher. (Independent)

Reds forward Sadio Mane has emerged as a new target for Italian giants Inter Milan with the club expecting to bid £35m for the 25-year-old. (Daily Express)

Bournemouth have shown interest in signing Leicester City winger Demarai Gray, 21, who is looking to leave the former champions. (Leicester Mercury)

Juventus manager Massimiliano Allegri has told Chelsea his club will not sell left-back Alex Sandro, 26. (Sport Mediaset, via Star)



Southampton defender Virgil van Dijk, 26, is set for talks with new manager Mauricio Pellegrino this week, with Liverpool prepared to break their transfer record to sign the Dutchman. (Liverpool Echo)

The Saints are considering a £12m move for Lazio centre-back Wesley Hoedt, 23, as they prepare for Van Dijk's departure. (Mail)

Blues boss Antonio Conte is interested in Leicester City midfielder Danny Drinkwater, 27. (Mail)

Liverpool Manager Jurgen Klopp could move for Bayern Munich's 19-year-old Portugal midfielder Renato Sanches if playmaker Philippe Coutinho, 25, leaves for Barcelona. (Bild, via Mirror)

Liverpool are interested in Monaco's 21-year-old midfielder Thomas Lemar, who is also a target for Arsenal. (Le10Sport - in French)

Manchester City's England Under-17 winger Jadon Sancho could be set to leave after the 17-year-old failed to report for training on several occasions. (Telegraph)

Inter Milan are set to beat Arsenal to the signing of 23-year-old Nice defender Dalbert for £17m. (TMW, via Talksport)



Tottenham and Inter Milan are bidding their time before making a move for Paris St-Germain full-back Serge Aurier in the hope the 24-year-old's asking price will decrease. (La Parisien, via ESPN)

SNDA TO HOST A TOURNAMENT FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITY

By Sibusiso Masilela

DARTS - In their move to accommodate all sectors of society in the sport, the Swaziland National Darts Association will host darts competitions for people living with disability.

The tournament will be held at ST Josephs High School in November. The tournament will see the students battle it out against each other.

The association's President Michael 'Scara' Gama said the move was aimed at developing the

standard of the sport in the country as well making sure that every citizen has a chance of playing darts.

"We have met with St Joseph high school and they have agreed that we hold a tournament for people living with disability. We are inviting all players in the country to attend to tournament without fail as their support would be appreciated," he said.

Gama said they would also have coaching clinics at the school offering basic skills to all the players before the main tournament," he said.

On another note, the president

stated that they will be hosting their open national championships in two weeks time at the Zakhele hall.

"The next tournament will be the national championships which will be in two weeks time. We urge teams and players to start preparing themselves for this tournament. We are also grateful to our main sponsor Swaziland Royal Insurance Corporation (SRIC) for their contribution towards the development of darts in the country," he said.

TOURNEY:
SNDA
President
Michael
'Scara'
Gama.



Taekwondo targeting Olympic medal in 2020

By Sibusiso Masilela

TAEKWONDO - THE Swaziland Taekwondo Association has set its sights on a medal in the upcoming 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

This was revealed by newly elected President Zakhele Dlamini when making his remarks after the elections held at the St Michaels High school Hall over the weekend.

He said their objective was to do all in their power to ensure the country gets a medal in

these Games.

"We need to implement programmes that will lay a good foundation for our athletes both locally and internationally through the Podium Performance Program. It would also be good for us to have the defunct Confederation of the Southern African Taekwondo Associations (COSATA) revived as this will create competitiveness within the region."

"It would also give our athletes the much needed interna-

tional exposure which has been our downfall in recent competitions," he said.

Dlamini added that he will also advocate for the adoption of Taekwondo in the Region 5.

Competition

"We need enough competition both in the region and continent as this gives our athletes the needed practise ahead of international games. Dlamini is now leading the new STA executive comprising the likes of Sizwe Mabuza and Mbongeni Nsibandze.



TRAINING: Swaziland Taekwondo athletes training.

Ezulwini B take on Manzini B in Squash league

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SQUASH - CURRENT top spot holders of the UNITED Health Insurance Squash league Ezulwini B will tomorrow take on Manzini B.

The high flying team which has been the early pacesetters in the league will be looking to consolidate the top spot at the expense of their opponents.

The games will be played at the Mavuso Sports Emporium tomorrow evening starting at 7pm. According to a fixture released by the tournament's coordinator Rhoo Nxumalo yesterday, Manzini A will take on Ezulwini A while basement side Piggs Peak has a date with Mbabane. In the ladies section, Nosmilo Fakudze will face off with Bridget Farrell in the first match and will be followed by

THE FULL FIXTURE

Today at the Mavuso Sports Emporium

Ezulwini B	vs	Manzini B
Manzini A	vs	Ezulwini A
Piggs Peak	vs	Mbabane
Ladies		
Nosmilo Dlamini	vs	Bridget Farrell
Tanele Matimakhulu	vs	Dumsile Madonsela



IN: Nosmilo Fakudze won ladies tournament in the previous competition.

an encounter pitting Tanele Matimakhulu against Dumsile Madonsela.

Nxumalo invited supporters

and others interested in knowing more about the sport to come and see the teams in action.

Implement knowledge gained to improve - SOCGA

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SPORTS - Swaziland Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association (SOCGA) Muriel Hofer has encouraged participants of the Level II Administration Course to implement the knowledge learnt to improve the standard and sustainability of their sport.

This past weekend marked the last day of the course facilitated by Muriel Hofer, Pearl Dlamini and Thoba Mazibuko. According to information sourced from the association's newsletter yesterday, Hofer stated that the graduation would be held in January next year.

A total of 15 officials participated in the administration course and these included Athletics Association of Swaziland (AAS) Treasurer Thabile Mthombo who described the course as an eye opener.

"The course has been an eye opener especially in Time Management, Strategic Planning and the SOCGA programmes leading to TOKYO 2020 were also helpful as I am now aware of the various scholarships and support grants that our athletes and coaches can access.

"Also of significance was the importance and advantages of having a policy, since my association does not have a risk management and volunteer policy which are both crucial in sports organisations but the best topic was Project Management as I now have a better understanding of what it entails," she said.

PARTICIPANTS

1. Thabile Mthombo
2. Thabsile Mngomezulu
3. Zakhele Myeni
4. Del'sile Simelane
5. Jabulani Mathonsi
6. Fundo Ginindza
7. Mbali Dlamini
8. Mpendulo Dlamini
9. Ntombenhle Dlamini
10. Mfanawenkosi Dlamini
11. Nomcebo Mashaba
12. Coaster Magongo
13. Mathokoza Mabuza
14. Sibongiseni Zondi
15. Clement Shongwe

AJAX OPTS AGAINST SIGNING DOMBO!

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCKER – ABSA premiership side Ajax Cape Town has decided against the signing of Matsapha United winger Mike Dombo.

A source close to the matter revealed that Ajax would not be signing the winger who spent three weeks being assessed by the South African side.

"The player won't be joining Ajax after their coach preferred an unnamed Brazilian player over Dombo who impressed during their pre season friendly matches."

"He will be going to Swaziland to rejoin his team where he still has a contract," the source said.

Meanwhile, Matsapha United Acting CEO Victor 'Mavikane' Dlamini said he was yet to receive an update over the DR Congo born player.

"The player went to Ajax for trials and nothing has reached my office over his progress with the SA side," he said.

Dombo's return will bring headache to head Coach Saul Chaminuka who will have to offload one of his foreign



COMING BACK: Matsapha United winger Mike Dombo.

stars in order to meet the foreign quota of five players.

The team currently has six internationals in their squad. These are Vusumuzi Zungu, John Neguyani, Peter Mabaso

and Dombo, who have been joined by Nigerian striker Solomon Oladele and Ghanaian defender Bismarck Affrie who were recently signed by the team ahead of the new season.



Shukuma semis slated for Somhlolo

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SOCCKER – THE Shukuma semi-finals which were initially scheduled for the Mavuso Sport Centre will now be played at the Somhlolo National Stadium.

This was revealed by the Swaziland National Sports and Recreation Council (SNSRC) Media officer Dumsani Ntiwane yesterday.

"The semi-finals will now be played at the Somhlolo National Stadium starting at 8am. There will also be a presentation to the all the regional finalists and runners up on the day," he said.

The finalists from the four regions the Mkhweni representing Manzini

Region, Shiselweni II representing the Manzini Region, Mpolonjeni from Lubombo and Mbabane East Inkhundla from Hhohho.

"The first match of the day is scheduled for 10am and this will be Mbabane East against Shiselweni II while the second will be played at noon," he said.

Ntiwane further reminded that the teams on the rules of the tournament in that there would be no extra time in but teams will head straight to penalties in the event of a stalemate.

He then invited all fans in the country to come in great numbers to rally behind their constituencies.

"I call upon all fans to come and support these teams especially because it will be free of charge. We do appeal for violent free game."

SWALLOWS NOW PART OF US – ZULULAND MAYOR

By Qondile Ntiwane

SOCCKER – Zululand District Mayor His Excellency Mzamo Buthelezi says there will not be a Prince Mangosuthu Legacy Cup without Mbabane Swallows.

Interviewed after the team's clash against Amazulu at the Ulundi Stadium on Sunday, the mayor said the local giants were now a part of them and will always be invited to be part of the annual tournament.

Parcel

"I am not going to say Swallows will be invited to be part of the tournament as they are now part and parcel of this tournament. They are now a part of us and it wouldn't be a Legacy Cup without them."

"We would also like to express gratitude to the team for honouring our invitation to be part of this tournament. It was important for them to be here because Prince Mangosuthu has not only contributed to South Africa but the whole continent," he said.



CELEBRATION: Mbabane Swallows celebrating a goal in one of their recent games.

He said it was their wish to have some of their youngsters plying their trade with red and white ensemble.

"Swallows are a good team and would love to have some of our players going to play there."

Also coming here gave them chance to identify talent which is good for the

team," he said.

Mbabane Swallows crashed out early in the tournament after losing 1-2 to Amazulu in the first semi-final.

The tournament was eventually won by Bloemfontein Celtics which advanced to the finals after beating Ulundi XI in the first semi-final of the games.

MALANTI'S GONDWE DEMANDS E15 000 SALARY

By Sibusiso Dlamini

SOCCKER – LETHAL Malawian born striker Gomez Gondwe is demanding a E15 000 salary from his team upon their return to Premier League.

The current MTN National First Division top goal-scorer who finished the season with an impressive 13 goals, says he is ready to return to the Northern Hhohho based side, but wants to be paid more than what he was getting while in the first division.

When interviewed from his native country, the burly forward confirmed

that he isn't back in the country to join his teammates for pre-season training, and stated that it was due to the fact that he was out of contract.

"I am currently out of contract with Malanti Chiefs, which is why I am still here at home. I am looking for an improved offer from what I was getting last season, at least E15 000 per month."

Gondwe said albeit the fact that he was giving Malanti Chiefs first preference, he was open to offers

from other local teams who are willing to pay the required amount.

"Obviously, I am giving Malanti Chiefs first preference in the renewal of the contract but also open to offers from other clubs."

He said. Malanti Chiefs PRO Lungile Dube said the matter was being handled by the team's Director Dumsani Gumede.

"The director is the one dealing with the player in question and I am still waiting for feedback from him," he said.



NFAS TO HOST GOALKEEPING FESTIVAL ON SATURDAY

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCKER – THE National Football Association of Swaziland will host a goalkeeping festival at the Somhlolo National Stadium on Saturday.

According to a press statement the festival will be open to all Premier League coaches, regional and development football coaches in the country and will kick-off at 9am.

The festival will be facilitated by local instructors including Sihlangu assistant coach Anthony Mdluli, Vusisizwe Mahlalela and Musa Manyatsi.

"Coaches and goalkeepers are

advised not to miss this festival where the instructors will be offering basic skills of the game. This will include, tactics, techniques and physical conditioning which are key components of goal-keeping."

The festival will also be graced by the country's senior coaches including Sipho 'Shilton' Dube, Bright 'Komari' Nxumalo, Mphikelele 'Rabo' Dlamini and Njabuliso Simelane.

"Participants are urged to bring their own uniforms and further keep time so that the activity can finish on time. We also appeal to members of the public to bring their children to the event," reads the statement.



Botsotso Khoza joins Matsapha United

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCKER – Ambitious MTN Premier League headed Matsapha United have roped in experienced mentor Zwelibandzi 'Botsotso' Khoza as their new assistant coach.

The former Red Lions Coach will work hand in hand with head coach Saul Chaminuka in helping the 'Deep Blue Ocean' compete effectively in the upcoming campaign of 2017/18. Khoza was officially announced by the team's Acting Chief Executive Officer Victor 'Mavikane' Dlamini yesterday. "We would like to welcome Zwelibandzi Khoza to the team and ask that supporters warmly welcome him to the family. He is coming with valuable experience as he is not new in football and we are hoping he will contribute a lot to the team. He will be working with



Saul Chaminuka in ensuring that the team achieves the desired results."

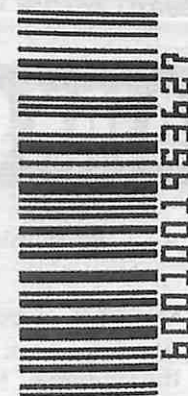
"We wish him the best of luck as he assumes his duties

in the team and we are appealing that our supporters also give the necessary support," he said. Dlamini also announced that they have appointed a new development coach in Raul P Mavie from Mozambique. He said the coach will be in charge of the Under - 17 and Under-20 squads. "I am glad to announce the appointment of Raul P Mavie as the head of the development. The coach will with his senior team head counterparts in developing a link between the two sides." "Raul has started training the squads and possibly next week we will be able to give more details." Meanwhile, Matsapha United will today leave the country for South Africa where they will play Platinum Stars and Polokwane City as part of their pre-season preparations.

SWAZI OBSERVER Sport

IF SPORTS IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE'RE YOUR CHURCH

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 2, 2017



'BIRDS' TO BUY FELIX OUT OF AS VITA CONTRACT

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCKER – Capital City giants Mbabane Swallows will have to dig deep into their coffers to bring back their 'asset' Felix 'Fela' Badenhorst from AS Vita Club.

Information gathered by this publication is that the red and white ensemble will have to spend not less than E300 000 to buy the player out of the remaining two years of his contract with Congolese giants.

Talks

A source close to the matter revealed talks between the two teams had begun and are now at an advanced stage.

"Swallows are working around the clock to sign Felix from Vita but he won't come cheap as he now belongs to AS Vita.

...Capital city giants are likely to spend not less than E300 000 in bringing back the player in the country

The deal will not be less than E300 000 but nothing has been finalised. Badenhorst returned home about two months ago featuring in the 2017 COSAFA Cup which was held in South Africa where he scored the national team's only goal at the regional showpiece.

Trade

The 2016 COSAFA Cup top goal scorer joined Vita on a three year deal reportedly worth E800 000 late last year becoming the second local star to join the Florent Ibenge-led side after Mthunzi 'Xavi' Mkhontfo, who is still plying his trade in Congo.

The lanky Sihlangu player is already training with the glamour boys and featured for the

side in the Prince Mangosuthu Cup played in Ulundi, South Africa over the past weekend.

Crown

Swallows General Manager Sandile 'Beyond 2000' Zwane could not be reached for comment as his mobile phone rang unanswered when called yesterday afternoon.

There was also no response to a message sent to him at the time of going to press.

The player will spearhead Swallows striking force as the team will take part in next year's Total CAF Champions League after convincingly clinching the 2016/17 MTN Premier League crown with an impressive 22 matches unbeaten run.



TBCs Apply

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Competition closes on the 26th August 2017

in touch...
Swazi Telecom

