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SPINTEX CLOSED AS FIRE BURNS DOWN FACTORY
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LONG TELECOMMUNICATIONS BATTLE LOOMS LARGE...

MTN, SECCOM ON COLLISION COURSE

STORY ON PAGE 3

...the giant telecommunications company is disputing being a dominant player in the industry a move that could force a new player to close down

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STUDY LOAN RECOVERY NEWS



Study loans team to visit all four regions

By Lungelo Nkambule
Mbabane

THE Study Loans Recovery Consortium will in January embark on regional campaigns in a bid to reach all beneficiaries who still have not been able to come forward to make repayment arrangements.

The regional campaigns have been prompted by the influx that was witnessed last week towards the deadline for making loan repayment arrangements, where hundreds of beneficiaries flooded the DataNet offices in Mbabane where the consortium is

housed, in a bid to make the loan repayment arrangements at the last minute. Khanya Magagula, Project Manager, revealed that the regional campaigns will start on the second week of the New Year.

Repayment

He said the consortium will visit Pigg's Peak, Nhlanguano, Siteki and Manzini where the team will be stationed to assist beneficiaries who want to make the loan repayment arrangements.

"The dates and the venues for each of the regions will be announced soon, but definitely we are taking the ser-

vice to the people," he said.

Magagula said due to the influx of the beneficiaries, the consortium resorted into taking the services to the people.

"The overwhelming response indicated to us that there are a number of beneficiaries around the country who are interested in doing the right thing of making their loan repayment arrangements but are hindered by proximity.

That is why we have opted to taking the services closer to their nearest towns. Taking the service closer to the beneficiaries will also lift off the financial implications that are associated

with travelling to Mbabane," he said. Magagula said taking the service to the people will also help beneficiaries who are located in the rural areas and do not have access to the internet.

Address

"As you may know that if a beneficiary has access to the internet and have an email address they do not need to physically come to our offices, but can communicate with our consultants via the email and complete the whole process.

We have had calls from some beneficiaries who had the interest of coming through to our offices but stated that they live very far from Mbabane and could not come as they had transportation challenges as they are located in areas which are deeply remote.

This is an opportunity for them to come as we are taking the service to the people," he said.

He further urged beneficiaries who did not get a chance to make the loan repayment arrangements to visit the venues where the consortium team will be stationed.

"This, however, does not mean that beneficiaries who are closer to Mbabane must stop coming to the offices and wait for the regional visits. Beneficiaries are still welcome to come," he said.

It is worth noting that the Study Loans Recovery Consortium last week extended the deadline for beneficiaries to make study repayment arrangements by two months. The deadline was November 30 and it has been extended to January 31.

VIOLENT NATION:

Over 10 000 cases of violence recorded in 2016

Stories by Nozipho Sibiyi
Mbabane

In 2016, a total of 10 504 incidences of gender based violence were reported, an indication that we have become a violent nation.

The trend shows that on average, 875 incidences were reported monthly.

Most of the incidents were reported during the month of January and February, which was 1 084 and 1 085, respectively.

According to statistics released by the National Surveillance System on Violence of the year 2016, cases of aggression increased by 58.6 per cent from the previous two years.

Present during the release of the shocking statistics was the Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini, Economic Planning and Development Minister Prince Hlangusemphi, United Nations Resident Coordinator Israel Dessalegne, UNECA Director Social Development and Policy Division Keiso Mantashane-Marite and PS Khegeziwe Mabuza, who was the master of ceremonies.

The National Surveillance System on Violence routinely collects information on incidents of violence through standardised surveillance system, which is collected and analysed to identify trends of violence incidences over a period of time.

The statistics were communicated during the dissemination meeting for the National Gender and Development Index Report and the National Strategy to end

...What is so alarming is that most of the cases are perpetrated by relatives or intimate partners and most of the violence happens around the home, a place that is expected to be a safe haven for children



WORRYING: Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini speaking during the presentation of the 2016 National Surveillance System results on Violence in Swaziland. (Pic: Nozipho Sibiyi)

violence in Swaziland at Mountain Inn Hotel yesterday.

Increase

Department of Gender and Family Issues' Mpendulo Masuku said from the data generated between January 2014 and December 2016, it showed an increase in the reported incidences of violence.

He said a total of 6 154 incidences were reported in 2014 and 7 729 in 2015 while

in 2016 the total number of reported incidences stood at 10 504.

He said the data shows that each year the reported incidences of violence increase and 2016 saw a significant increase of 58.6 per cent from the previous two years.

The majority of victims are women, at 73 per cent compared to 27 per cent males. Adults above the age of 25 constituted a majority of the victims or survivors in the reported cases of violence at 55 per cent followed by the youth between the ages of 18 to 24.

Incidents of violence in adolescents between the ages of 12 to 17 stood at 18 and 17 per cent, respectively.

"What is so alarming is that most of the cases are perpetrated by relatives or intimate partners and most of the violence happens around the home, a place that is expected to be a safe haven for children," he said.

Masuku said the department of gender and family takes issues of violence seriously as they impend the general welfare of individuals, society and the country as a whole.

He said it was important that these numbers should trigger action for prevention and response to violence.

He said there is a need to strengthen and support the initiatives that the country has started in the fight against violence.

Lovers account for more violence

THE data collected by the National Surveillance System on Violence in Swaziland suggests that boyfriend or girlfriend; including those who are separated, were the main perpetrators of violence.

According to the statistics, 30 per cent of the cases were amongst boyfriends, girlfriends and people who have separated.

"These strongly suggest that intimate partner relationships are characterised by high violence, especially sexually and physical violence," highlighted Masuku.

He said 16 per cent of the cases were reported by husbands or wives and other family members.

Meanwhile, parents account for nine per cent, whilst strangers account

for only eight per cent.

Masuku said after the data collections and outcomes, they recommended the enactment of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Bill 2015 and the finalisation and implementation of regulations of the Child Protection and Welfare Act 2012.

"There is a need for greater effort to ensure that there is real-time data to support national surveillance, timely violence response mechanisms and inform policy decisions," he said.

To mention a few, he said there should be focus on appropriate and strategic prevention interventions particularly at households or domestic level to stem the tide of violence.

UN commends Swaziland

THE United Nations commends Swaziland for joining the global community in adopting the Africa Gender and Development Index to assess progress made towards the attainment of gender quality.

United Nations Resident Coordinator Israel Dessalegne also commended the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) for the pivotal role it is playing in this important area.

"The 2016 Index for the country provides us with pointers for the opportunities and challenges ahead of us in reducing gender inequality in Swaziland in all forms of its of its manifestation," he added.

He said the high prevalence of gender based violence remains a concern for everyone and there

are indicators that an estimated one in three women, are reported to have experienced some form of sexual violence by the time they are 18 years.

He also mentioned that the main perpetrators are intimate partners, rooting the cause to unequal power relations.

Intimate

"Alarming is that, intimate partners violence remains the most hidden, most underreported and the most 'complex' type of violence," he stated. On the other hand, the Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini launched the National Strategy to End Violence.

Making his remarks, Dlamini commended UNECA and the UN for supporting the country in order to meet its sustainable goal number five, gender equality.

...Manzini region is the most violent

THE highest number of violence incidents was recorded in the Manzini region.

It was followed by the Hhohho and Lubombo regions.

Incidents of violence were reported in all the regions, with the highest number of incidents recorded from

the Manzini region standing at 32 per cent while Hhohho and Lubombo regions stood at 28 per cent each.

Recorded

Department of Gender and Family Issues representative Mpendulo Masuku said the Shiselweni region recorded the least incidences at 12

per cent.

"Statistics shows that most of the reported incidences occurred at home. There are 71 per cent cases of violence that occurred at home, followed by 19 per cent of cases that happened out of the home or any other institutions which is recorded as open field,"

he said.

He mentioned that incidences that happened at the workplace and school were less as there were two and three per cent, respectively.

Violence

He said violence is prevalent among people who are known to each other as it is demonstrated by the data from the surveillance system.

He said the data trends show that increase of reported cases captured by the surveillance system over the

past three years gives the assertion that either more people are reporting violence or the actual incidence of violence is on a rise.

"There is, therefore, a need to accommodate this trend with separate studies to confirm either assertion," he said.

Masuku said there are five types of violence incidences which the surveillance system records, and these are physical, sexual, emotional, financial and neglect.

MTN AND SCCOM ON COLLISION COURSE

COVER STORY

By Lungelo Nkambule
Mbabane

20 years ago when Swazi MTN Limited started its operations in the country, the Swaziland Posts and Telecommunications Corporation (SPTC) was declared a dominant player to allow the new entrant in the industry room to operate.

This, according to industry experts, allowed MTN to settle well and this practice is done the world over. The pronouncement allowed MTN to grow its business.

The dominant status meant that SPTC paid MTN more when landlines called MTN cellphones.

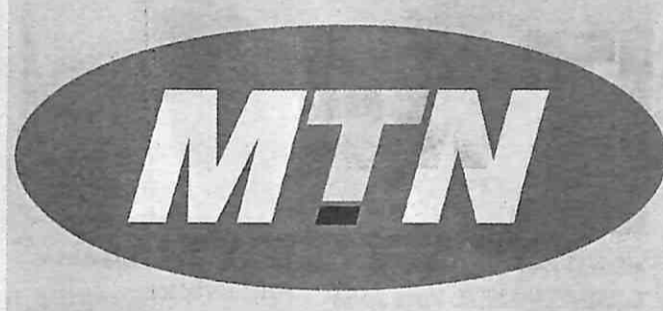
To be specific, sources revealed, SPTC then paid MTN E1.30 per minute for a call from a landline to a cellphone.

When the opposite happened, MTN paid SPTC only 25 cents. A source from the Communications Commission (SCCOM), the regulator of the industry, said this was done to allow MTN as a new player room to maneuver and achieve stability.

The arrangement made sure SPTC never submerged MTN to a point of closure.

Fast forward to 2017, November to be specific, SCCOM declared MTN a dominant player in the mobile telecommunications space because of its longevity and giant status. However, the giant company is hear-

...Take notice that the Swaziland Communications Commission has received an application from Swazi MTN Limited for review of a decision pronouncing them dominant in the retail Mobile Voice Market, decision published under General Notice No. 16, 2017. In essence, Swazi MTN is disputing the declaration of their dominant status in the retail mobile telecommunications sector in the country



ing none of this.

MTN is disputing that it is a dominant player.

The SCCOM source said the stance taken by MTN which for now is within their rights could see the new player in the mobile telecommunications space folding because the playing field is not level.

Swazi MTN Limited has filed an application to the SCCOM to have the pronouncement that they are a dominant player in the mobile voice market industry reviewed.

SCCOM reportedly pronounced the company which has been operating for 20 years dominant following the introduction of a new player in the industry Swazi Mobile.

By declaring MTN dominant, SCCOM was allowing the new player in the industry longevity and space to maneuver. This move further puts consumers in a better position in terms of tariffs.

Explaining why MTN was pronounced dominant through a General Notice No 16 posted on the regulator's website, SCCOM Chief Executive Office Mvilawemphi Dlamini said the decision was taken in terms of Section 37 of the Swaziland Communications Act 2013.

In the notice, Dlamini stated that while mobile subscribers in the country had grown by 4.9 per cent since 2010 and continued to grow with increased uptake of mobile services

affordability, the mobile voice market was still held solely by MTN with a 100 per cent market share. "Projections predict a slight drop in market share with the entry of a new licensee, however MTN will still hold a majority of the market share over the next five years," noted Dlamini in the notice.

He further points out that MTN was at an added advantage because of its access to scale and resources through its parent company, MTN Group.

He said the MTN Group affords the local MTN its extensive knowledge, experience, buying power and negotiating power that would put any future entrant in the market at a

competitive disadvantage.

Currently the mobile networks charge the same amount for calls placed to each other.

According to the SCCOM CEO, if this goes on, Swazi Mobile will not be able to operate for long because MTN is already a key player in the industry hence the regulator must stabilise and level the playing field.

"MTN currently offers peak and off peak rates. If off-net and on-net rates are introduced with discounted on-net rate for consumers, given that all current consumers belong to MTN, there is a high probability that majority of consumers will remain on the MTN network as it is connected to the largest portion of the population," further states Dlamini.

He adds that the market has fixed costs, so economies of scale offer important benefits to large operators by way of reducing their unit costs.

"SPTC is dominant in the fixed voice market and MTN is dominant in the mobile voice market. The commission will be vigilant in identifying anti-competitive behaviour in both the fixed voice market and the mobile voice market," continues the regulator.

After the pronouncement of being a dominant player, MTN filed an appeal. The MTN appeal is confirmed by the SCCOM CEO through a general public notice published in both local daily newspapers. "Take notice that the Swaziland Communications Commission has received an application from Swazi MTN Limited for review of a decision pronouncing them dominant in the retail Mobile Voice Market, decision published under General Notice No. 16, 2017. In essence, Swazi MTN is disputing the declaration of their dominant status in the retail mobile telecommunications sector in the country. The commission is currently considering this application for review and shall pronounce its final decision on same in due course in accordance with the provisions of the Swaziland Communications Act, 2013," wrote Dlamini in the public notice.

SCCOM FINDINGS FROM THE ASSESSMENT OF THE COMPETITION IN THE MOBILE VOICE AND FIXED VOICE MARKETS

● MTN's exclusivity period ended in 2008, and since then MTN has enjoyed a de facto monopoly in the mobile market. The Commission recently licensed Swazi Mobile Limited, which entered the market in August 2017. Mobile subscribers in the country have grown by 4.9 per cent since 2010, and continue to grow with the increased uptake of mobile services and affordability. 4.1.2 The mobile voice market is held solely by MTN, with a 100 per cent market share. Projections predict a slight drop in market share with the entry of a new licensee, however MTN will still hold a majority of the market share over the next five years. 4.1.3 MTN holds 100 per cent market share, making the pricing restrictive for consumers who have no other alternative. This has also given MTN the liberty to price liberally with little to no marginal cost floors. Network effects play a significant role on the mobile access, voice and SMS market. MTN currently offers peak and off peak

rates. If off-net and on-net rates are introduced with a discounted on-net rate for consumers, given that all current consumers belong to MTN, there is a high probability that the majority of consumers will remain on the MTN network as it is connected to the largest portion of the population. 4.1.4 The market has significant fixed costs, so economies of scale offer important benefits to large operators by way of reducing their unit costs. The incumbent operator would then be able to leverage its size in both the Swazi market and internationally to take advantage of lower unit costs than a new entrant, particularly one that is not part of a larger telecoms Group. 4.1.5 Finally, MTN's access to scale and resources through its parent company, MTN Group, gives it extensive knowledge, experience, buying power, and negotiating power that would put a future entrant in the market at a competitive disadvantage.

SCCOM REMEDIES TO THIS

● The Commission will be vigilant in identifying anti-competitive behaviour in both the fixed voice market and the mobile voice market. Abuse of dominance may entail, amongst others: ● Tying and bundling, where an oper-



ator makes the purchase of one product or service in the relevant market conditional on the purchase of a second product or service.

● Predatory pricing, in terms of which an operator sets prices below cost in order to force a competitor out of the market. The OECD describes predatory pricing as "pricing so low that competitors quit rather than compete, permitting the predator to raise prices in the long run"

● Unfair cross-subsidisation, dominant competitor uses the profits from the sale of its dominant product / service to support (finance losses) non-dominant product / service, for instance creating unrealistically low competitive price of such product, threatening players on the market and applying predatory pricing.

● Non-price predation, where an operator adjusts the quality of its product offering to customers with the aim of harming its competitor. For example, an incumbent might offer an improved level of service to customers served by one new entrant.

● Discrimination, applying different conditions to equivalent transactions for different market participants (other competitors or customers) for the same services/facilities, in order to disadvantage them in competition.

● Exclusive dealing arrangements, in which a seller prevents its distributors from selling competing products or services.

● Part of this vigilance involves the imposition of remedies to prevent the abuse of dominance.

● The Commission resolves that the

remedies to be imposed on dominant operators in the mobile voice market are as follows.

SCCOM FURTHER STATES THAT DOMINANT OPERATORS IN THE MOBILE VOICE MARKET MUST;

- Publish their approved tariffs, including special promotions and bundles.
- Published information should be easy to find and easy to understand.
- All tariffs including roaming, promotions and bundles must be pre-approved by SCCOM.
- Publish separated accounts for their retail and wholesale activities.
- Not offer differentiated on-net/off-net tariffs.
- Not enter into exclusive agreements with independent sales-agents unless such agents are franchisees of the dominant operator.
- Report quarterly to SCCOM in terms of a format to be prescribed by SCCOM to enable on-going analysis of market issues and the application of relevant and timely interventions.
- SCCOM will ensure that information that is determined to be confidential is not published.

NATCOM PROMOTES 37 COPS

By Lungelo Nkambule
Mbabane

THE National Commissioner of Police Isaac Magagula has promoted 37 officers in command and other strategic categories in the police service.

a) From Senior Assistant Commissioner to Assistant National Commissioner

1. Bonisile Simelane-Masuku – PHQ Director Legal Affairs
2. Gerald Ngwane Dlamini – Director Royal Protection Services Unit
3. Meshack Mbongwa Ntshalintshali – PHQ Director Intelligence Services & State Security
4. Vusi John Masuku – Commandant, Matsapha Police Academy

b) Assistant Commissioner to Senior Assistant Commissioner

1. Ngwane Patrick Mabuza – PHQ Director Research, Training & Development
2. Mxolisi David Dlamini – PHQ Director Administration & Corporate Affairs
3. Ezal Mierman "Bizzah" Dlamini – PHQ Director Criminal Investigation Department
4. Shadrack Melusi Simelane – PHQ Director Finance, Procurement & Logistics

c) From Senior Superintendent to Assistant Commissioner

1. Tibonisile Nomsa Mdziniso – Hhohho Regional Operations Officer
2. Khanyisile Princess Nkambule – Matsapha Police Academy Officer In-charge Basic & In-Service Training Division
3. Simangele Judith Motsa – PHQ In-charge Litigations
4. Martin Bonginkosi Dlamini – PHQ In-charge Forensic Science Services
5. Samuel Gundwane Mahlobo – In-charge Royal Residence Protection Unit
6. Phumzile Margaret Magagula/Maseko (F) – Manzini Regional Operations Officer
7. Caiphas Dumsani Malinga – PHQ Senior Government Security Officer
8. Vusumuzi Mfanasilili Gama – Matsapha Police Academy Officer In-charge Faculty of Management & Leadership

d) From Superintendent to Senior Superintendent

1. Howard Themba Hlophe – PHQ In-charge Border Security & Immigration
2. Gabriel Mbongeni Dlamini – PHQ Police Chief Chaplain
3. Sheila Sidudla Ngubeni (F) – PHQ Staff Officer Finance

...Of the promoted officers, 11 are female

The promoted officers fill vacancies created by various staff attrition factors in particular retirements. The promotions are intended to strengthen administrative and supervisory systems of the police service especially at the oper-

ational level, to ensure that the public receives the best possible service. Of the 37 promoted officers, 11 are female.

These promotions are effective from this month and the promoted officers are:



ASSISTANT NATIONAL COMMISSIONER: Vusi John Masuku – Commandant, Matsapha Police Academy.



SENIOR ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER: Mxolisi David Dlamini – PHQ Director Administration & Corporate Affairs.



INSPECTOR: Siza Nkambule – Shiselweni RHQ Intelligence Services & State Security.

4. Aaron Mboniseni Methula – Regional Crime Branch Officer Lubombo
5. Alton Sandile Lukhele – PHQ Intelligence Services & State Security
6. Maureen Sithembile Dlamini (F) – Post Commander, Ngwenya Border Post
7. Dudu Princess Ngwenya (F) – PHQ Desk Officer Operation
8. Nombuso Phindile Ndzabandzaba (F) – PHQ Desk Officer Interpol NCB
9. Donald Dumsane Zwane – Royal Protection Services Unit
10. Dictor Sikhumbuzo Gwebu – Regional Crime Branch Officer Shiselweni

e) From Assistant Superintendent to Superintendent

1. Elias Mfanaleni Mlangeni – PHQ Prosecution Liaison Officer
2. Sikelela Joseph Mkhabela – Shiselweni 2nd In-charge Regional Intelligence Services & State Security Officer
3. Patience Winile Tsabi (F) – Post Commander Mhlumeni Border Post
4. Wilson Sidumo Dube – PHQ 2nd In-charge Fraud and Commercial Crimes Unit

5. Delisa D. Mavuso – Mankayane Station Commander
6. Edwin Boy Dlamini – PHQ Administration
7. Mzikayifani Samson Hlandze – PHQ Deputy Staff Officer Finance
8. Vusumuzi Charles Simelane – Mbabane In-charge Diplomatic Security Detail
9. Innocent Bhekani Khumalo – Matsapha Police Academy Senior Course Co-ordinator Faculty of Management and Leadership
10. Dumsani Ndlanla – OSSU In-charge Scuba Divers
11. Philile Mkhonta (F) – PHQ In-charge Emergency Response System (999)
12. Joseph M. Matsebula – Lavumisa Station Commander

f) From Inspector to Assistant Superintendent

1. Zodwa T. Mathunjwa (F) – Manzini Police Station In-charge Intelligence Services & State Security
2. Bonaparte Mkhaphi – Royal Protection Services Unit
3. Jameson Z. Lukhele – Royal Residence Protection Unit
4. Themba M. Fakudze – Post Commander Matsamo Border Post

5. Cynthia R. Barbosa (F) – PHQ Crime Prevention Desk Officer
6. Philemon Magubane Kunene – Simunye Station Operations Officer
7. Victor D. Nyawo – PHQ CID Training Officer
8. James B. Motsa – PHQ Research, Planning & Development
9. James J. Dube – Royal Protection Services Unit
10. Henry V. Madonsela – PHQ In-charge Ballistics Unit
11. Nhlanhla L. Sihlongonyane – Pigg's Peak Station Operations Officer
12. Siboniso P. Shongwe – Manzini Police Station In-charge Traffic
13. Lucky V. Masina – PHQ Intelligence Services & State Security
14. Thabo M. Hlophe – Hhohho In-charge Lukhozi
15. Lucky M. Msibi – Nhlangano Station Operations Officer
16. Vusi R. Dlamini – Manzini In-charge Lukhozi
17. Gcina C. Hleta – Matsapha Police Academy Clinic

g) From Assistant Inspector to Inspector

1. Phumzile Luhlanga – Royal Catering
2. Jabulani Dlamini – Matsapha In-charge Crime Prevention
3. Mcebo P. Langa – Siphofaneni Desk Officer CID
4. Siza Nkambule – Shiselweni RHQ Intelligence Services & State Security
5. Sandile S. Simelane – OSSU Bomb Disposal Unit
6. Gcina Magagula – Royal Residence Protection Unit
7. Gcina Bulunga – Tshaneni In-charge Traffic
8. Elmon S. Nkondze – Siteki Police Station Administration Officer
9. Lungile Khumalo (F) – Matsapha Police Academy In-charge Registry
10. Isaac K. Nkwanyana – Gege Desk Officer CID
11. Gladness Xolani Gama (F) – Emakhosikati Security Detail
12. Sibusiso Mlota – Pigg's Peak Police Station Administration Officer
13. Bonisile B. Mlambo (F) – Mliba Police Station In-charge Traffic
14. Simon Matsejwa – PHQ Legal Affairs Department
15. Nokuthula Masina (F) – PHQ Social Welfare & Health Department
16. Altraice V. Mamba (F) – Matsapha Police Academy Clinic
17. Goodness D. Dlamini (F) – Manzini RHQ 2nd In-charge Fraud & Commercial Crimes Unit
18. Sithembile T. Mkhabela (F) – Manzini 2nd In-charge Traffic
19. Bhekinkosi Madlopha – Mankayane Desk Officer CID
20. Millicent P. Dlamini (F) – Big Bend Police Station In-charge DCS

Total chaos as farmers scramble for fertiliser at Motshane RDA

By Mbono Mdluli
Mbabane

THERE was alleged chaos at Motshane RDA as farmers vandalised property at the government facility over fertiliser.

The mayhem is said to have happened in the early hours of yesterday as farmers from about five constituencies scrambled for fertiliser. The situation is said to have been tough in such a way that some farmers had to sleep at the RDA to get the fertiliser. A source close to the matter said farm-

ers were now anxious because they still have not received fertiliser. The source complained about the bad service rendered by the RDA staff members.

She said yesterday, a truck arrived before 8am. At that time, there were about 100 farmers lining up to get the fertiliser. Some of the farmers were coming from places like Maphalaleni, Nkhamba, Sigangeni, Siphocosini, Hhukwini, among others.

The source mentioned that at that time, the farmers were impatient because they saw the truck carrying the material they wanted the most,

which was fertiliser. What irked them was that no one was there to address them on the development, more especially because the time was past 8am.

According to the source, the farmers were irked to the point of wanting to claim the fertiliser for themselves.

That was when the chaos allegedly occurred. The gate to the RDA was vandalised.

Minister for Agriculture Moses Vilakati said the gate at the RDA was vandalised by the truck, not farmers.

"What is great today (yesterday) is that almost all farmers were served



CALM: Minister for Agriculture Moses Vilakati.

with fertiliser. The rest of the farmers will get the fertilisers at their various Tinkhundla," Vilakati said. He

further mentioned that the Motshane RDA had more farmers in the fertiliser input supply.



THE BEST OF THEM ALL: Nokwanda Mdluli of Mhlume High School receiving her certificate and US\$500 which is equivalent to E6 879.25 from Minister of Education Phineas Magagula and acting PS Nomphumelelo Shongwe. Nokwanda came first in the SADC Secondary Schools Essay Competition. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



AWARDED: Second place winner Nsetselelo Dlamini of Ka-Boyce receiving his award.

SADC SECONDARY SCHOOLS ESSAY COMPETITION



PRESENT: English Inspector Martha Shongwe making her remarks.



THANK YOU: First prize winner Nokwanda Mdluli of Mhlume High School speaking on behalf of the other two winners.



POSE: The winners with their teachers Siphosini Mazibuko and Sam Nkambule. They were joined by Minister of Education Phineas Magagula, acting PS Nomphumelelo Dlamini and SADC Director Babazile Magongo.



ACCEPTING: Third place winner Samketi Dlamini of Manzini Nazarene High School accepting his prize.



MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MBABANE

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF STREETLIGHTING ALONG Ndingilizi Street TENDER REFERENCE NUMBER 184 OF 2017/2018

1. The Municipal Council of Mbabane hereby invites sealed tenders from suitably qualified contractors for the supply of all materials and installation and execution of all works necessary for the complete Street Lighting Installations as detailed in this specification and the Bill of quantities.
2. Tender Documents may be purchased from the Municipal Council of Mbabane's Civic Offices from 28th November 2017 for a non-refundable fee of E300.00 per set. The method of payment shall be cash or bank guaranteed cheque, payable to the Municipal Council of Mbabane. The Municipal Council of Mbabane does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender and reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.
3. Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a bid security of E3 000.00. There shall be a pre-tender briefing at 9:00 am on Thursday, December 14, 2017. Interested Bidders are to meet Council representatives at the Council Offices
4. Tender Documents shall be delivered in a sealed envelope and deposited into the Tender Box located next to the Revenue Offices at the following address;

Municipal Council of Mbabane
P.O. Box 1 Civic Offices, Mahlokohla Street
Mbabane

not later than 12 Noon Swaziland time on Friday January 19, 2018, at which time the tenders will be opened in public. Late, telegraphic, electronic and faxed tenders will not be considered. Tenderers or their Representative may attend the opening procedure.

On the outside of the envelope shall be clearly marked:

"CONFIDENTIAL TENDER NO 184 OF 2017/18 SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF STREETLIGHTING ALONG Ndingilizi Street" (Not to be opened before 12 Noon Friday January 19, 2018)

The following documents must be enclosed in the tender envelope; Current Tax Clearance, Swaziland National Provident Fund (SNPF) compliance certificate for local suppliers, Labour compliance certificate or equivalent for local suppliers.

5. No tender documents shall be sold at the site inspection or after, except to bidders who shall have made prior arrangements and attended the pre-tender briefing.

GIDEON MHLONGO
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MHLUME HIGH PUPIL WINS E7 000 IN SADC ESSAY COMPETITION

Stories by Mbono Mdluli
Mbabane

THE country's best pupil in the SADC Secondary School Essay Competition has managed to walk away with E6 879.25.

Nokwanda Mdluli from Mhlume High was the country's best pupil in the 2017 competition. She walked away with US\$500. She was followed by Ntsetselelo Dlamini from Ka-Boyce High, who

got US\$300 (E4 127.55) and third was Samketi Dlamini from Manzini Nazarene High, who won US\$200 (E2751.70).

The three pupils were awarded their prizes in South Africa during the SADC Heads of State and Government Summit in August this year. Mdluli, who was the country's best, came as the seventh winner in the region when the prize presentation was made in South Africa.

Mdluli and the other winning pupils in the country could not walk away with the US\$1 500 (E20

637.75), which was reserved for a winner at regional level. The second best pupil in the region got US\$1 000 (E13 758.50), while the third best walked away with US\$800 (E11 006.80).

Minister of Education and Training Dr Phineas Magagula congratulated the pupils for winning the competition. "We are proud of you because you have become role models for all learners through your hard work and commitment to academic excellence, even in the most challenging of circumstances," Magagula said.

Nokwanda almost gave up

NOKWANDA Mdluli once felt like giving up on taking part in the competition, as she was participating for the third time.

Mdluli said this yesterday at the ministry of education and training conference room in Mbabane. The confident and eloquent young girl, said she had not won anything in the previous two competitions. However, she learnt how to persevere until she got what she wanted.

She thanked the King for allowing government to encourage Swazi children to take part in this competition. She said what was done by the King could not be found in other countries.

She further expressed gratitude to teachers and parents for guiding them as they prepared for the competition. She said what they did was to prepare the world of tomorrow because the fruits of the future were in today's seeds.

Meanwhile, Mdluli said she was interested in doing courses in Information Technology (IT) when she finishes school. She said she loved IT and it was an easy subject when she compared it with the other subjects she did.

Ntsetselelo Dlamini from Ka-Boyce said he was interested in doing Actuarial Studies. He was interested in finance, more especially because he loved playing with numbers. He said he was also interested in Mathematics.

Samketi Dlamini from Manzini Nazarene said he would love to pursue courses in Computer Engineering. He was fascinated by electronic gadgets such that he wanted to know how they worked.

King orders improvement of Etjendlovu High

THE SADC Secondary School Essay Competition inspired His Majesty King Mswati III to call for the improvement of previously unknown Etjendlovu High.

The essay writing competition takes place annually among SADC member states. This year's topic for the competition was "Harnessing Sustainable Energy for Regional Economic Development."

His Majesty the King commissioned the ministry of education and training to improve the appearance of the school, which is situated in the Shiselweni region. This was said by Minister of Education and Training Dr. Phineas Magagula yesterday at the ministry's conference room in Mbabane. Magagula said the King was inspired by the performance of Mancoba Msibi in 2014. Msibi was a Form Five pupil at the school when he became the third best pupil in the SADC region. He was the first Swazi pupil to make his presence felt in the regional essay writing competition.

Msibi claimed his prize in Zimbabwe, during the SADC Heads of State and Government Summit. Msibi is now pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities at the University of Swaziland (UNISWA), where he is in his third year now. The minister said what was done by Msibi turned the fortunes of the school because the King had commanded for such to happen.

Classrooms in that school were not in a good shape. He further stated that they had to change the direction which was faced by some classrooms. They were facing the eastern direction of the school and the minister ordered that they should face the western direction, in order for them to face other classrooms in the school.

His Majesty, according to Magagula, also gave bags to all the pupils in the school. They were around 500 in number. This all happened at Etjendlovu High just because of one pupil, who put the school and the country on the map.



IMPROVE. Minister of Education and Training Dr Phineas Magagula.

Magagula encouraged more pupils to take part in such competitions because that would enable them to improve their situations, just like Msibi did. Such competitions also allowed pupils to identify their weaknesses and strengths in different walks of life.

That would enable the pupils to improve their capabilities in doing things.

He further thanked English teachers for taking their time to guide the pupils in writing the essays. He acknowledge the hard work the teachers had to go through and told them that what was good about it was that it paid off. The country was now taken seriously in the SADC region.

The minister promised that his ministry would sit down to find a way of ensuring that there finds allocated for such a competition because it had proven that the country was successful in this competition. Next year's topic will be "The Role of Private Sector in Developing Industries and Regional Value Chains."

More category 'a' parastatals apply for bonuses

By Fortune Ndlangamandla
Mbabane

THE festive season, which looked bleak for parastatals a few months ago, looks set to be merry as some have already got their bonuses whereas others might get them soon.

The Public Service Pensions Fund (PSPF) has reportedly paid workers' bonuses while the Swaziland National Provident Fund is finalising payments as some workers have been paid.

The Swaziland Development Finance Corporation (FINCORP) and Swaziland Communications Commission (SCCOM) have since requested permission to pay employees bonuses as well.

This comes less than a month after the circular containing guidelines on the payment of performance bonuses for category 'A' public enterprises for the financial year 2016/2017 was approved by Cabinet. The Public Enterprise Unit (PEU) Circular Number 3/2017 was approved on November 7, 2017.

After the circular was approved, Swaziland Electricity Company (SEC) paid workers ending a strike which left the country without electricity for about a week in some areas.

The three parastatals are waiting for approving from the Standing Committee on Public Enterprises (SCOPE). Director of Public Enterprises Unit, Busangani Mkhaliphi refused to confirm whether the above institutions had applied to give its workers bonuses.

"There are public enterprises that have submitted requests for their bonuses for SCOPE approval but I won't be specific as it's not my job to divulge such details," Mkhaliphi said. She went on to state that only Cabinet can be in better position to confirm whether the above enterprises have applied for bonuses. She said she won't divulge issues of the Cabinet who are her superiors.

Of note, SNPF employees were informed of bonuses by their Chief Executive Officer Prince Lonkhokhela on Friday during their end of the year party. During his speech, the CEO stated that he had formally requested the bonuses from the minister and his request was approved. Several employees stated that even though they were yet to receive their bonuses, they were assured of them as their peers had been paid.

LIQUOR NOTICE

It is hereby notified for general information that the Liquor Licensing Board will hold its sitting to hear the following applications at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade Conference Room on the **27 DECEMBER 2017** starting at **10.00am**.

Region LUBOMBO

1. **NKOSINATHI SIMELANE**, P. O. Box 14 **SIPHOFANENI** of a **WINE & MALT** Liquor Licence situated at **PLOT 4 TSHANENI** known as **NODAYIMANE WINE & MALT**

Any person who wishes to lodge an objection to the above-mentioned application may do so with the Secretary of the Liquor Licensing Board in writing, sending a copy to the applicant by registered mail to reach him/her at least ten days before the sitting of the Board.

SECRETARY LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD
P.O. BOX 451
MBABANE

Nazarene Church, Prince Majaha to host mountain hike

By Mbono Mdluli
Mbabane

ANOTHER mountain hike event is on the cards as the Church of the Nazarene and Prince Majaha Foundation will be hosting one at Lunkuntu Mountains in Big Bend next Saturday.

The event is set to be the first of its kind in the Lubombo region. Prince Majaha Foundation Organiser Mncobi Dlamini said the aim of hosting the event was to raise funds so that they could be able to financially support people who were part of vulnerable groups like those who were living with albinism and other disabled individuals. Dlamini disclosed this yesterday in an interview with this newspaper. He was in the company of Thando Gule, who is an ambassador of the mountain hiking event.



MOUNTAIN HIKE: Nazarene Church and Prince Majaha Foundation mountain hike organisers Thando Gule and Mncobi Dlamini posing for a picture at the Swazi Observer offices yesterday. (Pic: Mbono Mdluli)

Dlamini further stated that it was their wish to have disadvantaged people take part in certain sporting activities like netball, basketball and other sporting codes. Concerning the event, Dlamini said they have now engaged

companies like KPMG, which forked out a sponsorship of E3 000. Umoba Company in Big Bend forked out E2 500 to support the event.

The organiser further asked for more assistance from other companies that

could be interested in sponsoring the event. He stated that they wanted to engage Swaziland Water Services Corporation (SWSC) to provide water during the event. Swazi Mobile is another company they planned to approach to provide T-shirts, caps, and juice bottle sponsorships. He asked for more sponsorships from companies, saying they also needed to some snacks after the hike to avoid some dangerous situations during the event. He said the church and the foundation would host a gala dinner to raise awareness about the event. Another purpose of the gala dinner would be to launch the mountain hiking event, which would be held annually after the one to be held next week Monday. He said they wanted to approach companies such as Inyatsi Construction and Kukhanya Civil Engineers to help with the gala dinner.

Mpolonjeni 'killer family' murder case fails to start, son reported sick

Stories by Sandile Nkambule
High Court

THE trial of a wife and her two children who are accused of ganging up and killing her husband failed to kick off yesterday afternoon as one of the suspects was reported sick by his co-accused mother.

The three are alleged to have killed the Director of BOMED Investments, Bongani Mngometulu (44). The matter before High Court Judge Maxine Langwenya had been set for trial yesterday but the court was forced to postpone it to the next session of the High Court in 2018.

High court postpones matter to next session for trial

The trial is now expected to resume on March 13, 2018 and according to the indictment about 17 witnesses are to be paraded by the crown including police officers, neighbours and relatives to the deceased.

Mngometulu, who was a resident of Mpolonjeni, Mbabane, was allegedly brutally murdered by his wife, Nonhlanhla Mngometulu (39), his stepson Sonke Dlamini (22) and his daughter Nolwazi Mngometulu (20).

According to the charge sheet, the trio acted jointly in furtherance of a common purpose to kill the businessman. They are alleged to have

pelted him with stones and further stabbed him with a spear inflicting multiple injuries on him and the offence was allegedly committed at the family home at Mpolonjeni.

The businessman is said to have died about 10 metres away from his compound as he was allegedly fleeing from his wife and children.

"The accused persons, acting in furtherance of a common purpose, unlawfully, with intent to kill, assaulted and killed one Bongani Mngometulu with stones and further stabbed him with a spear," reads the charge sheet.

The woman of Mpolonjeni in

Mbabane, who has been arrested for the murder of her husband, alleged he (husband) was always violent towards her.

The three are alleged to have killed businessman Bongani Mngomezulu on December 14, 2014, by pelting him with stones and further stabbing him with a spear.

The three are currently out on bail after successfully applying for bail immediately after their arrest in 2014.

In her application, Nonhlanhla had stated that the assault which culminated in the death of his husband was in self defence, as he (husband) pulled out his gun intending to shoot her.

She alleged that the children (Sonke and Nolwazi) intervened and assaulted him.

She further submitted that had her husband not assaulted her and further pulled out a gun on her, he would be still alive.

"The deceased has always been a violent person towards me and from the time when we stayed at Lobamba, he has always assaulted me for nothing and I used to report to the police both at Lobamba and Mbabane, and the police can testify to that," she had stated. Narrating the events which led to the death of her husband, Nonhlanhla stated that on December 12, 2014, she had slaughtered two pigs for a special order and put these carcasses in a refrigerator so that they could freeze and be ready to be sliced.

She alleged that her husband found the carcasses in the refrigerator and later came with an electrician to switch off the power supply to all plugs in the house so that the carcasses could not be in a good state for customers.

Court orders 'killer' wife to produce son in court

WIFE to the deceased businessman was yesterday ordered to produce her son who she is co-charged with in court after reporting that he could not make it to court as he is sick.

The court ordered that he

appear in person today as his mother only gave oral evidence to the effect that he is sick with no doctor's note.

Sonke Dlamini was charged together with his mother and sister for the alleged brutal murder of businessman Bongani Sandile Mngometulu in 2014.

Although the nature of the sickness was not mentioned, Nonhlanhla Mngometulu told the court that Sonke is a sickly person hence he could not come for the trial yesterday despite that he was duly warned to do so.

Most of those who had come for the trial felt that the accused person intentionally absconded trial as he has all along been well only to be sick on the day of trial.

Mvutjini, Mpolonjeni folk pack court

THE trial of the woman who together with her two children allegedly brutally killed her husband attracted scores of people comprising relatives, friends, neighbours and business associates of the deceased businessman.

Since Bongani Sandile Mngometulu was born and bred at Mvutjini, Mvutjini folk came for the trial while those from Mpolonjeni where he had constructed his home also came for same.

With the hope that the matter was still being heard, some of the people arrived to court as late as 3pm only to find that it had already been postponed to the next session of the High Court. This is one of the cases that proved to be a crowd puller this year following that of KaLuhleko involving Bhekoko Dlamini, that of former Mhlatane High Principal Meshack Makhubu and the E50m case involving Sebenzile Thango and others.



MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MANZINI

INVITATION TO 2018-2019 PARTICIPATORY BUDGET MEETING

All Manzini property owners, the general members of the public, the business community, banking sector, parastatals, NGOs, public transport sector, health sector, education sector, youth organisations, sports and recreation entities, associations of the disadvantaged and other Council stakeholders are invited to budget meeting wherein all, stakeholders will be given an opportunity to make submissions on activities that they wish to be budgeted for in the 2017/2018 financial year. Details of the meeting are as follows:

DATE: 6th December 2017

VENUE: Council Chamber

TIME: 07.30am

Please note that your input is important to Council as she plans for the next financial year. You are free to attend and contribute as an individual and as an association or grouping. If for some reason you will not be able to make it to the meeting kindly drop us an email on pro@mzcitycouncil.sz or WhatsApp message on 76114191. You may also make an input on our Facebook page "Manzini News". Please drop your input as soon as possible. For more details or clarification please dial 25052481/2 or 76114191. We continue to be inspired by our desire to achieve stakeholders satisfaction and participation at all times.

Lungile P. Dlamini
TOWN CLERK/CEO

website: www.mzcitycouncil.sz



manzini news

DOC 15327

SEBENTA NATIONAL INSTITUTE



FIELD SUPERVISOR

Responsible for the following positions:

1. Regional officers

Purpose of the job in the department/ Organization:

To facilitate and coordinate the establishment and provision of Sebenta programmes in all learning centres

Summary of main duties and other responsibilities:

- Manage, coordinate and support Regional Officers in efficiently carrying out the Institute's mandate
- Contribute in developing the strategic vision of the Institute.
- Conduct training needs assessment and facilitate training for all field officers.
- Prepare work programmes and budget for the department. Network with all the Institute's stakeholders in achieving the Institute's mandate.
- Facilitate and supervise the mobilization process of people in the communities to participate in Sebenta's programmes.
- Submit reports on the field activities as required.
- Carry out any other assignment given by the CEO.

Education and Experience:

- A minimum Degree in Education/ Humanities /Community Development. A Master's Degree would be an added advantage.
- Demonstrated track record of a minimum of 5 years in an educational administrative position.
- Experience with non-formal education teaching methodologies is essential.
- Working experience with communities and added advantage.
- Report writing experience necessary.

If interested in the above post please submit your application to: The Chief Executive Officer, Sebenta National Institute, P.O Box 64 Mbabane or email to Sebenta@swazi.net on or before **8th December 2017**. Only short listed candidates will be contacted within two weeks after the deadline.

DOC14880

Badplaas ace maize farmers visit NMC

Stories by Observer Reporter
Mbabane

A group of five senior managers from Badplaas' thriving maize farming project: the Ndwandwa Agricultural Holdings (NAH), were in the country last Wednesday to cement relations with the National Maize Corporation (NMC).

The managers were accompanied by Chief Robert Nkosi, who is a traditional leader of the Dlomdlo Community in Badplaas, South Africa.

The visit by the NAH farmers comes on the heels of a successful educational trip for Swazi maize farmers, who visited the project early last month as part of the NMC CEO's Awards' prize package. The package, won by the top 10 farmers who sold large volumes of maize to NMC during the harvesting season, also included farming inputs worth E85 000.

"We were very excited to host Swazi maize farmers at the Celliers Farm, where they toured our expansive farms which were at various stages of maize production.

We thank NMC for having identified our farm as an ideal model for learning, and it is our hope that Swazi farmers benefitted immensely from that kind of exposure," said Chief Nkosi.

Chief Nkosi revealed that the NAH was made up of up to 18 communal farming co-operatives, under the mentorship of a commercial maize farmer Riaan Celliers, and they collectively produce 8 000 tons of white maize annually.

While the project got a loan of E6 million



TIES: NMC officials pose with Ndwandwa Agricultural Holdings' management who were in the company of Chief Robert Nkosi (4th from left).

from the Land Bank in 2016, Chief Nkosi revealed that they were able to repay it in full at the end of the season given the high productivity they achieved as a result of using best farming practices.

"We got massive yields of 7.5 tons per hectare, and this helped us to make a profit from our produce," he revealed.

"Even though we are using dry land method of farming, we are slowly moving towards irrigation aim is to produce commercial farmers out of these community groups, with great assistance from Celliers," said Chief Nkosi.

"We implored Swazi farmers during their visit

to consider forming co-operatives in their own communities in order to maximise on discounts when buying inputs as well as sharing of experiences.

We were very happy for them when we learned that NMC had deployed new farmer development officers to assist maize farmers in Swaziland to use modern and effective methods of maize farming.

We are certain that this move will guarantee higher productivity," he added, citing their own case where they were now producing optimally due to Celliers' mentorship.

Meanwhile, NMC CEO Sabelo Msibi has welcomed the visit by the Mpumalanga Province-based farmers, stating that it would bolster relations between the Swazi and the South African maize industry.

"We hope that this relationship will culminate into the establishment of formal and mutually beneficial relations and engagements among our entities.

As a result of this visit, we have since resolved to set up a joint operational committee to look into how best our relations could be enhanced, in line with existing and good relations among our entities to boost increased maize and beans production in the country," said Msibi.

The NAH delegation consisted of Chief Robert Nkosi, Joseph Ncongwane, Lucky Nhlabathi, Donald Dlamini, Dennis Mabuza, and Manik Nhlabathi. They met NMC CEO Sabelo Msibi, COO Cyprian Lukhele, Agri-Business Manager Mangaliso Sihlongonyane, and Marketing and Communications Manager Nokwanda Dlamini-Masuku.



MAIZE BUSINESS: NMC CEO Sabelo Msibi, Badplaas traditional leader Chief Robert Nkosi, and NMC COO Cyprian Lukhele pose at NMC offices last week. (Courtesy pics)

...Badplaas chief traces roots to SD

CHIEF Robert Nkosi of Ndwandwa community in Badplaas, South Africa, has narrated how his people are descendants of Swaziland.

In an interview soon after meeting NMC officials on Wednesday, Chief Nkosi said the borders between South Africa and Swaziland were nothing but just colonial, stating that his people considered Swaziland as 'kaGogo' (home), and narrated how the two countries traded in pre-colonial times.

"We have been told about how our forefathers got food from Swaziland, and vice-versa, during times of famine and drought. Surely, such relations should be sustained given that we are one people," said Chief Nkosi.

He encouraged young people to consider farming, particularly maize, which is a sta-

ble food for both South Africans and Swazis, saying agriculture was the pillar of African economies.

"Any agrarian evolution that does not include the youth is likely to be unsustainable. At the Ndwandwa Agricultural Holdings project, we have women that are actively involved, as we believe that they are the cornerstone of our survival.

Likewise, Swaziland should encourage young people to take into farming and ensure continuity," advised Chief Nkosi.

The chief further urged NMC and NAH to forge long-lasting relations that would further cement the relations of the two organisations which will in turn benefit the Swazi people in particular, proclaiming that prospects in the maize industry were bright.

Public Service Pensions Fund

PUBLIC SERVICE PENSIONS FUND
P.O. BOX 4469, MBABANE
Tel: 2404 8740/3 2411 9000 / Fax: 2404 2712
TOLL FREE: 800 2401
www.pspf.co.sz
email: info@pspf.co.sz

/PSPFswaziland @PSPF_Swaziland

OFFICE CLOSURE

We wish to inform all our clients and the general public that all our offices shall close for business at **1300hrs on Friday, 8th December 2017**. We shall resume for normal business on **Monday, 11th December 2017**.

KUVALWA KWEMAHHOVISI

Lihhovisi LeteMhlala Phansi latisa onkhe emalunga alo nesive kutsi onkhe emahhovisi alo atawuvalwa nga1300hrs ngaLesihlanu mhlaka 8 Ingongoni 2017. Emahhovisi atawuphindze avulwe ngalokujwayelekile ngeMsombuluko mhlaka 11 Ingongoni 2017.

Spintex closed as fire burns down factory

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Matsapha

HUNDREDS of employees at Spintex Factory in Matsapha are jobless after the factory closed indefinitely yesterday following a fire that gutted down most of the place yesterday morning.

The Fire and Emergency Service had a tough time as they tried all they could to put out the flames which consumed almost everything inside the factory.

The factory roof crumbled down as a result of the fire.

Employees were told to grab what they could and vacate the premises. Some were heard lamenting that they were now unemployed while others stated that their answers were being answered after the bad treatment they received from management.

It took fire and emergency personnel almost four hours to put out the fire. The place became a hive of activity as police officers crammed the area to monitor the situation.

The employees stated that no one was hurt during the incident. Worth noting is that Spintex is a textile and leather factory that is situated in Matsapha and employs hundreds of Swazis.

Nasty battle

The company has been embroiled in a nasty battle with employees after new changes by management. Just last month, employees were complaining that they got paid very late after they were informed that the company is facing financial challenges.

Then yesterday the employees were sent home after the factory was gutted down by a mysterious fire. Employees who were found at the scene said they were on duty just like any other day when they heard a loud bang and saw the place being engulfed in flames.

However, the employees were able to escape to safety before the whole factory caught flames. When asked what might have caused the fire the employees said they had no idea.

When an interview was arranged with management journalists were barred from getting inside the company premises. When journalists were finally addressed by a person, who identified himself as one of the managers, he informed journalists that all he knew was that the fire started after some workers engaged in an illegal strike.

He refused to entertain any further questions and also refused to have his picture taken. Worth noting is that earlier this year there were growing fears that the company owners wanted to close shop.

However, the employees did not take kindly to this as they stated that they needed to be paid their monies.

Strike

Workers denied that they engaged in a strike action which resulted in the place being set on fire as per the allegations made by management. The employees stated that the allegations were just a way by management to tarnish their image.

Earlier this year there were fears of a strike as workers had complained of changed working hours. It was reported that over 30 employees anticipated taking part in a walk out as they were not happy with the shift system introduced by the management, which they claimed exposed them to danger.

Following the shift patterns management was reported to have released new information regarding lay-off notices, which is something that gave workers layoffs that lasted for two weeks.

Yesterday, workers made it clear that they were no longer happy with the working conditions however, they stated that they had nothing to do with the fire.



TOUGH TIME: Fire and emergency service personnel putting out the fire. (Pics: Sifiso Nhlabatsi)



EARLY BREAK: Workers waiting for Kombis to take them home.



sekulula
VAT
easy!

PROCEDURE CHANGES

The Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA) kindly advises Swaziland importers of changes that have been effected to the **sekulula VAT Easy** system; the table below provides a summary of the changes.

CHANGE	AFFECTED IMPORTERS	ACTION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Invoices worth more than E10,000 to have a proof of payment.	Commercial and non-commercial importers	Attach a proof of payment to a claim form at the border, in addition to the usual documents used for claiming.	13 Nov 2017
Cite the Swaziland importer and NOT the South African supplier as the 'exporter' on the Customs declaration form SAD500.	Commercial importers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register with SARS as a foreign entity exporter/importer Nominate South African agent for representation (with SARS) on Customs matters All commercial declarations should use the SARS code 	1 Feb 2018
Goods bought on credit shall not be cleared under Sekulula; however an importer may claim for VAT paid in South Africa once payment has been made to supplier.	Commercial and non-commercial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment of VAT at time of entry of goods. Lodge claim for refund of VAT within 60 days of invoice date. 	1 Dec 2017
Goods not fit for personal use must be declared on SAD 500. These include gifts, good imported for resale or any other commercial exchange.	Non-commercial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register with SRA to obtain TIN. Register with SARS as a foreign entity exporter/importer. Nominate a South African agent for representation (with SARS) on Customs matters. All commercial declarations must use the SARS codes. 	13 Nov 2017
Individuals who wish to import a vehicle must register with SARS; upon importation the declaration must bear the Swazi importer details in the 'exporter' field of the SAD500	Non commercial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register with SARS as a foreign entity exporter/importer. Nominate South African agent for representation (with SARS) on Customs matters. All commercial declarations must use the SARS code. 	1 Feb 2018

For more information please call our Contact Centre team on 2406 4050 or email: info@sra.org.sz. Alternatively visit our website: www.sra.org.sz

BOLESWA TRIPARTITE YOUTH EXCHANGE FORUM LAUNCHED

Stories by Sifiso Nhlabatsi
Manzini

The Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Jabulani Mabuza yesterday officially launched BOLESWA Tripartite Youth Cooperative Exchange Forum, which is taking place at Mavuso Trade Centre.

The Exchange Forum is attended by the youth from Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland. The minister speaking during the launch said globally young people are a powerful force for change. He said currently the world is at a crucial point in history where social, political, economic and environmental issues have compelled young people to take a stand and do their part in bringing about meaningful change in the world. Mabuza said in the region the voice and influence of youth in changing the economies of countries should not go unnoticed. The minister stated that BOLESWA Tripartite Youth Cooperative Exchange Programme came about because some people sat down and crafted a forum where young people could get together to share ideas on how best they can contribute to the development of the three countries economies. He said he encourages all people to participate and engage fully, make new connections, learn from each other while sharing valuable ideas. Mabuza said cooperatives are highly



FOR THE YOUTH:
The Minister of
Commerce,
Industry and Trade
Jabulani Mabuza

recognised worldwide more so because of their potential to unite people and the observed continuous contribution in improvements to people's livelihoods.

He said the democratic nature of cooperatives allow people to carry out businesses in pursuit of the desires other than serving other people's interest. Mabuza said the forum which was being officially launched is designed to promote self directed business initiatives where the owners of businesses decide on their own what to do to increase production. "The principle of cooperation amongst cooperatives is ensured through bringing together people from different spheres of production" the minister stated. He further stated that such forums also open doors

for the marketing of the three countries different products. Mabuza emphasised that it must be noted that Botswana Lesotho and Swaziland have a high population of young people within the age bracket of 15 to 35 years. He said most of these people are unemployed and out of school. Mabuza said it is dangerous for each country to have large numbers of young people lying idle with nothing to do. He said these people turned to be vulnerable to all forms of abuse and unbecoming behaviour. "this is why in most societies you find such people involved in crime, drug abuse, teenage pregnancies and many other terrible things in society" Mabuza noted. He said cooperatives bring these young people together and engage them in self help projects.

There are 26 registered youth cooperatives in the country

THE minister said currently the country has a record of 26 registered youth cooperatives. He further encouraged the youth to register more cooperatives societies.

Mabuza said as government they are not only encouraging the registration of youth cooperatives but would also like to see societies factor in the production of goods and services that would tap into regional and international markets. He said the country has been doing relatively well in promoting youth cooperatives development. Mabuza said at this year's International Cooperative Day, government launched an umbrella body for youth cooperative in the country known as Swaziland National Youth Cooperative Alliance (SNYCA) which is an apex organization mandated by the ministry of commerce, industry and trade to coordinate all youth cooperatives activities in the country.

He said by the apex body government wants to ensure that the country moves towards the national dream of attaining first world status by 2022. Mabuza said no one must be

left behind and young people are encouraged to register their cooperatives and affiliate with SNYCA so that they can be assisted to do their businesses under recognized structures for ease of providing required support. He said cooperatives have been identified as the most appropriate tool for development. The minister stated that however one cannot overlook the challenges faced by such initiatives.

He said these includes the fact that young people keep moving from one place to another which makes it difficult for them to concentrate on project they have started, he said but one can assure the public that if these projects can be viable and sustainable there would be no need for people to be continuously on the move.

Mabuza said another challenge is that of start-up capital for projects.

He said even though government is faced with unlimited demands, he can assure the youth that as government they will continue to advocate for more funds in the national budget to be directed towards youth programmes.

Limkokwing students help SOS children start tuck shop

By Mbono Mdluli
Mbabane

LIMKOKWING University of Creative Technology (LUCT) students have come to the rescue of SOS children by helping them start a tuck shop.

In order to make this possible, the students approached PMT Suppliers Owner Philani Tsela to make this happen. These students were required to spot an NGO of their choice and a company that would start a corporate social responsibility (CSR) project for the NGO. They had decided that the CSR project for the children would be an entrepreneurial project, where the children would operate a tuck shop and use the profits to make ends meet with some of their daily needs. During the research process, the students discovered that the children had long possessed the hope of starting a business of their own. The only problem they had was the capital to commence it.

PMT accepted the request of being the company to support such a positive initiative brought forth by the students and then decided to hold a seminar where the children would be taught and equipped with entrepreneurial skills. PMT suppliers held the seminar at the SOS Village last Wednesday, where they had a member from ENACTUS who taught the children about the different aspects of entrepreneurship. Entrepreneur

Lloyd Masiya from Matsetsa, near Siteki did not only teach the children, but also inspired them to always strive to be what their thoughts anticipate them to be. He also shared his story of how he invented candles, which were also mosquito repellents back home before the area had electricity. He told the children how entrepreneurs always persevere through obstacles and he stated how a lack of electricity in his home area never limited his inventive mind. He mentioned that he stopped making mosquito repellent candles but then made mosquito repellent petroleum jelly.

The children were really motivated by Masiya's lesson, they started proposing possible businesses that they would like to venture in.

PMT Representative Machawe Fakudze also gave a speech at the seminar, where he mentioned how honoured they were as a company to have done something positive for young dreamers and topped it all by pledging an amount of E1 000 as a start-up capital for the children's business. SOS Administrator Thokozani Maphalala sent the warmest appreciation to PMT Suppliers and pointed out how the capital would help their children finally start the business they always wanted. He also thanked the Limkokwing students for bringing them together with PMT suppliers and was hoping this would be the beginning of a long relationship. He also wished the students all the best with their studies.



DONATION:
TUSHA
Foundation in
Swaziland has
donated 100 bags
of 10kg rice to
Hlatsi residents
under the care of
Gogo Nde.
(Courtesy pic)

TUSHA Foundation donates 100 bags of 10kg rice to 'Gogo Nde'

By Nozipho Sibiya
Mbabane

TUSHA Foundation in Swaziland has donated 100 bags of 10kg rice to 'GogoNde'.

The donation from the foundation was received by Thabile Simelane popularly known as 'GogoNde' who is taking care of orphans at KaZenzile near Hlatikulu area.

Interviewed by this publication yesterday, 'Gogo Nde' said the 100 bags of 10 kg donation was received from the representatives last Friday and distributed to the beneficiaries on Saturday morning. "The bags of rice were given to most needy people of Hlatsi and KaMboke areas," she said.

She heaped praises to TUSHA Foundation in Swaziland for their continued support to the needy citizens of the country. The pensioner, who takes care of over 100 orphans whose parents died of AIDS related ailments, said



since the bags of rice were not enough to be distributed to all the people of Mtsambama they selected those who are less fortunate.

"We really appreciate the donation from TUSHA Foundation and we thank His Majesty King Mswati III for having good relations with other countries

as they bring fruitful outcomes in the long run," she mentioned.

She said the destitute families that received the food also thanked TUSHA Foundation for selecting their constituency as it is one with many challenges when compared to the other regions of the country.

NEW PASSPORT PRICES SLAMMED AS INFORMAL CROSSINGS NOW PREFERRED

By Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlango

THE proposed increase in passport and travel document issuing prices is said to have since led to an increase of a number of people using the informal crossing points.

It is said a number of the illegal entry and exit points, especially in the Shiselweni region, are now found busy as a result of the reviewed prices of issuing travel documents.

Some of those whose travel documents were lost or expired, after being informed of the reviewed prices which they cannot afford, were left with no alternative but to use the illegal crossing points. It's said in areas such as Mshololo near Zombodze Emuva since the reviewed prices has seen informal crossing points become busy.

"We don't have an alternative but to be cross border jumpers because we can't afford such an exorbitant amount of money. From E80 to E300, it's a lot of money," said one of the people found at the Department



of Immigration in Nhlango.

With the festive holidays already here, many people who were planning to travel outside the kingdom will have to pay E300 for the 48-page document.

For a lost or destroyed one, a person will pay E450. For a 64-page travel document, one should have a sum of E500 but in the event it gets lost or destroyed, one has to part with E750. The new prices were

effected on November 13.

"What we are going to see this time around is that these informal entry and exit points will be busier more than the border gates.

It's the festive season and many of us usually cross to South Africa for various reasons but if the prices of travel documents have now been hiked, we are going to use the illegal exit and entry points. Parliament should have intervened because the

Prices

48-page travel document
Price - E300
Lost - E450
Destroyed - 450

68-page passport
Price - E500
Lost - E750
Destroyed - E750

increase is too much.

These are issues our MPs should have stopped to show that they are concerned about the people who elected them. Anyway, their time is already up; maybe they saw no need to defend this madness. Such inaction means some of them won't be voted back. By not defending us from such hikes it can only mean these MPs are not good enough to defend us and, therefore, they don't deserve to be re-elected," said another resident. At the Department of Immigration Offices in Nhlango, the notice of the new prices on the travel documents and passports had been displayed on the window.

Unitrans-Southern Star merger smooth so far - Union

By Zwelethu Dlamini
Mbabane

SWAZILAND Transport and Allied Workers Union (STAWU) says that the joint venture between Unitrans and Southern Star that has been surrounded by fears of job losses has been a smooth transition, as at worst only five workers may lose their jobs.

Last Tuesday, Unitrans and Southern Star Logistics management reportedly convened a meeting with the staff to allay fears of job losses as they were assured that they will be retained and paid their terminal benefits in full by the end of this month.

STAWU National Coordinator Steven Nkambule confirmed the meeting though he condemned the act by the entity of bypassing the union.

"We have received a report that the directors of both merging entities met and addressed workers on the terms and conditions anticipated by the new entity.

We find it appropriate to commend them at least for reaffirming and providing guarantees of the new entity being one that shall respect worker's rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining guarantees by the International Labour Organisation.

However, we discourage the mode of communication which bypassed our office and went direct to the workers, to which we are recognised as representing in law," he said.

Following concerns on the job losses among the staff members of Unitrans, the union was asked to share the agreements that the parties had agreed on when the news



SMOOTH TRANSITION: The joint venture between Unitrans Swaziland and Southern Star has been smooth.

of the merger broke out.

Nkambule revealed that it was part of the agreement that workers would not lose their jobs in the process.

"We are not at liberty to declare much except to say on the main it was to retain jobs and on their part they advanced an argument of compliance to the legislative of local shareholders. Payment of terminal benefits is a statutory requirement," he revealed.

Announcement

After the announcement of the merger in April, the staff reported that they were having trouble with their financial institutions who had granted them loans as they were uncertain of the consequences of the then proposed joint venture.

Upon learning of the changes and the letters informing the staff of their employment contracts cessation as a result of the merger; the

institutions feared that these employees may fail to repay the loans.

Nkambule confirmed that some of their members had raised such concerns to the union and they were assured that they were not going to be sacked as per the promise of the company they had been working for but only the name of the company would change.

Addressed

"Yes, affiliated workers did raise same and it was addressed. What obtains is that there shall be no period upon which they shall be out of employment.

The only change is the name of the employer. In this respect they were advised to liaise with their financiers and notify them of the developments," he said.

The union was also requested to clarify what the letters given to the employees concerning the development meant as some of them

claimed that their employer was terminating their jobs and asking them to reapply for their posts.

These suspicions had emanated from the advertisements of several positions by Southern Star Logistics a week ago in the local newspapers, whereby the employees had to reapply with other people who had seen the adverts.

Nkambule explained that after consultations, Unitrans Swaziland Limited as a stand alone entity wrote to its workers notifying them of the employment cessation as a result of the merger. He said it would have not have spoken on behalf of Southern Star Logistics which advertised the posts as it was a separate entity at the time.

"At this stage, the recruitment for the new entity is still underway. The official correspondence filed to us by Unitrans indicated, at worst, only a maximum of five positions could be declared redundant during the transition," he said.

Sources within Unitrans had alleged that some of the workers who had permanent posts were now going to be employed on a contractual basis because of the transition.

The union denied knowledge of such allegations, saying they did not anticipate such even when the new contracts have been prepared since their members' jobs are of a permanent nature. Nkambule said the only allowable condition would be probation which should not exceed three months.

Nkambule revealed that the agreement with the company which was reached at the consultative stage was that the employees shall be paid their terminal benefits in full on or before the end of last month.

News Briefs

By Phesheya Kunene
Magistrate's Court

Woman (53) checks-in at Bethel Court, fails to foot bill

IT all seemed a good time for Eunice Schuter when she checked in at a hotel and ordered food and drinks amounting to E2 836.

However, she when later asked to pay for the services she failed to do so, thus was reported to the police by Bethel Court management.

The suspect, who appeared in court while bare-footed, is said to have ordered different kinds of food and alcohol during her stay at Bethel Court. No explanation was given as to why she checked herself in at hotel and later failed to foot the bill, leading to her arrest.

She was charged with theft by false pretences as she booked a room worth E950 per night, ordered food such as platter and alcohol bottles and never paid a single cent for the items and services rendered. She committed the crime last Friday.

The items were in lawful possession of Mbongeni Methula. She pleaded not guilty to the offence and was granted bail fixed at E1 000. The bare-footed woman asked the court to be remanded out on bail without paying the required bail amount.

The matter was postponed to January 18.

Two men steal items worth E16 000

TWO men appeared in court for a house-breaking crime at LaMgabhi.

Theminkosi Seabra and Nkosinathi Dvuba stand accused of breaking into the house of Dudu Motsa and stealing items such as safety boots, radio, blankets and groceries.

They are further charged with damaging the house door valued at E8 000. Seabra told the court he was the one who stole the items not Dvuba. He said he went with them to Dvuba's place because he was afraid to take them home. He said Dvuba did not know the items were stolen.

The limping Dvuba told the court he was injured in custody and asked for bail. Their bail was fixed at E2 000 each. Their matter was postponed to December 22 for trial and the complainant also moved an application for release of some of the items.

'I stole to buy items for farming inputs'

A man told the court his personal circumstances forced him to commit a crime.

Sabelo Gamedze told the court he was a breadwinner at home. He said his mother was now home bound following an operation.

Gamedze was arrested for stealing a Samsung Galaxy cellphone worth E2 500. He said he needed money to buy items to be used for ploughing his homestead's fields. "I plead with the court to forgive me for my crime. I'm responsible for my child, and four other children at home," he said.

He added that he was begging for a lenient fine since he would not have the money to pay the fine. He said a minimum sentence would help him so that he can quickly go back home to look after his family.

12 PICTURES

LIVE SEC ROADSHOW



NUMBER ONE: Swaziland Electricity Company (SEC) ambassador Mduzuzi Simelane and Marketing Officer Nkululeko Dlamini teaching residents of Luve how to save electricity during the company's roadshow on Saturday. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



CISHA LOGESI: Some staff members of SEC following the proceedings.



GOLDEN RULE: Simanga Dlamini also encouraged members of the public to save electricity.



ALSO THERE: Scara Maziya and back-ups also performed.



DON'T USE ME: Sisonkhe Drama Arts also taught the residents on how to save electricity.



WINNERS OF THE DAY: SEC Marketing Officer Nkululeko Dlamini and ambassador Mduzuzi Simelane posing with Todvwa Mahlalela and George Gama after being presented with SEC branded merchandise.



VUTHA MLILO: Mduzuzi Nezincku Zamagawugawu performing at the event.



OOPSI! Phephukile of Sisonkhe Drama Arts slipped while rendering their play.



CONGRA: Melusi Simelane being congratulated by Machawe Mavuso after winning in the question and answer session.

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GLOBAL THEME:**UNiTE to End Violence Against Women and Girls****"Let us all UNiTE to End Violence Against Women and Girls: Yinyandzaleyo"**

16

"WE WITNESSED OUR MOTHER BEING ABUSED"

By Tholakele Masina*

While at primary school there was such a time that revealed the real face of suffering, not just to me but to my siblings as well. A certain incident took place and it still hangs in my mind vividly. It was the summer of 2001 that real trouble began, we had all along been thudding on a rough patch.

We were living below the poverty line as economists would say. My Mother's one and only lover who so happened to be our and still is our father was without a good job. In order to make money my mother secured jobs here and there. She assumed the role of her husband of being a bread winner. She became everything- the one person who has ever given it all for us (I and my siblings) she has been able to define love through her deeds other than through word of mouth. It is by this time that my parents saw their differences.

It all started with my mother confronting my father about his carefree attitude and asking him to take care of us. My father turned out to be a womanizer, we learnt that as he spoke to my mother telling her she was not the only woman in his life. He eventually brought his girlfriend at home to visit him. He would force my mother out of their bedroom and ask her to be hospitable to his guests.

My mother would cook and heat water for them while they spend quality time in her bedroom, not to mention that we were living in a two roomed house. It was poorly built so as the other room was used as a bedroom the other one we used as a kitchen and our sleeping den. We used to share that kitchen/bedroom with mum when my father had brought his concubine. We would sometime catch him on the act and tell our mother not knowing that she was hurting.

We had not even the slightest idea that we were hurting her by telling her all that stuff. That continued for some time until my mother got fed up and so was the beginning of the fight. Me and my siblings slept in the kitchen while our parents lodged in a fight in their bedroom. We could hear everything they were discussing since they would talk on top of their voices since tempers were up. After some time we heard my mother sobbing followed by screams. I saw at the corner of the door that my father was strangling and hitting my mum

with everything he could lay his hands on. As we had no electricity I lit a candle and went to bed dressed so it won't be a problem escaping if danger arises. I stayed for a moment then as the noise died down I took the candle and headed for the bedroom where mum and dad were fighting. Being a room with limited furniture there was no chance that I would bump into anything. I saw my father standing next to their bed, "what is wrong with you bastard, so you think you are a man now?" he shouted. He was challenging me into a fight, I was young but very clever.

I had all along feared him, saw him as one cruel person and I never respected him for taking advantage of my helpless mother. That night I put on courage and approached him, in the midst of that bloody chaos I stood my ground. After sometime I realized that I was not standing there alone but my dear siblings were lining behind my back. I was in the middle and I had my elder brother who was two years older than me. I was scared, my heart was beating hard as if it was going to come out of my chest.

My younger brother then ask father "what are you doing to mum" asked Bobo with a croaky voice and fumbling command of language. Sheer innocent curiosity showed face there. My father being unable to provide an answer for such an innocent yet rhetoric question simple walked out and cursed. There we stood watching our dear mother struggling in pain. She was laying down next to their bed where she fell, her face was badly bruised and bloodied. Sobs and free falling tears define not only the pains she was going through but also the trauma.

I was afraid that we might lose our dear mother in the very house that in our small minds resembled a symbol of security. Our dear mother had been strangled and severely battered with all sorts of objects including an iron rod. It was not only her face that was injured but we discovered that she had broken some of her ribs and both arms were fractured. It was difficult for her to move and avoiding the risk of internal bleeding. We saw with our own eyes the brutality of human beings and how heartless a man can be sometimes. It was on that night as we carefully handled our mother, lifting her to her bed that I saw how vulnerable we were even inside the walls that housed us each passing day. We were not safe at all.



"How can a rabbit be caged in with a hunting dog and still emerge unharmed".

We waited until morning then alerted neighbor that our mother was injured inside the house. They called an ambulance and she was taken to hospital. The nurses questioned her about the injuries and wanted to find out who was responsible. She first lied about it trying to protect my father. Finally she admitted that she was beaten by her so called husband and they told her to open a case against him which she did. She recuperated and went home after a 3 months in hospital. My father was quite aware that she had opened a case against him. So he tried by all means to play nice. He shifted the blame to her saying if she did not ask him so many questions he would not have beaten her like that, it was because of her stubborn nature that he ended up hurting her.

He force her to go to the police station and cancel the case. Which she did because she was promised that he will never lay a hand on her. My beloved mother believed all those lies because he loved him but my father never kept his promise. He beat her over and over again. My mother was afraid of going to hospital because they would end up being forced to open a case which she would eventually cancel. She ended up being paralyzed because of some untreated injuries. Our father left her for another woman and we were left to pick up the pieces.

For more information on the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence contact:

1. MR. GIDEON GWEBU (SENIOR GENDER ANALYST)

DPM's Office - Department of Gender & Family Issues
Deputy Prime Minister's Office
Email: ggwebu11@gmail.com
Tel: 2405-2723/4
Cell: 76050416

2. MS. THULI DLAMINI-TEFERI (PROGRAM ANALYST - GENDER & COMMUNICATION OFFICER)

UNFPA
Email: dlamini-teferi@unfpa.org
Tel: 2404-2301
Cell: 78026943

3. MR. MPHILE SIHLONGONYANE (PROGRAMMES OFFICER)

CANGO
Email: cango@cango.org.sz
Tel: 2404 4721
Cell: 78147348



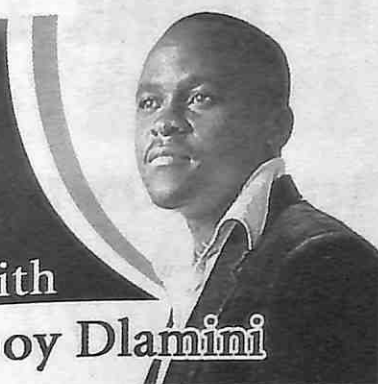
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Siteki Office

Siteki Market Offices, 2343 5779
Office No: 15

Cell: 7643 6549
Email: observersiteki@realnet.co.sz

...With

Wonderboy Dlamini


COMMUNITY COPS TO STRENGTHEN OPERATIONS THIS FESTIVE

COMMUNITY police in the Lubombo region have vowed to strengthen their operations to minimise crime this festive season.

The eastern part of the region is affected mainly by cases of stock theft which causes sleepless nights to farmers.

Coordinator of Lugongolweni community police Kaizer Mathonsi said they have formulated a strategy which is aimed at ensuring safety of residents and their property. Mathonsi said community police will be conducting patrols within communities during the busy holidays.

Other patrols will be conducted at the grazing lands to prevent stock theft. Mathonsi reported that 2017 has been one of the hardest year for farmers as they were also hit

...Coordinator of Lugongolweni community police Kaizer Mathonsi said they have formulated a strategy which is aimed at ensuring safety of residents and their property. Mathonsi said community police will be conducting patrols within communities during the busy holidays.

hard by drought. Thousands of cattle perished as grazing lands went dry.

At the time when the farmers were recovering from the drought, they were then hit by rustlers who stole their cattle in numbers per day.

Mathonsi reported that some of the areas which affected greatly by stock theft included Mhlumeni, Sitsatsaweni, Makhewu, Maphungwane and Tikhuba.

Recent cases are said to have been reported two weeks ago, where about 30 cattle were reported stolen

from Makhewu and Sitsatsaweni. The cattle are believed to have been driven to neighbouring Mozambique after being taken from grazing lands.

Mathonsi lamented the lack of proper fencing along the border line, saying that rustlers would easily drive the cattle through. He also pointed out the difficulties they would face in bringing back some of the cattle which would be recovered during operations.

The farmers would be required to produce various documents before bringing back the cattle

which are clearly branded with tags.

"We ought to revive camps in areas such as Sitsatsaweni and Maphungwane as these are the two areas from which the cattle are often smuggled to the neighbouring country," said Mathonsi.

On another note, Mathonsi said residents who would be found loitering in the middle of the night are likely to be detained by community police.

The operation is meant for the residents to have a safe festive season and their property secured.

Killed passenger identified by family

THE passenger who died in an accident on Saturday morning has since been identified by the family.

A man in his 30s died on the spot when a kombi overturned with about 14 passengers near Mpaka. The body of the deceased was kept at Good Shepherd Hospital.

A Simelane family from Sitsatsaweni is said to have identified the body yesterday morning after learning of the accident.

Police and the Siteki branch of the Local Kombi Association

were present during the identification of the body. Secretary of the association, Mpiyakhe Shongwe confirmed that the deceased has been identified.

A Simelane family from Sitsatsaweni is said to have identified the body yesterday morning after learning of the accident.

Abused women withdraw charges against lovers

ONE of the setbacks in the fight against gender based violence is that abused women usually withdraw charges of assault against their lovers, police under the Domestic Violence Unit have disclosed.

This transpired during a women's dialogue which was part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence Campaign which was held in Siteki last week.

It was stated that many women undergo physical abuse in the hands of their lovers, but most of their cases never see the light of day in court. Making a presentation during the dialogue, Constable Nana Dlamini said they have encountered many cases whereby a woman would ask them to withdraw charges of assault against her lover.

Dlamini said in many instances, some women would come to the police station with serious injuries

after being assaulted by their partners. They would, however, ask to be reconciled with the abusers, instead of seeking their arrest.

At some instances, whereby the matter would be ready for trial in court, the complainant would suddenly tell the court that she was dropping the charges against the accused person. "Some would even tell the court that they were forced by the police to lay the charges against their men who had physically abused them," said Dlamini. She noted that this was one aspect which made the perpetrators to continue with their behaviour knowing that their charges would be dropped before trial. Dlamini urged members of the public to report crime without any compromise. She explained that laying a charge against a lover did not mean the end of the relationship, but was only aimed at ensuring peace in the future.



DIVINE INTERVENTION: Commuters using the Siteki-Matsetsa-Manzini road have requested for a prayer service to try and curb the accidents that happen on this stretch.

Call for mass prayer along Lonhlupheko road

RESIDENTS of Siteki and surrounding areas are calling for a mass prayer service along the Lonhlupheko-Manzini road following the numerous accidents which have been taking place recently.

The road has had two major accidents in a space of less than a month, claiming two lives while others are still critical in hospital. A recent accident involved a kombi which rolled near Mpaka on Saturday morning.

Witnesses said the kombi veered off

the road while overtaking another vehicle, before overturning several times. Passengers on board were rushed to Good Shepherd Hospital after sustaining serious injuries, and one of them was certified dead. The accident comes about three weeks after a bus veered off the road and went through the bushes near Matsetsa before crashing into a large tree. Again, one passenger was killed while others remain admitted at the hospital. Of note is that fatal accidents along the said road normally

occur between the months of November and December. Residents are of the view that a mass prayer session is needed to cast away whatever the cause of the accidents may be. A concerned Sibongile Maziya of Lugongolweni said church leaders must organise the prayer service before the start of the festive holidays. "Judging from the way these accidents occur, it appears there are some spirits operating along this road, especially during the festive season," she said.



Pay E50 before you start ploughing - residents told

By Starsky Mkhonta
Nhlangano

RESIDENTS of Engwenyameni are required to contribute a sum of E50 to the Umphakatsi before they can start ploughing their fields, it has been alleged.

Engwenyameni is an area ruled by Chief Mbiko (Mkhonta), where there is a faction at nearby Thunzini which claims to be not answerable to the chief who was endorsed by the country's leaders after his name was forwarded by the ruling (Mkhonta) clan a few years ago. It's said some of the leaders of the faction at Thunzini are against the payment of the E50 to the Umphakatsi and they have since influenced many people even in neighbouring areas such as Equisweni which are regard-

ed as within Engwenyameni boundaries.

The E50 fee was brought into effect a long time ago and it's only that the residents have been defying this order. During this ploughing season, the leadership has been trying to revive the order but because of the factionalism, defiance has still been the order of the day.

Others refer to the E50 as 'kusula ludzaka ekhubeni lendlunkhulu' (preparing the plough disc for ploughing season). It's said one cannot start ploughing his or her fields before paying this amount to the Umphakatsi.

One of the elders in the leadership at Engwenyameni Mahunga Mtshali said the E50 fee payable to Umphakatsi was not something new.

He said residents were required to

contribute the money to help in the ploughing of the fields belonging to the Umphakatsi.

He said there were those questioning the fee but such was a clear indication of lack of respect.

He said some of those questioning the payment of the money were individuals misled by the other faction. He said loyal and respecting residents had no problem paying the money.

"These are people who do not attend meetings at the Umphakatsi, which is disrespect on its own. Issues like these are discussed during meetings at the Umphakatsi and decisions are taken where we reach agreement on some of these issues. However, if there are those who do not attend meetings, they are going to be fed with wrong information instead of finding out the truth they

start spreading lies about the leadership. We are aware of a faction which is planting a seed of division with some even having the guts of disowning the elders," said Mtshali, who is one of the chief's runners. Mtshali said as someone who has been in the Engwenyameni leadership for years where he served as member of the inner council (*bandlancane*), he was aware of those residents with a hidden agenda and their mission was to taint the Umphakatsi's image.

"We are not new here as all that is happening, including questioning the leadership, those behind this are known to us.

Even with the E50 which should be contributed during ploughing season, it's not an issue but people with hidden agenda are making it an issue," said Mtshali.

'Some girls in Northern Hhohho already divorced before 21'

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

PIGG'S PEAK Station Commander Webster Methula said some girls in Northern Hhohho would have already been married twice before the age of 21.

Methula was speaking at the inaugural Gong's Transport Choral competition held at St Amideus Catholic Primary school hall at Nkomazi on Saturday.

He said Northern Hhohho had so many beautiful young girls who were either spending their time at the many bars or getting married under Swazi traditional law and customs. "First and foremost, the living standards in Northern Hhohho are very high as compared to other regions in the country. I know this because I have lived and worked in various regions in the country and seen the abject poverty, but unfortunately Northern Hhohho is exploiting the young girls.

Sometimes, we as police, hear that a girl before age 21 has already been married twice. I sometimes patrol the bars in Pigg's Peak at night and



SHAKING HANDS: Pigg's Peak Station Commander Webster Methula meeting the Minister of Commerce Industry and Trade Jabulani 'Buy Cash' Mabuza at the inaugural Gong's Transport Choral competition that was held at St Amideus Catholic Primary School hall on Saturday. (Pic: Sizwe Dlamini)

what I find inside them saddens me," he said. He said the bars were a haven for young girls who are below 17 years of age and these girls were abusing alcohol and some of them might even be sex workers. "I wonder as to where the parents of these girls reside. The girls often fall victim to sexual predators, because they need money. It is hard for me as an adult to understand how an older man can be in a sexual relationship with an ado-

lescent girl.

Usually an adolescent girl is easy to have sex with because she is yet to develop proper reasoning power, so as the Royal Swaziland Police (RSP) we will continue arresting people who have sex with minors because we are the voice of reason," he said.

He continued that God has blessed him with many children but did not disclose the number, saying it was none of people's business.

"If any man tries to marry any of

my daughters before they graduate at university, then that family's offer will be rejected. I will not allow my daughter to be exploited. I plead with all the parents in Northern Hhohho to stand up and deny anyone your daughters' hand in marriage until your daughter has finished her university education. We should not be greedy and receive cows from families that are only interested in ruining our girls futures," he added.

Pigg's Peak police boss addresses new councillors

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

PIGG'S PEAK Station Commander Webster Methula promised to work with the town's new councillors to eradicate crime.

Methula was addressing the new Pigg's Peak councillors at the Civic Centre building in Pigg's Peak last Thursday.

He said only a concerted effort can bring crime to a stop.

"As the Pigg's Peak police we acknowledge our new councillors and congratulate them on their appointments because we all know the Pigg's Peak Town Council is a very important stakeholder in the fight against crime.

As the police we will continue to intensify our efforts in making Pigg's Peak crime free, this is all a con-

tinuation of the anti-crime campaign that we hosted at Killarney sports ground in August.

During that event we promised to continue working even harder to protect Pigg's Peak residents against all forms of crime," Methula said.

He said they were happy to have seen a decrease in crime, in the town over the past months but they believe such a decline can go further.

"It is not a secret that Pigg's Peak

has a lot of bars but as I speak those bars have now registered a 100 per cent compliance with the police.

This means that the bars now close on time, which is a positive thing but it is not enough because we want to obliterate crime in the town once and for all.

Our aim is to give His Majesty King Mswati III the gift of peace as we promised during the anti-crime campaign," he added.

People still have wrong beliefs on HIV - Police

By Sizwe Dlamini
Pigg's Peak

CRIME prevention officer under the Royal Swaziland Police (RSP) Pigg's Peak branch, Thulani Gwebu says many senior citizens have been arrested for raping minors due to misconception of getting cured of HIV.

Gwebu was speaking at the Rocklands Sports Ground during the commemoration of World AIDS Day last Thursday. He said unfortunately a lot of people still had the wrong concept that such barbaric and outdated methods could help one to be cured of HIV and AIDS.

"As the police we have seen that a lot of people who are still horribly misinformed when it comes to HIV and AIDS. There are a lot of traditional misconceptions that are wrongly associated with the HIV virus and as the police we have arrested many senior citizens who have raped minors in the hope that the act will cure the senior citizen of the HIV virus.

This sadistic act is often perpetrated by traditional healers who have no knowledge about medical treatment.

Another thing we don't understand as police is how a person can take medical advice from a traditional healer who has no formal medical certificate that has been obtained from a recognised medical teaching institution," he said.

Gwebu also took the opportunity to warn members of the public that the festive season is peak crime season and therefore pleaded with them to avoid playing informal card gambling games that often take place at the various parks in Pigg's Peak.

"We have seen so many people lose their money to these trained criminals, I promise you that the police will lock up the criminals and you the victim behind bars if you fail to heed our warnings of not gambling," he added.



WRONG BELIEF: Crime Prevention Officer Thulani Gwebu said many senior citizens have been arrested for raping minors in the hope of curing themselves from HIV. Gwebu was speaking at the Rocklands Sports Ground during the commemoration of World AIDS Day on Thursday. (Pic: Sizwe Dlamini).

US AMBASSADOR THRILLED BY SD'S PROGRESS IN HIV FIGHT

Stories by Starsky Mkhonta
Sigwe

UNITED States of America (USA) Ambassador to Swaziland Lisa Peterson is impressed with the progress the kingdom has made in the fight against HIV.

Peterson said the kingdom was on the right track in bringing the epidemic under control. Ambassador Peterson was one of the speakers during the national World AIDS Day Commemoration last Friday, an event held at Sigwe Inkhundla.

She said she was pleased to see Swaziland succeeding in its efforts of tackling the scourge which has made the kingdom set the pace for other countries.

Peterson recalled that last year during a similar event she stated that she was looking forward to a breakthrough in the fight against HIV.

"In my remarks during the 2016 World AIDS Day Commemoration,

I did mention that I was looking forward to marking new successes in the fight against HIV. The progress Swaziland achieved has made the country to be a point of reference globally to the impact of data driven interventions and the power of concerted effort by all stakeholders," said Peterson.

Peterson said as much as the kingdom was making progress in ensuring that the dream of an AIDS free generation become a reality, that won't be easy.

Envision

"While we can envision the end result of an AIDS-free generation, we must take it into account that the final lap to reach that goal is going to be the most challenging and also the most critical stage," she said. The ambassador said it has been a long journey, her country and people of the kingdom travelled and stated that her country remained committed in assisting where necessary.

"Thanks to the US President's

Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief or PEPFAR, we now have the opportunity to accelerate our impact and change the course of the pandemic through transparency, accountability and partnerships," said Peterson.

Meanwhile, Lubombo Regional Administrator Sylvia Mthethwa, who represented her Shiselweni counterpart Themba Masuku, said for the battle against HIV to be won, everyone should stand up and use any available weapon at their disposal.

She said traditional leaders should be at the forefront with their inner councils to ensure the battle is won.

"Let us up our game against this scourge. The country's leaders have not just declared it a disaster but they further gave us the mandate on what needs to be done," said Mthethwa.

Musa Mdluli, who represented Chairperson of National Emergency Response Council on HIV and AIDS (NERCHA) Chief Ndabankulu



CLARIFICATION: Modison Magagula, the popular drama actor who features mostly during HIV and AIDS events, is seen explaining something to the Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini and USA Ambassador Lisa Peterson at the World AIDS Day Commemoration at Sigwe Inkhundla last Friday. (Pics: Starsky Mkhonta)

Simelane, said even those who were already living with HIV should not feel rejected or discriminated against. He said they should take the medication as prescribed by the medical experts. He said taking the medication as per doctor's instruction would see those living with HIV reporting to work like anyone.

"The chairman said since there is the medication provided, employ-

ees now report to work and also carry out their work like any normal employees. Production is not affected and it means a lot for the country as it also means the economy does not suffer.

The chairman has also appreciated the support from everyone, including government and friends of the country for supporting NERCHA's programmes," said Mdluli.



SPEECHES: MP David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala, MSF Head of Mission Dr Serge Kabore and UN Resident Coordinator Israel Dessalegne making their remarks during the event.



ALSO THERE: Swaziland AIDS Support Organisation (SASO) was one of the organisations that mounted a stall.

Doctors Without Borders advocating for a healthy SD

DOCTORS Without Borders, also known as MSF, is determined to see a healthy nation and have set up programmes to see to it that such is achieved.

MSF Head of Mission Dr Serge Kabore said they were amongst those advocating for Swazis to remain a healthy nation.

He was speaking during the World AIDS Day Commemoration held at Sigwe Inkhundla last Friday. "As MSF we stand shoulder to shoulder with those advocating for the health of the Swazi nation. We are a unique medical humanitarian organisation serving in more than 60 countries globally. In the kingdom, we work in close proximity in supporting community members and health facilities," said Dr Kabore. Dr Kabore said his organisation was proud to play a part in medical interventions which would have an impact in reducing the impact of HIV and AIDS. He said their commitment was endorsed in a Memorandum of Understanding approved by the ministry of health, which included

working hand-in-hand with government and the nation to fight HIV and AIDS. "It's a privilege and honour to have worked in the kingdom for the past five years. Within this period, I have learned how proud the people of this kingdom are and the beauty of the country itself. Within this period, I have noticed the commitment of His Majesty's Government in trying to improve the quality of life for the Swazi nation. It's one of the reasons I feel proud today to be part of this gathering to celebrate the World AIDS Day," said Dr. Kabore. Dr Kabore said his organisation has been working jointly with the ministry of health in tackling the dual HIV-TB epidemic in the Shiselweni region since 2007, stating that under this programme areas under Sigwe were also covered. He also said it was pleasing to see that the rate of new HIV infections in five years has dramatically come down to half.

"The data collected shows that the Shiselweni region tops when it comes to viral load suppression and MSF has

supported since 2012 in Nhlanguano Health Centre laboratory with more than 124 000 viral load tests. That's a phenomenal achievement for the region and the kingdom as a whole," said Dr Kabore.

Dr Kabore said during the build-ups to the World AIDS Day national Commemoration, events, his organisation staged a number of HIV awareness campaigns in areas like Nhlanguano (Mathendele Township), Matsanjani and Ka-Phunga.

"During these exercises, we were providing health services such as HIV testing and education to the members of those communities mentioned. There were 1 092 people attended and from this figure, a total of 192 tested for HIV," he said.

Dr Kabore said he was seeing a positive change in the HIV and AIDS situation in the country.

"Swaziland has not fully turned the corner but that the number of new HIV infections has significantly dropped, it gives one hope.

Swaziland will soon not be known with the most severe national HIV and AIDS crisis in the world but it's to be known as a country that has successfully turned a growing AIDS crisis to a success story," said Dr Kabore.

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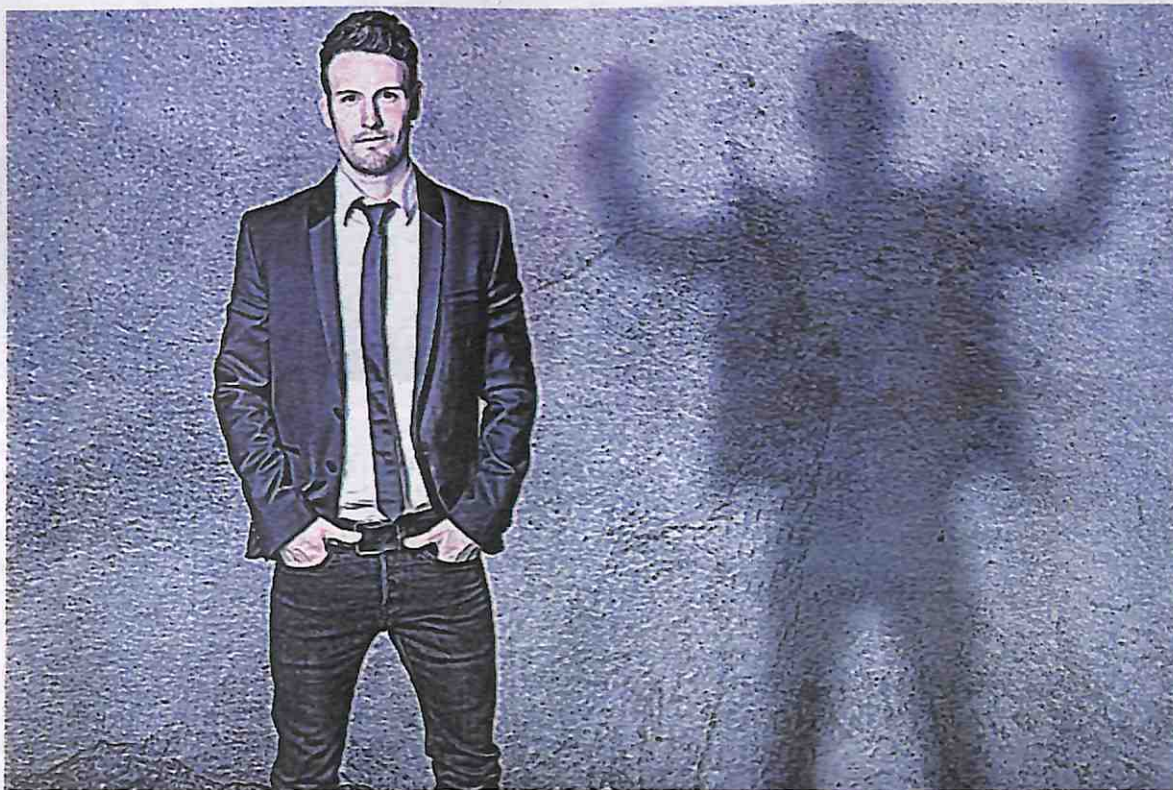


... With

Kholwaphi
Mdziniso

Guest Writer

RESPECT IS EARNED



WE all like to be respected yet respect is a virtue that cannot be imposed but earned through integrity that has been shown over time.

Respect is valuable such that some leaders would complain that "people do not respect me" - yet respect does not fall from the tree but it is acquired for showing consistency and integrity over time.

Respect is a two sided coin, on one side people have to be respected because they are people. Every manager or leader has to respect people because they are human beings.

The other side of the coin is respect given to another person due to; reverence, regard, high opinion, admiration, reverence, deference, honour due to the other person.

The other side of respect is reverence due to a person through a feeling of deep admiration or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements.

A leader ought to learn to apply both sides of respect, respect people for being people and respect people for their talents and abilities.

Deutschendorf (2015) says a title, position, and corner office may earn you extra pay and benefits, but respect is something that does not automatically come with a leadership position.

This has to be earned and is one of the most difficult entities for a leader to acquire.

Respected leaders are not always liked by everyone and not always popular. A leader may be well liked as a person, yet be weak and afraid to make difficult decisions, shows favoritism to those who stroke his/her ego, and be quite ineffective.

On the other hand, there are leaders who intimidate their subordinates and use fear as a way of getting things

done.

Neither of these leaders will earn the respect of their employees. If you take a closer look at leaders who have walked the difficult path that have earned them respect, you will see the following traits.

THEY ARE WILLING TO DO OR HAVE DONE WHAT THEY EXPECT OF OTHERS

Leaders should not ask others to do something that they have not done in the past nor would they be willing to do now. They lead by example and their efforts will set a standard for the rest of the organisation. If they are unwilling to put in the extra time and effort into a project they expect of their staff, they will be seen as hypocrites and lose the respect of those under them. Leaders who are highly respected will put in at least as much time and effort as those they serve. Often they will lead by being the hardest working person on their team.

THEY HAVE A HIGH DEGREE OF SELF-AWARENESS

Respectful leaders have a healthy dose of emotional intelligence and are aware of how they come across and how their work and actions impact others. They use their self-awareness in giving feedback by looking for sincere opportunities to praise the work of others. They monitor their emotions and never speak or act when highly emotional, waiting until they have regained control and have had time to think over the situation.

THEY BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE ARE STRIVING TO DO THEIR BEST

When they have to give negative feedback, they look for opportunities to turn this conversation into a learning and growth opportunity for the employee, rather than a form of punishment.

They would rather be wrong about someone they thought had potential

than miss an opportunity to bring out the best in one of their staff.

Their motto is to believe in and trust those they are in charge of, until they are proven wrong.

THEY GIVE CREDIT WHERE IT IS DUE

Respectful leaders are confident, centered, and secure in who they are and their abilities. As a result, they do not run away from making tough decisions even though they may not be popular. When situations are going well, they look for ways to give credit to their staff rather than trying to take all the credit themselves.

Even when it is their idea that is successful, they try to deflect credit and shine it on those who implemented. When tough decisions need to be made, they make them quickly and avoid blaming others.

Their strong sense of who they are helps them make decisions that they realize may make them unpopular and disliked at times.

THEY ADMIT THEIR MISTAKES AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY WHEN THINGS DO NOT GO AS EXPECTED

While it may be easier to try and dodge out of taking responsibility and try to put the blame on others when things go wrong, respected leaders always take the higher road.

They take responsibility even when mistakes were made by someone reporting to them, and it would be easy to shift the responsibility.

"The buck stops here" is a motto they implement, and more than just pay lip service to, they live it. They have their people's backs and are willing to defend them to those in positions above them when necessary.

THEY SUPPORT THEIR PEOPLE AND DO NOT SHOW FAVORITISM

Insecure leaders want people around them who will not threaten or challenge them and will promote "yes" people under them. Respected leaders see challenges and new ideas as a way of helping them grow and become better leaders and people.

Emotionally intelligent leaders are in constant learning, growing mode, and are supportive of staff that show initiative. While it is tempting to favor people who stroke our egos, respected leaders rise above that and make a sincere attempt to reward talent and hard work regardless of their personal feelings about the person.

NOT AFRAID TO TAKE RISKS, ARE OPEN AND HONEST, AND ENCOURAGE THOSE UNDER THEM TO DO SO

Respected leaders are willing to take risks and live with the consequences, realising that without some risk there will be no growth, only stagnation. They encourage those they are leading to take risks and stand behind them when things do not work out as planned. Highly emotionally intelligent leaders believe that openness and honesty are the best way to operate, and encourage others to come to them when things have gone wrong instead of trying to hide the problem because they are afraid of repercussions.

HOW TO FIND US:

MANAGING EDITOR:

Mbongeni Mbingo
e-mail: mbingo@observer.org.sz
Cell: 7602 9564
P.O. Box A385, Swazi Plaza,
Mbabane, Bettfusile Street
Tel: 2404 4437, 2404 4436, 2404 9600,
2404 9797, 2404 0706
Email: info@observer.org.sz
Website: www.observer.org.sz

NHLANGANO OFFICE

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

EDITORIAL CONTACTS

EDITOR: Thulani Thwala - 7605 0985 editor@observer.org.sz
NEWS EDITOR: Kenneth Dlamini - 7607 0035 newseditor@observer.org.sz
SPORTS EDITOR: Mphikeleli Msibi - 7605 8044 sports@observer.org.sz
BUSINESS SENIOR REPORTER:
Manqoba Makhubu - 7670 4606 business@observer.org.sz
ENTERTAINMENT SNR REPORTER:
Nomfundo Sifundza - 79014289 entertainment@observer.org.sz
SENIOR SUB EDITOR:
Paradise Mamba - 7603 5639 subeditor@observer.org.sz

PIGG'S PEAK OFFICE

Kai Kai Building opposite Shoprite, Office No. 3
Tel: 2437 1083 Sizwe Dlamini Cell: 7670 0678
Email: observersjipiki@realnet.co.sz



Swazi Observer

MARKETING MANAGER

Siphesihle Mkhonta (7605 2296)
2404 8671/2404 8699
smm@observer.org.sz

CIRCULATION OFFICER

Bongani Simelane (7605 3707)
circulation@observer.org.sz

MANZINI OFFICE

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

SITEKI OFFICE

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

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ON THIS DAY

...DECEMBER 5

1977 - Egypt broke diplomatic relations with Syria, Libya, Algeria, Iraq and South Yemen due to peaceful relations with Israel.

1978 - The American space probe Pioneer Venus I, orbiting Venus, began beaming back its first information and picture of the planet.

1979 - Sonia Johnson was formally excommunicated by the Mormon Church due to her outspoken support for the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

1983 - In west Beirut, Lebanon, more than a dozen people were killed when a car bomb shattered a nine-storey apartment building.

1983 - The video arcade game "NFL Football" was unveiled in Chicago. It was the first video arcade game to be licensed by the National Football League.

1984 - Iran's official news agency quoted the hijackers of a Kuwaiti jetliner parked at Tehran airport as saying they would blow up the plane unless Kuwait released 14 imprisoned extremists.

1985 - The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose above 1 500 for the first time.

1986 - The Soviet Union said it would continue to abide by the SALT II treaty limits on nuclear weapons. This was despite the decision by the US to exceed them.

1988 - Jim Bakker and former aide Richard Dortch were indicted by a federal grand jury in North Carolina on fraud and conspiracy charges.

1989 - Israeli soldiers killed five heavily armed Arab guerrillas who crossed the border from Egypt. The guerrillas were allegedly going to launch a terrorist attack commemorating the anniversary of the Palestinian uprising.

1989 - East Germany's former leaders were placed under house arrest.

1992 - Russian President Boris Yeltsin kept the power to appoint Cabinet ministers, defeating a constitutional amendment that would have put his team of reformers under the control of Russia's Congress.

1998 - James P Hoffa became the head of the Teamsters union, 23 years after his father was the head. His father disappeared and was presumed dead.

2001 - In Germany, Afghan leaders signed a pact to create a temporary administration for post-Taliban Afghanistan. Two women were included in the Cabinet structure. Hamid Karzai and his Cabinet were planned to take over power in Afghanistan on December 22.

2008 - The iTunes Music Store reached 300 million applications downloaded.

2010 - NASA's Mars Odyssey spacecraft became the longest-operating spacecraft ever sent to Mars. The Odyssey entered orbit around Mars on October 23, 2001.

2014 - NASA's Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle (MPCV) debuted when it was launched for a four hour test flight. It landed on target in the Pacific Ocean.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Lauren London (TV actress) - December 5, 1984 (33 years old)



Keri Hilson (rnb singer) - December 5, 1982 (35 years old)



BISHOP
KEITH
HARRINGTON'S CORNER

IN our previous edition, we started to look at the grace of God in the life of Noah.

I promised to continue by laying out 10 things that we can learn from the life of Noah that caused God's grace to change rules, regulations and laws just to favour him.

The following are some points that can cause God's grace to follow us and overtake us:

- Plan ahead! It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark, but as soon as God warned him about the coming flood he immediately planned ahead. I always say that prayerful preparation prevents poor performance. God wants us to be like wise builders who first count the costs involved in completing a building before construction begins. If you are a single lady you need to visit a bridal parlour by faith, fit on a wedding dress and prepare yourself for marriage. Why? If you've submitted your CV, walk into the offices of that department and prophetically choose your office. If someone is sitting in an office that you see yourself in, say softly "you're fired in the name of Jesus Christ." Planning ahead is something to do with preparing oneself in advance.

- Stay fit and always be prepared, so that when any opportunity arises, you can take hold of that opportunity.

**BEING POOR MEANS
P - PASSING**

WHEN GRACE CHANGES THE RULES - PART 2



O - OVER
O - OPPORTUNITIES
R - REGULARLY

If you look at the word opposition and remove the first two letters, you'll be left with the word position. Meaning that oppositions in our lives are meant to capitulate us into our position.

Again when looking at the word disappointment, you'll be left with the word appointment if you remove the first three letters.

Whenever you get a disappointment, you're automatically positioned for an appointment with your destiny.

When you're old, God may ask you to do something really big. Noah was 600 years old when he entered the ark. You may be asked to build something that has never been built before.

- Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done. Noah didn't have the time to entertain his critics. The word criticise comes from two words which are "critical" and "size." It means that it's critical for you to know your size. People will never criticise people who are normal, ordinary and insignificant. The fact that you are a victim of criticism means that you are standing head above shoulders in comparison to others. Dogs don't bark at stationary cars, but they start barking when the car begins to move forward.

- Build your future on high ground. The Bible points out that the ark was built on a high mountain. In life we are better off when we set high goals in life. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs and the Titanic by professionals.

However, the Ark stood the test of time because it was built on the principles of God's Word. The Ark had to be built on a mountain because the Ark was symbolic of the Saviour who died for the whole world, but only a remnant would accept His message. Just as Christ was crucified on a cross on a mountain, the Ark was built on a high mountain.

- Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs in the Ark of Noah. Ecclesiastes 9: 11 says "I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happens to them all."

Everybody has been given an appointed time where he or she will shine above others. It is very important not to rush into things but to wait for your time to come. Jesus Christ teaches that in the Kingdom of God, the first will be last and vice versa.

How this operates is that when God decides to change the direction of the journey, the one who was last will be first in line when everyone has turned around.

Everyone else who got their blessing before you have to realise that if God has blessed them and they were standing next to you, then it means that there is a possibility that you will be next in line to be a recipient of the miraculous power of the Almighty God.

We will continue with this series in next week's edition.

The bigotry of ageism

JACK Weinberg will turn 78 on April 4 next year, and no doubt his three grandchildren will wish him a very Happy Birthday.

Poor Jack. Despite his solid track record as a union activist and environmentalist, what most people remember him for is a remark he made in a 1960s interview, when he was 24 (that's if they remember his name at all, and don't attribute this quote to John Lennon, Jerry Rubin or some other sixties icon): "Don't trust anyone over 30."

Ageing is inexorable and will come to all of us who don't die young. That knowledge comforts me when the low-riders in their pimped-up VWs drive past my home office pumping bass so loudly my windows quiver in response.

South Africa may have a so-called youth bulge, but more and more of us should plan on reaching a decent age: "South Africans' life expectancy is now 64 years, up from 53 years in 2006 and putting the country on track to achieve the National

Development Plan goal of a 70-year life expectancy by 2030".

Is that a hopeful stat? It depends. What will old age be like for you - realistically? Put not your trust in the wonderful glowing ads that show slightly wrinkled women with thick silver hair, cut in a mid-length bob, leaning against white-haired but built men, whose tans contrast beautifully with their crisp pastel blue shirts and cream chinos, linked hands resting lightly on a ship's wheel as they gaze joyfully into an Indian Ocean sunset. This is NOT how most of us will end our lives.

My mother says that the healthcare system is "hell-bent on keeping people alive for much longer, but they haven't thought about what to do with us when we're old".

Getting old is a disappearing act

Intimate engagement with ageing through my parents' eyes tells me that even for the economically advantaged, it's a disappearing act. First, you become invisible to other peo-

ple - this happens first to women, then to men, reflecting our societal valuation of women by looks. People in their teens, twenties, thirties simply walk through you in the shopping malls, their eyes glazing over before they focus on you.

Then, if you're lucky enough to be able to retire, you disappear from the social space; colleagues soon have little in common with you, friends retire to the coast or to family homes, people die.

Eventually you disappear into an institution, nice or nasty.

It is much, much harder if you've less money.

I protest.

Part of this disappearing act is because ads, TV series, films and even serious journalism stereotype older people as dismissible: senile, feeble, forgetful, grumpy, crotchety, bewildered by modern life and sexless (at Mamma Mia's first screening, younger people round me stiffened with shock as Pierce Brosnan sang, "Slightly worn but dignified, and not too old for sex").

And of course most of those stereotypes, whether in the Simpsons or an ad for retirement annuities, are

created by young copywriters, creatives and even young literary greats, who by definition don't know what the capabilities or desires of older people are. The average age of a creative is 28, while the average new car buyer is 56, a media commentator writes, which means that the creative really has no idea how to talk to the 50-plus person, who often has far more discretionary spend than they do (within their economic class, of course).

And part of it is due to a false privileging of youth's mental abilities over those of age, one that dismisses older brains and their skills as valueless.

Youth's mental talents are wonderful, of course; young brains dance and spin, and obsessive focus on a task is possible, abilities which society badly needs. But that shifts slowly over time as knowledge and experience accumulate. Age's style of intelligence is as necessary to society as that of youth.

"When people have high cognitive control [characteristic of youth], they are able to maintain their focused attention and ignore distractions to get things done." News24

ANC in December: what is at stake?

FAIRLY often it is suggested that the ANC may not be able to hold its December conference, now frequently called an "elective conference".

Alternatively, it is said that it may emerge very weakened by divisions, may split into two parts, or may, in fact, collapse as an organisation and disappear. There are, undoubtedly, other gloomy possibilities. The Mail and Guardian claims that sources say that President Jacob Zuma is very worried about his "legacy" and is consequently pleading for unity between competing candidates for the ANC presidency and working, as are some others for accommodating winners and losers in whatever electoral outcome that emerges.

What is at stake in talk of the ANC's existence being under threat? In truth, the ANC has survived many threats to its existence and took decades to become the dominant force of the 1950s, facing challenges from various Africanist and more mass-based trends in its earlier years.

The answer to the question of what ANC survival means in 2017, will be very different from what it was in the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s and immediately after its unbanning. In these earlier periods, the ANC was defined by clear political ideas and people joined the organisation, often at great risk to themselves, in order to advance aims with which they identified.

Adopted

The ANC was understood for most of its existence to represent an emancipatory vision, couched in different ways at various times, but from the 1950s (and that period built on earlier efforts at self-definition) it embraced an idea of the South Africa that the ANC wanted to see instead of prevailing apartheid conditions. This vision was not developed by the ANC alone. It was most famously concretised in the Freedom Charter, adopted at the Congress of the People, in 1955, following a lengthy campaign of consultation and collection of "demands" from people located in diverse geographical locations and from different population groups and strata of society.

The result of the extensive consultation was that the charter became a document that "spoke to" people, that embodied their own suffering in general declaratory terms but also in demands that referred to eccentric forms of oppression found only in apartheid South Africa and sometimes only amongst some sections of the population.

The ANC split in the late 1950s with Africanists breaking away to form the Pan Africanist Congress, disagreeing with some clauses of the Freedom Charter. It had nothing to do with who held this or that position in the organisation.

It had nothing to do with money, as can be seen in the historical record. It was related primarily to the difference in vision of the Africanists and the supporters of the charter.

In the years that followed the ANC debated these and other issues repeat-



DECEMBER: The ideas of succession candidates do not emerge out of debate within the ANC or its allies, writes Raymond Suttner. (eNCA / Anastasya Eliseeva)

edly, because the Africanist vision and other contested issues have never disappeared from African nationalism and the freedom struggle. Historically, Africanism had at certain points been stronger than the organisation and membership of the ANC in earlier periods, as with the Industrial and Commercial Workers Union (ICU), described by Helen Bradford as a liberation movement and the Garveyites and related movements. (See for example, Helen Bradford, *A Taste of Freedom: The ICU in Rural South Africa, 1924-1930*, Ravan Press, Johannesburg, 1987, Robert T Vinson, *The Americans are Coming! Dreams of African American Liberation in Segregationist South Africa*, Ohio University Press, 2012 and Raymond Suttner "African Nationalism" in Peter Vale, Lawrence Hamilton and Estelle H Prinsloo, (eds) *Intellectual Traditions in South Africa. Ideas, Individuals and institutions*, UKZN Press, 2014, pp 124-145).

Concretised

More importantly, after the banning of the ANC and PAC in 1960 (and the SACP 10 years earlier), there had to be repeated reviews of strategies and tactics, how to realise the goals set out in the Freedom Charter and other policy expressions.

The ANC and its allies now pursued goals under very difficult conditions. Over time these policy statements were also concretised and reviewed, before 1990, where the ANC and its allies drew lessons from other experiences and this led to avoiding fetishising nationalisation or public ownership. This can be seen in the Constitutional Guidelines, published by the ANC in 1988, <http://www.anc.org.za/content/constitutional-guidelines-democratic-south-africa>.

These debates raged, inside and outside the country, in Lusaka, in the camps in Angola and in London and other countries, in various continents. Inside the country, these and other ideas were debated in Robben Island and other prisons, in underground structures and mass organisations, when the space emerged

for these issues to be discussed. In every case there was contestation. The contestation was over ideas, how different classes should relate to one another in the struggle against apartheid and after the victory that slogans declared to be "certain". Debate raged over how the struggle for socialism related to nationalism, in a period when Marxism enjoyed considerable support not only in the SACP but also within the SACP, in a time when "the Party" as it was then known, enjoyed considerable prestige. Other debates included how land and agricultural questions should be addressed, how best to relate to cultures of different peoples, what rights minorities could claim, what status should be enjoyed by traditional leaders etc etc.

Given that many people lived under bantustan rule, some asked how the ANC and its allies should relate to these government structures, given that they existed and were a fact of life.

There was sometimes "purism" – that there should be no engagement whatsoever with collaborationist structures and sometimes greater pragmatism, notably in the case of Walter Sisulu and Nelson Mandela, given that the ANC or MK did not have the capacity to protect people in many of these areas. As the struggle advanced, internationally, through armed and underground struggle and in the last decades, through mass activities by popular organisations inside the country, the apartheid regime found itself on the back foot.

That is not to say that the slogan "victory is certain" could be counted on to be true. Victory, in the sense of defeating apartheid still had to be worked for long and hard and in different ways, over which people struggled, argued and debated.

They also carefully reviewed and drew lessons from campaigns that had been waged in various terrains of engagement with the regime.

Put briefly, the late 1980s saw a stalemate or what the famous Italian Communist Antonio Gramsci called a "reciprocal siege" where neither side could defeat the other. These

were conditions where a negotiated solution became a possible way of achieving a democratic outcome.

In 2017, some commentators look back on this period with contempt, as one of unrelenting concessions made to the oppressor.

Oppressed

The leadership of the ANC, SACP and COSATU did not have one view, but everyone believed that if freedom could be achieved by reducing bloodshed through negotiations that should be pursued. It should be remembered, that it was primarily the blood of the oppressed people that was being spilt.

In the period 1990-1994, there was much disagreement, manifested not only in discussions at a leadership level but in the ranks of MK, amongst those who had been in the mass movements of the 1980s, underground and in international campaigns.

I was one of those who was lukewarm about negotiations. I had followed the instruction to pursue insurrection in the 1980s and followed the default position that there was nothing to negotiate except the immediate transfer of power to the majority of the people, led by the ANC.

In consequence, I had mixed feelings about the swift pace of events between calling for insurrection in 1989, (notably in the SACP conference held in Cuba in August), the unbanning of previously illegal organisations and the start of talks. At these talks, the ANC leadership made unilateral concessions such as the suspension of armed action.

News

Raymond Suttner is a scholar and political analyst. He is a Part-time Professor attached to Rhodes University and an Emeritus Professor at UNISA. He served lengthy periods in prison and house arrest for underground and public anti-apartheid activities. His prison memoir *Inside Apartheid's prison has been reissued in 2017, with a new introduction covering his more recent "life outside the ANC"* by Jacana Media. He blogs at raymondsuttner.com and his twitter handle is @raymondsuttner

Wit and Wisdom

"I wouldn't be caught dead sacrificing myself for this country."
– Sol Luckman, *Beginner's Luke*

"Both were military. That was clear. Reacher could tell by their haircuts. No civilian barber would be as pragmatic or as brutal."
– Lee Child, *Never Go Back*

"They are fond of fun and therefore witty, wit being well-bred insolence."
– Aristotle, *The Rhetoric & The Poetics of Aristotle*

"I am not gamesome: I do lack some part of that quick spirit that is in Antony."
– William Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*

"Have you ever noticed how good things go to those who hate?"
– Sol Luckman, *Beginner's Luke*

"Jimmy Murray, you are an ass," said Aunt Ruth, angrily.
'Well, we're cousins,' agreed Cousin Jimmy pleasantly."
– L.M. Montgomery, *Emily Climbs*

"Spanish—how shall I say this?—is like Portuguese spoken with a speech impediment."
– Sol Luckman, *Snooze: A Story of Awakening*

"Well, enough of this introspection. It's depressing, quite frankly."
– Sol Luckman, *Snooze: A Story of Awakening*

"True, beneath the human façade, I was an interloper, an alien whose ship had crashed beyond hope of repair in the backwoods of Southern Appalachia—but at least I'd learned to walk and talk enough like the locals to be rejected as one of their own."
– Sol Luckman, *Beginner's Luke*

"Have a selective optimistic sight, transform the bitch glitch "in stitches."
– Angelica Hopes

"Nobody ever goes to that store to shop because it's too crowded."
– Sol Luckman, *Beginner's Luke*

"I wish for you the wisdom to mind your own business."
– Steve Maraboli

"Worry wasn't an emotion to which he was particularly accustomed—and it worried him."
– Sol Luckman, *Snooze: A Story of Awakening*

"some call their mistake a discovery; to others, their mistake is a misfortune and to most people a mistake is a deviation from the acceptable. A mistake is a mistake depending on what we think it is."
– Ernest Agyemang Yeboah

BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

CONTACTS

business@observer.org.sz

Majaha Nkonyane
(7844 8668/79460388)
Tel: 2404 9600/1
Fax: 2404 5503
2404 6463

VITALS

Prime Rate	10.75%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	5.4%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	9.75%
Swaziland Building Society	
Bank Rate	7.25%
Central Bank	
Petrol (u)	E12.10 per litre
Replacement	E12.15 per litre
Diesel	E12.00 per litre
Paraffin	E 8.95 per litre
Engen Garage	

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 04 DEC 2017

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	13.7685	13.8185
British Pound/SZL	18.5276	18.5949
Japanese Yen/SZL	8.1709	8.1992
Swiss France/SZL	14.5829	14.6298
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.3204	1.3349
Australian Dollar/SZL	10.4530	10.4979
Canadian Dollar/SZL	10.8268	10.8653
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	16.3343	16.3936
Gold	1,274.0000	
Oil	65.3600	

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



Standard Bank

E500 FINE FOR MISSING TV LICENCE DEADLINE

Stories by Majaha Nkonyane

TV licences consortium SVnet has tightened screws.

A fine of E500 has been set for anyone who will be found to have missed the payment of their TV licence deadline. This was revealed by Project Manager Modercai Donga.

"In terms of Section 22 of the Swaziland Television Authority Act of 1983 (the 'Act') a person who is in possession of a television set, or deals in television sets either by sale, lease or in any way without a valid television licence shall be guilty of an offence and shall on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding E500 or to imprisonment of six months or both," he said.

The nation is reminded that one can register, or check if they are registered for a television licence using an MTN sim card by dialling *204# and following the options available.

Payment

In making payment or registering for a television licence, one has to enter his Identity Number as a reference then proceed to enter the amount they want to pay.

Donga said if one is found in possession of an unlicensed television set, or dealing in television sets after 31 December, recovery action will be instituted.

In terms of the recovery action, the consortium will compile a list of all defaulters for prosecution by the office of the directorate of



SERIOUS BUSINESS: Project Manager Modercai Donga making a presentation at Swazi MTN offices recently.

public prosecutions (DPP).

Every person who is in possession of a television set, be it for purposes of viewing or for trade must pay for his or her television set.

"The following persons are required to have a television licence: any person who is in possession of a television set or of a device that is capable of receiving, a television broadcast.

"Businesses who deal in or trade

in television sets, recorders or any television equipment; and any person who conducts a television service in the country," he said.

Valid

The above persons or businesses are required in terms of the Act to have a television licence. A television licence costs E180 per year and is valid from January 1 to December 31 each year.

A television licence is to be applied

for in advance. Consequently, all television licences issued in 2017 expire on December 31. Payment for 2018 television licences is ongoing and should be applied for on or before December 31, 2017.

The TV licence payment process can be done through Swazi MTN's mobile money, through Swazi TV's Nedbank account and at all post offices countrywide.

Procurement could help achieve socio-economic objectives

IN order for the country to stimulate economic activity, measures like procurement can be employed as a strategy which can help the country reach first world status.

This is according to Deen Letchmiah who is the Director of LDM Consulting (South Africa).

"Procurement can be used as an instrument of policy and this can be achieved through international procurement which has been used to stimulate economic activity, protect national industry against foreign competition, improve the competitiveness of certain industrial sectors, and remedy regional disparities," he said.

Public sector procurement may

also be used to achieve outcomes in addition to obtaining the required goods and services.

This can be achieved through, promoting fair labour conditions, promoting the use of local labour, prohibiting discrimination against minority groups, improving environmental quality, encouraging equality of opportunity between men and women; and promoting increased employment of the disabled.

Redefining

The procurement process can further be used in redefining value for money, making systems more accessible to all.

Good governance allows a company to practice effective and efficient procurement practices,

anti-corruption measure, systems of control and accountability, effective reporting and monitoring systems, areas of excellence and code of conduct.

Competent

Construction businesses do not grow due to entities being unable to source a few things when needed, which include construction finance, training for business owners, competent workers, credit from suppliers, training for workers and competent managers.

"Organs of state must contract for goods and services using a system which is: fair, equitable, transparent, competitive, and cost effective.

Furthermore, organs of state or institutions can implement a

procurement policy which incorporates categories of preference in the allocation of contract and the protection or advancement of persons, or categories of persons, disadvantaged by unfair discrimination," he said.

Organisations are further encouraged to consider E-procurement (electronic procurement, sometimes also known as supplier exchange).

This is the business-to-business or business-to-consumer or business-to-government purchase and sale of supplies, work, and services through the internet as well as other information and networking systems, such as electronic data interchange.

RETIREMENT CRISIS LOOMING

By Majaha Nkonyane

THE workplace is said to be facing a retirement crisis as 58.6 per cent of members who are 60 years and older are expected to earn pensions of between zero per cent and 20 per cent of pre retirement income.

This is according to 10x CEO Steven Nathan.

"The workplace is today facing a crisis as 58.6 per cent of members who are 60 years and older are expected to earn pensions of between zero per cent and 20 per cent of pre retirement income. Whilst an average member is expected to get a pension of 43.2 per cent of

pre retirement income," he said.

Pensionable salary is often lower than full take home pay, on average pensionable salary equals 70 per cent of full take home pay.

Jonathan said the reality 75 per cent replacement ratio is in fact 52 per cent, on a normal case reality should aim for between 80 per cent and 100 per cent.

Millions of people contribute to retirement funds whilst they do not know if it is sufficient, this is caused by cost of running schemes, salary increases, investment returns, type of investment portfolio's used and losses due to non preservation.

"A solution to this may come from; financial wellness which shows impacts

of financial decisions, it is also important to make members aware of options. Encourage increased contributions, allow for later retirement, and educate members on decisions they have to make at retirement," he said.

Nathan said it is important to ask how well prepared are you as an employee, leaders need to know how well prepared are their members.

What are your retirement goals and what are the options.

"Young people are not saving enough and that hasn't changed in the last 25 years. Younger people would rather have a bigger take home salary than a higher contribution into their savings or retirement funds," he said.



CREDIT SCORE AND REPORT



Undeniably, the festive season is upon us. Synonymous with the festive season a lot of spending is done by consumers which often unwarranted especially if it is done on credit.

The Financial Services Regulatory Authority would like to plead with consumers of financial services to be cautious in their spending as such has an effect on their credit score.

When dealing with credit there need to be a just application of financial discipline on the side of the consumer to avoid reckless spending which may indirectly be caused by compulsive buying.

What is a credit score?

A credit score is a statistical number that reflects the information in your credit report. The score summarises your credit history and helps lenders predict how likely it is that you will repay a loan and make payments when they are due. Lenders may use credit scores in deciding whether to grant you credit, what terms you are offered, or the rate you will pay on a loan. Information used to calculate your credit score can include:

- The number and type of accounts you have ;
- Whether you pay your bills on time;
- How much of your available credit you are currently using;
- Whether you have any collection actions against you;
- The amount of your outstanding debt; and
- The age of your accounts.

What causes a credit score to change?

Your credit score reflects the information in your credit report, changes to your credit report may cause your credit score to change. For instance, if you pay your bills late or incur more debt, your credit score may go down. However, if you pay down an outstanding balance on a credit card or



mortgage or correct an error in your credit report, your credit score may go up.

CREDIT REPORT

What is a credit report?

A credit report is a record of your credit history that includes information about:

- Your identity. Your name, address, date of birth, and possibly employment information.
- Your existing credit. Information about credit that you have, such as your credit card accounts, mortgages, car loans. It may also include the terms of your credit, how much you owe your creditors, and your history of making payments.
- Inquiries about you. A list of companies or persons who recently requested a copy of your report.

Why is a credit report important?

Your credit report is important because lenders, insurers, employers, and oth-

ers may obtain your credit report from credit bureaus to assess how you manage financial responsibilities. For example: Lenders may use your credit report information to decide whether you can get a loan and the terms you get for a loan (for example, the interest rate they will charge you). Insurance companies may use the information to decide whether you can get insurance and to set the rates you will pay. Employers may use your credit report, if you give them permission to do so, to decide whether to hire you.

Who collects and reports credit information about a consumer?

The Financial Services Regulatory Authority licensed a credit bureau as per the provisions of the Consumer Credit Act, 2016. Amongst its many roles, a credit bureau is by law permitted to gather and maintain the information about you that is included in your credit report. The credit bureaus then provide this information in the

form of a credit report to companies or persons that request it, such as lenders from whom you are seeking credit.

Where do credit bureaus get their information?

Credit bureaus get information from your credit providers, such as a bank, credit card issuer, or other financial services providers as required by section 74 (1) which states that a credit provider shall submit consumer credit information to a credit bureau and may submit such credit information to more than one credit bureau. Section 74 (2) states that, upon entry into or amendment of a credit agreement, the credit provider shall submit to a credit bureau consumer credit information, in the prescribed manner and form, and within the prescribed time-

a) The name, principal business address, and registration number of a credit provider;

b) The name and address of the consumer;

c) If the consumer is -

A natural person, their identity number, or in the case of a person who is not a citizen and who does not have an identity number, a passport number; or

A company or body corporate, its registration number or tax certificate number;

d) If the agreement of a credit facility, the credit limit under that facility, and the expiry date of the agreement, if any; For the full section on submission of consumer credit information to credit bureau please visit our website on www.fsra.co.sz

Each credit bureau gets its information from different sources, so the information in one credit bureau's report may not be the same as the information in another credit bureau's report.

How can you build your credit history?

It is important to begin building your credit history early. If you do not have a credit history, it is much harder for lenders or credit providers to make a decision about you, since they have nothing to base it on.

One of the best ways to build a credit history is to apply for a credit card and make your payments on time. It can sometimes be hard to get a regular credit card if you have had trouble with credit in the past.

An option is to apply for a secured credit card.

You need to provide the credit card issuer with a deposit. When you make payments on the balance of a secured credit card, it will be reported to the credit reporting agencies in the same way as a regular credit card.

Access to credit does not necessitate misuse. Consumers should be aware that they have to exhibit responsibility when dealing with credit. Failure to do such can either build or ruin your credit history.

For any further questions or comments on credit score and bureau please contact or email the Financial Services Regulatory Authority at stakeholder@fsra.co.sz

BBC suspends Danisa Baloyi amid missing R5m scandal

JOHANNESBURG - Danisa Baloyi has been suspended as President of the Black Business Council (BBC) pending the investigation of the missing R5m.

The announcement was made at a media briefing in Johannesburg after the BBC and the Airports Company SA (Acsa), the donor, still had conflicting versions of how a R5m donation to the business lobby seemingly disappeared.

Kganki Matabane, former COO and executive director of Sentech, takes up the position of CEO. He said that the BBC does not have "financial challenges" and that his role is to strengthen the organisation.

Speaking at a media briefing at the BBC offices in Johannesburg on Monday, secretary general George Sebulela announced that the decision was taken at the BBC National Council meeting held on November 30.

The council has requested that Baloyi "refrain from any activity of the organisation in the name of the BBC" until the matter is resolved, said Sebulela. He added that the BBC has "capable leadership" and that there is no vacuum at all.

During a question and answer session, Sebulela confirmed that there is "prima facie" evidence that Baloyi is implicated in the missing R5m.

But he added that Baloyi is innocent until proven guilty and that she should have an opportunity to testify in the investigation.

Sebulela says the investigation on the missing R5m is ongoing and cannot comment on why Acsa deposited the donation in the wrong account. @Fin24 @TeamNews24

In a statement on Friday, Acsa said the donation had been brokered by Baloyi and that her office specifically instructed that the money be paid to Merit Energy, an intermediary.

Other BBC officials were apparently unaware of this and approached Acsa for a donation in August, only to be told that they had already been sponsored generously just a few months earlier.

On Monday, chairperson Sello Rasethaba said Acsa had laid charges against Baloyi.

Last week, City Press reported on how the Acsa donation had gone missing and how fundraiser Dominic Ntsele was being pursued for this cash by the BBC.

The BBC has, however, pressed criminal charges against both Ntsele and Merit Energy, which received the cash from Acsa on the BBC's behalf, said Sebulela. The nature of charges is theft and fraud, said treasurer general Sindiswa Mzamo.

FIN24

RAND WEAKENS AS ANC CONFERENCE NEARS

JOHANNESBURG - The rand was marginally softer yesterday morning, as focus turned to unfolding global and local political factors.

Domestically, the ANC national executive committee is meeting in Pretoria, with some reports that efforts are under way to reconcile contesting factions.

Analysts have said a compromise within the ANC should be rand-supportive, amid concern over the economic sustainability of the party's policies.

Also being watched is the ANC's elective conference in KwaZulu-Natal, the province with the most ANC members. KwaZulu-Natal is widely expected to endorse Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma today as their preferred candidate for December's elective conference.

Internationally, Brexit negotiations continue this week, while in the US, politicians will be trying to reconcile the differences in the tax reform Bills of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The reconciliation should be relatively simple, as the Senate and



House Bills were very similar, with only minor amendments needed, said FxPro analysts. The news had reinforced risk-on sentiment in the markets. At 9.30am the rand was

at R13.7864 from R13.7629, R16.3270 from R16.3276 and R18.5134 from R18.4937.

The euro was at \$1.1843 from \$1.1860. *iNet Bridge*

36-year-old makes \$62m with instant web flea market

TOKYO - Yusuke Mitsumoto had a hunch: what if you paid people instantly for their used goods over the internet, with no guarantee that they would hand them over?

The 36 year-old e-commerce entrepreneur launched an app in June to test the idea. It worked better than he imagined; after 16 hours, he was stunned to discover he was on the hook for 360 million yen (\$3.2m) and shut the service down. A day later, truckloads of clothes and electronics gadgets started to arrive, with his startup's employees forming a buck-

et line to move packages into his company's tiny office in Tokyo.

All told, less than one in 10 second-hand-goods sellers didn't deliver as promised. That was good enough for Mitsumoto, who relaunched the service, called Cash, in August as a new way to gather inventory for an online flea market. Total daily purchases are capped at 10 million yen, and are limited to smartphones, luxury handbags, watches, clothing and other specific items from a list of several thousand. Customers take a photo and are given a non-negotiable offer. Prices are set

automatically based on data gleaned from other second-hand marketplaces and Cash makes money by reselling the goods.

"It was a social experiment," said Mitsumoto, who started selling goods on the web in 1996. He later launched Stores.jp, Japan's version of Shopify, which he sold and then bought back. "Of course, I believed that good people would outnumber the bad, but the question was by how much. That's not something you can find out without trying."

BLOOMBERG

Tips to protect your credit record during the festive season

CAPE TOWN - The festive season frenzy might lead to consumers forgetting about their primary important credit commitments, says Wesbank.

This seasonal excitement comes with extreme retail overspending, ad hoc travelling and expensive holidays which may impact consumers who are dependent on credit facilities to finance these expenses.

Wesbank's Head of Brand and Communication, Rudolf Mahoney said: "Every year, in January to March, there's a spike in debt review applications.

These are more than likely people who have heavily relied on credit in the previous year, and then overspent during December".

1. Don't spend what you don't have

Have patience and only spend what

you have in the bank and resist the temptation of early festive deals, because these could have a negative impact on your budget.

This is especially important in the current uncertain economic climate, where businesses may struggle to afford rewarding employees with

bonuses.

2. Early December paycheques are for January. Most businesses pay their employees early in December in consideration of holidays.

Consumers tend to blow their salaries in December and forget about January.

Business Report Online

STEINHOFF EXERCISES ITS CALL OPTIONS FOR SHOPRITE

JOHANNESBURG - Africa's biggest food retailer, Shoprite, on Friday confirmed that Steinhoff Africa Retail (Star) had exercised the call options to acquire a 23.1 per cent economic stake in and a 50.6 per cent voting control of the company.

"The implementation of the investment by Star in Shoprite Holdings is subject to a number of conditions precedent, including various merger filings. Shareholders will be informed once all the conditions precedent for the implementation of the transaction have been met," the company said. Shoprite shares closed 2.23 per cent higher at R232.92 on the JSE on Friday. Star was founded in July, following the restructuring of Steinhoff's African retail assets and was listed in September in a move to allow Steinhoff to issue shares to help fund the move for Shoprite. Star comprises retail chains including Pep, Ackermans, Timbercity, Pennypinchers, HiFi Corporation, Incredible Connection and Shoe City. Pep and Ackermans account for the bulk of the group's revenue.

The merger is the brainchild of Christo Wiese, South Africa's fourth-richest person, with a fortune of about \$5.7 billion (R78.25bn). Wiese, who owns 16 per cent of Shoprite and 23 per cent of Steinhoff, plans to create the continent's largest retailer by combining the African operations of Shoprite and Steinhoff.

The two retail giants called off

merger talks in February after the major shareholders of Steinhoff, Public Investment Corporation, and Titan failed to agree on the ratio that would have been involved in the exchange of shares into Steinhoff.

Steinhoff said previously that Star would leverage off its strategic expertise, centralised sourcing, and manufacturing and logistics expertise in order to maximise operating efficiencies across its retail operations following the listing.

Shoprite said in its latest annual report that it had outperformed the retail industry in terms of growth and shareholder return. "One of our key measures of success is trading profit, which increased by 11.6 per cent," the group said.

In the year to June, Shoprite, which trades in 15 countries with 2 689 stores, boosted turnover 14.4 per cent to just more than R130bn in the year to June. Turnover surged to R141bn, with Liquor Shop achieving the highest sales growth of R4.8bn.

The group compounded high levels of unemployment, consumer indebtedness, and shrinking disposable income to strengthen its stranglehold on the local retail market, opening 1001 supermarket stores in the country and stamping its footprint in Africa.

The company managed to grow its businesses against the consumer indebtedness and the shrinking in disposable income.

Business Report

World News



BRIEFS

'Trump still undecided on Israel's capital'

WASHINGTON - US President Donald Trump has not yet decided whether to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital or whether to proceed immediately in moving the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to the holy city. That's according to his son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner, who says Trump is still weighing his options. **AP**

'Lafarge made 'unacceptable errors'

PARIS - The Swiss-French cement company LafargeHolcim should have stopped its operations in war-torn Syria before it did, its chairman said in an interview published on Sunday, after three executives were charged with indirectly financing jihadists. Beat Hess told French daily Le Figaro that the group was going through "a difficult phase" that was "a problem for the company's reputation". Lafarge is accused of paying the Islamic State group and other militants through a middleman in order to allow the company's factory in Jalabiya, northern Syria, to continue to operate. **AFP**

27 fragmented statues found in Egypt

CAIRO - An Egyptian-European mission has discovered 27 fragmented statues of the lion-headed goddess Sekhmet across the Nile from Egypt's southern city of Luxor, the antiquities ministry said on Sunday. The statues of the goddess, known as The Lady of War, were found in the ground at the Colossi of Memnon area on the city's west bank, which used to be a capital for ancient Egypt, the ministry said in a statement. **AFP**



Army general to challenge Mali's president

BAMAKO - A Malian army general and former government minister has resigned his post to stand in the country's presidential elections in July 2018, sources close to the officer said on Sunday. Moussa Sinko Coulibaly is the second person to declare his candidacy, after Kalifa Sanogo, the Mayor of Mali's second-largest city, Sikasso, who announced his bid in July. They are hoping to unseat President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, who has not yet said if he will seek a second five-year term, though he is widely expected to do so. **AFP**

Tanzania arrests 1 of 2 women seen kissing

DODOMA - Tanzanian police are holding one of two women accused of kissing in a video widely circulated on social media. Ahmed Msangi, police chief in Tanzania's Mwanza region, said authorities arrested the woman in the northwestern region of Geita and are looking for the other woman and some others seen in the video. He said "it is just a matter of time" before law enforcement officers arrest the others, adding "the plan is to eliminate the entire chain of people involved or supporting homosexuality for the betterment of the generations." **AP**

US, South Korea start massive air force drills

SEOUL - The US and South Korea have started their biggest-ever joint air force exercise with hundreds of aircrafts, including two dozen stealth jets.

South Korea's defence ministry said yesterday that the five-day drill called Vigilant Ace will improve their capabilities in wartime.

The US 7th Air Force deployed major strategic military assets including six F-22 and 18 F-35 stealth fighter jets for the regular exercise in the Korean Peninsula.

About 12 000 US military personnel are participating. It takes places a week after



IT'S WAR: US President Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un of North Korea.

North Korea test-launched its most powerful intercontinental ballistic missile that puts most of the US within range. On Sunday, Senator Lindsey

Graham said it is time for US military families in South Korea to leave the country because the conflict with North Korea is getting close. **AP**

Australia MP proposes to gay partner in Parliament

SYDNEY - A gay Australian lawmaker popped the question in Parliament yesterday, proposing to his partner moments after a bill paving the way for same-sex marriage was introduced.

Tim Wilson, who has reportedly been engaged to Ryan Bolger for nine years, fought back tears as he thanked his fiancée for enduring a marriage debate that "has been the soundtrack to our relationship".

"In my first speech, I defined our bond by the ring that sits on both of our left hands -- that they are the answer to the

questions we cannot ask," the 37-year-old lawmaker from the ruling conservative party said.

"So there is only one thing left to do: Ryan Patrick Bolger will you marry me?"

Bolger, who was sitting in the public gallery, quickly responded "yes" as the floor erupted in applause.

"That was a 'yes', a resounding 'yes'," House Speaker Rob Mitchell noted for the record. "Congratulations, well-done mate."

Wilson earlier emotionally recalled the uneasiness he experienced with some friends when he and Bolger were first engaged.

"Many simply didn't know how to react. Many SMS went unresponded. In conversations some people politely changed the topic, or fell silent entirely," he said.

His partner had pushed him to have an engagement party. "On informing one person of our news, they responded: Why bother?"

"At the time I fell silent and I have never had an answer to that question. But the Australian people have now answered that for me." **AFP**

Egypt presidential hopeful will reconsider election bid

CAIRO - Former Egyptian premier and presidential hopeful Ahmed Shafiq said on Sunday he was reconsidering his intention to run in the 2018 presidential elections after relatives said his whereabouts were unknown for around 24 hours.

Shafiq had not been seen since an airport official said he landed in Cairo on Saturday evening after aides claimed the Emirati authorities deported him.

The former army general was forced to leave the Gulf country, where he had been living in exile since 2012, after he announced his intention to run in next year's election, lawyer Dina Adly had said in a statement on her Facebook page earlier on Sunday.

"I said my intention was based on the information and the general idea



VOTE FOR ME: Former Egyptian premier and presidential hopeful Ahmed Shafiq.

I had about the current situation," Shafiq told talk show host Wael El Ebrashy by phone in his first comments since Saturday evening's reported deportation.

But following his return to Egypt, he needs to "look into the situation and check it thoroughly, now I will go out and see the situation on the ground," he told Ebrashy from a



ISOLATED: Grace Mugabe.

Mugabe relatives cut ties with 'disrespectful' Grace 2 years ago

HARARE - Relatives of former Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe have reportedly claimed that they cut ties with their daughter-in-law Grace Mugabe more than two years ago.

According to Voice of America (VOA), the Mugabe clan accused Grace of being "disrespectful to family elders, showing off and sowing seeds of disharmony within the family".

Mugabe's uncle Ben Matibiri claimed that Grace belittled everyone in the Mugabe family "as she tried to borrow powers at every opportunity". This, he said was the complete opposite of Mugabe's first wife, the late Sally Hefron Mugabe, whom he described as a "great daughter" to the family.

This came as reports over the weekend alleged that Grace was complaining about how her family, businesses and allies were being treated following the fall of her ageing husband.

According to The Zimbabwe Independent, although the Mugabes seemed to be quiet in the public domain, the former first lady had been Complaining behind-the-scenes about how her family and the families of her allies' were being treated.

Grace had been complaining to President Emmerson Mnangagwa and Zimbabwe Defence Forces Commander Constantino Chiwenga through mediators, Catholic cleric Father Fidelis Mukonori and former Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe governor Gideon Gono, the report said.

News24

Cairo hotel.

"Now I think there is a chance that compels me to verify accurately what exactly is needed," Shafiq said.

Shafiq, appointed premier by Hosni Mubarak shortly before his overthrow in 2011, is seen as the main challenger for Sisi, who is expected to dominate the 2018 vote despite not yet officially announced his candidacy. Shafiq had announced his intention to run in the elections in a video sent by an aide on Wednesday, where he stated the country may need "new blood" to face its current "many problems in all aspects of life".

Shafiq said he was received well by officials in Cairo and was then taken to a hotel.

"I was surprised truthfully when I was in the car that I was being driven to one of the most distinguished hotels in the area where I live," he said. **AFP**

Focus on SA scene

Photographer demands R20m for Mandela picture

JOHANNESBURG – A photographer is heading to court, claiming R20-million from government for the unauthorised use of a decades-old photograph he took of late former president Nelson Mandela.

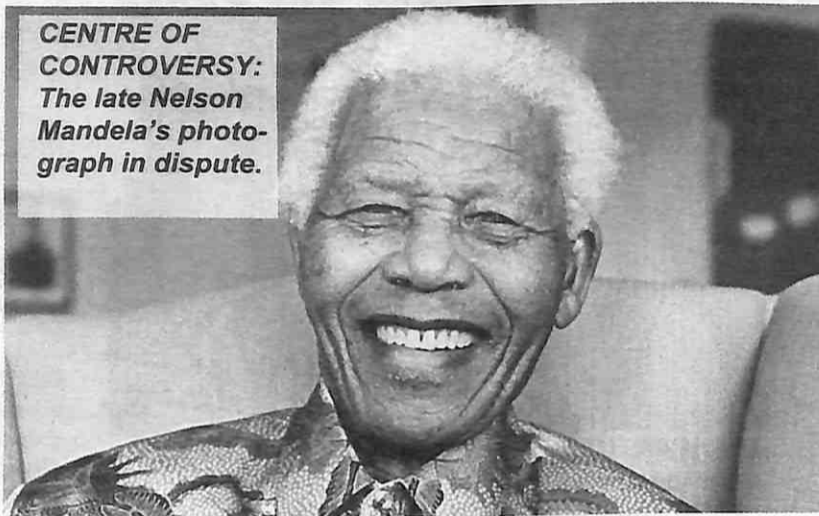
Photographer Shaun Earl Harris accuses the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) of copyright infringement saying he has “once again come out to the public after having tried unsuccessfully to engage with the South African government” on the matter.

Harris said in 2006 GCIS purchased a licence to use the copyright protected photograph of Mandela in a book.

“This licence was, however, limited to the one time use of the image in a book published and distributed in South Africa,” explained the aggrieved photographer.

In 2013, the Mandela family approached GCIS and asked to see all the images they had available of Mandela “as they

CENTRE OF CONTROVERSY:
The late Nelson Mandela's photograph in dispute.



were preparing for the worst since his health had already been deteriorating”. Mandela passed away on 5 December 2013 at the age of 95. Harris said his photograph was chosen by the Mandela family

as the official image. The lensman has gathered hundreds of examples of the Mandela image being used locally and internationally without the necessary authorisation. *African News Agency*

Six-year-old saves three boys from drowning at Plet beach

PLETTENBERG BAY – Three young boys were saved from drowning when an alert six-year-old boy spotted they were in trouble in the water at a Plettenberg Bay beach on Sunday, the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) said.

NSRI Plettenberg Bay duty crew were activated at about 11.40 CAT following reports of a drowning in progress at Hobie Beach, Plettenberg Bay, NSRI Plettenberg Bay Station Commander Marc Rodgers said.

“Cameron Badenhorst, a six-year-old local male child, noticed the drowning in progress happening in the surf in front of the lifeguard tower and he ran to our nearby NSRI sea rescue base to alert NSRI who dispatched rescue swimmers to the scene and alerted the lifeguard,” he said.

“On arrival on the scene, we found members of the public and a lifeguard assisting three chil-

dren out of the water... Our sea rescue swimmers assisted to get the children out of the water and they were placed on oxygen and treated for non-fatal drowning symptoms by NSRI medics and Med-Life ambulance services were activated.”

The three boys, two aged nine and one 11, were transported to the hospital by Med-Life ambulance in a stable condition for further treatment and for observation for secondary drowning. They were expected to fully recover, Rodgers said.

“The children had been swept out to sea by rip currents they got caught in after incoming waves prevented them from being able to stand in the surf line, and they were caught by the rip currents. Cameron’s quick reaction in alerting us, and the members of the public that assisted, are commended for their actions,” he said.

African News Agency

'END FACTIONALISM, EXPEL ROGUE ELEMENTS IN ANC'

PRETORIA – Gauteng ANC Chairman Paul Mashatile on Sunday again called for an end to factionalism in the party and urged that those behaving in an unbecoming manner and bringing the ANC into disrepute be dealt with harshly, including expulsion.

In his closing address to the ANC's Gauteng provincial general council (PGC) meeting in Pretoria, he said the ANC “is in a crisis mainly of our own making”.

“One of our biggest challenges in this period is the problem of factionalism. This phenomenon that asserted itself in our ranks since the Polokwane conference in 2007 has fractured our organisation to the extent that we may lose power in the next general elections if we don't mend our ways. It is, therefore, absolutely critical that we destroy factionalism within our ranks. We have to work hard to advance the course of unity within our ranks,” he said.

“Let us approach the 54th national (elective) conference with a determination to eradicate slates when electing the leadership of our organisation. The days of winner takes all are over. We must emerge from this conference more united than ever before.”

“We have already stated that we must elect a leadership collective that must win the confidence of



CAUTIONED: Gauteng ANC Chairman Paul Mashatile.

all South Africans, a leadership that must have the courage to address the wrong things happening within our movement. We want a leadership collective that will be constituted by cadres from different generations and take into account the national question and gender.

“We must ensure that the national conference of the ANC becomes a dignified event that must be admired by people all over the world. There must be no room for disruptions, intimidation, or violent conduct within our meetings. Those who behave in an unbecoming manner that brings the ANC into disrepute must be dealt with harshly.”

African News Agency

KZN BRANCH DISAPPOINTED AT EXCLUSION

DURBAN – An ANC branch, of which former AU Commission chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma is a member, has been excluded from participating at the KwaZulu-Natal party's provincial general council (PGC) to be attended by more than 800 delegates starting yesterday to today.

ANC provincial spokesperson Mdumiseni Ntuli informed members of the General Sihle Mbongwa (Ward 32) Branch, which includes Durban CBD and surrounding suburbs, that they would also not be represented at the ANC national conference due to take place in Joburg between December 16 and 20. The PGC is the final prepara-

tion for the national conference, and is only attended by people who have been selected as delegates to the national event to elect new party leadership. The council is expected to nominate a slate that has Dlamini-Zuma as the preferred ANC president after she was nominated by majority branches in the province.

Ntuli said on Sunday that the branch at Ward 32, Durban, which holds Dlamini-Zuma's ANC membership, had repeatedly failed to hold its branch general meeting (BGM) to select delegates to the provincial and national events.

“They are not going to the conference, as they did not convene the BGM.”

Ntuli said the branch has been expe-

riencing “lots of infighting” as they disagreed over the database, which is the list of eligible members of the ANC in the branch to attend the BGM.

“So the convening of the BGM will exclude others, and that would make life difficult for the members of the ANC. So they are not going to the national conference.”

Troubles at the branch dated back to preparations for last year's local government elections, with some ANC branch members, who are now supporting ANC Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, alleging that the current councillor Mpumelelo Zuma was imposed on the ward. *The Mercury*

I don't sing about things, I act - Dlamini-Zuma

JOHANNESBURG – Former African Union Commission chairperson Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma has moved to allay fears among party faithful that her election to the ANC presidency will lead to the party losing the elections in 2019.

In an exclusive interview with Independent Media, the ANC presidential hopeful was confident the organisation will do well at the crucial polls under her leadership.

Dlamini-Zuma slammed those who linked her campaign to her former husband, President Jacob Zuma, repeating that they were “dishonest and disingenuous”. “I believe the ANC will actually win (the elections) even better, because it will be a change and not the continuation of what is there now,” she said. Dlamini-Zuma stressed that South Africans knew her track record in gov-

COUNT ON ME:
ANC presidential candidate Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma.



ernment, and this would boost the ANC's fortunes under her stewardship.

“I'm a cadre who has vast experience in government and the country can say when I'm in government this is what I have done. South Africans will know

that I'm very decisive. I don't sing about things, I act,” she said.

Dlamini-Zuma's comments came as factions in the governing party entered the final push in the battle for the soul of the ANC. *The Star*



BITCOIN'S VALUE HAS SHOT UP 1 000 PER CENT THIS YEAR

LONDON - When a pernicious internet virus swept through 150 countries in May this year, it claimed at least 200 000 victims by infecting computers across the world.

Those targeted by the so-called 'ransomware' virus included French car plants, Chinese universities, Australian railways and, most worryingly for those in Britain, the NHS.

The targets of the biggest-ever hacking attack of its kind had one thing in common: the ransom they were asked to hand over in order to regain access to their computer systems had to be paid in a little-known form of electronic money called Bitcoin.

Each \$300 payment had to be sent to a Bitcoin 'address' online. The hackers even included advice on the 'best time' to check if a payment had gone through — their chatty tone completely at odds with the cynicism of a cyber-gang prepared to risk the lives of thousands of hospital patients. The ransom demand coincided with Disney's Chief Executive Bob Iger revealing that hackers had also recently demanded his film studio pay a ransom in Bitcoins.



CONCERNED: Jamie Dimon boss of JP Morgan Chase.

In this case, it was to prevent one of its forthcoming movies, believed to be the latest in the Pirates Of The Caribbean series, from being illegally released online.

Weeks earlier, hackers also leaked upcoming episodes of the popular TV series Orange Is The New Black after the online broadcaster Netflix refused to pay a ransom — again in Bitcoin.

So, what is this mysterious cyber-currency, which seems to provide an almost perfect means for organised criminals to collect and keep hold of their illicit gains?

Put simply, Bitcoins are a currency that can be bought and sold using regular cash. They exist only in cyberspace, in the form of a numerical code. Once purchased, they can be exchanged

for some goods and services, like normal money.

Unlike other currencies, issued by banks and heavily regulated by governments, Bitcoins — which were invented in 2009 — are untraceable and can be exchanged anonymously, with anyone in the world, at the click of a mouse. That means they occupy a medium far beyond the reach of either the taxman or the normal rules of law.

They started life in 2010, with an official value of just five cents in the US for each Bitcoin, and stayed below a dollar all year.

The first notable transaction saw an American pay 10 000 Bitcoins to another computer coder in London — who arranged for two pepperoni pizzas to be delivered back in the States in May 2010 (equating to about \$40 or £30, far less than the supposed value of the Bitcoins).

The price rose to \$100 for each Bitcoin by 2013 and reached \$1 000 over the ensuing 12 months. It then fell to \$200 in 2015, before beginning a vigorous surge. This week, the price of a Bitcoin topped an astonishing \$10 000 (last night, it had dropped to \$9,783 or just under £8 000).

But that means it has increased by 200 000-fold since its launch.

Fuelling this rise have been private investors, currency speculators and celebrities who believe that, despite its reputation as a means for crooks

and computer geeks to exchange cash, Bitcoin could become a common currency for middle-class consumers.

Supporters see it (and some online imitators) as the future of money, allowing people to bypass banks and credit card companies.

To this end, underwear tycoon Michelle Mone, a British peer, announced in September a venture to sell property in Dubai that would be paid for in Bitcoins.

Electroneum

Football manager Harry Redknapp (who once claimed in court to be almost financially illiterate) has used Twitter to endorse a rival currency called Electroneum.

But is the Bitcoin gold rush the next big financial bubble about to spectacularly burst?

Such a warning was made in blunt terms this year by one of the world's most powerful bankers. Jamie Dimon, boss of JP Morgan Chase, America's biggest bank, declared Bitcoin was a 'fraud' that will eventually 'blow up'.

It was, he said, 'worse than tulip bulbs' — a reference to the infamous 17th-century bubble when investors manically piled into buying Dutch tulips. 'It won't end well. Someone is going to get killed.' Using Bitcoin only made sense, he said, if 'you were a drug dealer' or 'a murderer'. But it had little effect. When Dimon spoke, Bitcoin was worth \$2 600.

Daily Mail

Drug dealers using bitcoin cashpoints to launder money

LONDON - Drug dealers and gangsters are pumping their profits into bitcoin cash machines across Britain to launder the dirty money, police have warned.

Detectives say they have seen an explosion in the use of digital currency by criminals who are strolling into cafes, newsagents and corner shops to dump their ill-gotten gains in virtual currency ATMs.

The cash machines, found in 93 locations in London and other cities, allow anyone to deposit sterling in exchange for bitcoin and other 'crypto currencies', which are held electronically and only exist in cyberspace.

The funds can then be transferred across borders to criminal associates who can withdraw them in any currency or spend them on the dark web, without being traced.

Police have described crypto currencies as one of the biggest emerging threats in organised crime because

gangs have realised that the cash machines offer the perfect opportunity to offload large quantities of cash.

Traditionally, casinos and bookmakers have been used to launder crime proceeds, but detectives believe that crypto-currency ATMs will soon overtake them.

All online currencies are highly encrypted and some are marketed specifically for the 'privacy conscious'.

Criminals are using pay-as-you-go mobile phones, bought with cash and soon thrown away, to set up bitcoin accounts so these 'online wallets' cannot be traced back to them.

There is also no paperwork trail for police to follow because there are no bank statements or bitcoin certificates.

Criminals can put bank notes directly into a bitcoin ATM and turn them into bitcoin currency, without the notes being checked by a bank clerk or bank cash machine.

With the value of bitcoin shooting up

by 1 000 per cent alone this year, the move to stash their profits online could even make more money for web savvy criminals.

Detective Chief Superintendent Michael Gallagher, who leads the Metropolitan Police's Organised Crime Command, said: 'Drug dealers know how to use this. "Officers from Trident [the Met's gang crime command] are finding that street dealers are loading up local ATMs and standing on street corners cashless, which decreases the risk for them. If you move large quantities of cash it lowers your vulnerability to other criminals." Drug dealers are now straying outside their traditional patch and instead basing their activities near a bitcoin ATM where they deposit up to £1 500 a day.

He said the number of bitcoin ATMs was growing because shopkeepers get around £1 200 a month to have the machines, which resemble ordinary ATMs, in their stores. *Daily Mail*





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COMEDY NOT INCLUDED IN NACA

By Lusito Tsela

IN a total of 40 categories, 'best comedian' does not appear.

The National Council of Arts and Culture Awards (NACA) have not included a category that was won by pintsized comedian, Smallz in the year 2015.

The 'Best Comedian' category was not highly contested for, considering that there are only a handful of comedians of note in the country. When asked why the category does not appear in the recently launched awards, SNAC CEO Stanley responded by saying "the awards are meant to celebrate 50 years of art, 50 years down memory lane. Most recent art codes are catered in the arts personality category or culture personality category."

Dlamini added that each category has five winners and therefore companies and individu-

als are encouraged to name and buy a choice category.

The NACA's are to take place next year where the total of 40 categories will see individuals and groups walking away



with awards of note.

During the awards launch in November, Dlamini said amongst the 40 categories, 20 categories will be

judged by the public through voting, 16 categories will adjudicated by judges and four awards are said to be honorary awards.

When interviewed other comedians shared their views on the omission of the art genre they have toiled to establish over the years.

Mdura said "I guess as an industry (comedy) they feel like we haven't gotten to a level where our art has grown enough to merit recognition like other big genres such as fine art and being 'imbongi' and others." Mdura felt comedians needed to put in the work so that in years to come they could be recognised as comedians like other big entertainment genres.

However, the comedian said he was happy about the awards ceremony.

"Otherwise I am happy about the awards, in fact I am always happy when I see something that rewards and recognises fellow artists for their work.

Perfect send off for Manzini Cathedral, HMCS and RSP choirs

By Lusito Tsela

THE country's representatives in this year's Old Mutual National Choir Festival were on Sunday given a perfect send off.

The concert hosted by the Swaziland National Music Choral Association (SNMCA) functioned as a fundraising tool for choirs representing the Kingdom internationally.

The concert was held at the Happy Valley Hotel and was directed by Sithembiso Dlamini who later opened way for Mzwakhe 'Tjovito' Khumalo and they both kept the audience laughing and enjoying their time.

Manzini Cathedral, His Majesty's Correctional Services and the Royal Swaziland Police choir will all be representing Swaziland in this year's 40th Old Mutual National Choir Festival held at Ellis Park Arena on Saturday and Sunday.

The well attended send off saw the three choirs rendering mind easing and beautiful melodies like of 'Ngiyagoduka, Dumela and Uyalalelwa' to mention a few.

Manzini Cathedral will represent the country in the standard category while His Majesty's Correctional Services and Royal Swaziland police Choirs will represent the country in the large category.

The SNMCA were tasked with fundraising E45 000 and they fell short by E15 000 as they managed to come up with a total of E30 000.

The amount was raised through an effective tool where the audience had to pledge a certain amount of money to keep a choir on stage or off the stage.

Swaziland is one of five countries



GO WELL: Swaziland National Music Choral Association Chairperson Jozana Maziya making his remarks during the choir send off concert held at the Happy Valley Hotel, Ezulwini on Sunday. (Pics: Lusito Tsela)

that take place in the Old Mutual National Choir Festival the rest being South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho and Zimbabwe.

Performances

The three choirs form part of the 25 talented choirs that will deliver phenomenal performances as they vie in the finals for the big prize.

The SNMCA Chairperson Jozana Maziya passed his gratitude to the audience for taking their time to grace the event.

Maziya said the Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs and SNAC CEO were tired up in other commitments, however they surely will get time to motivate and send off the choirs before they leave for the festival.

Nothando featured song nominated for Mpumalanga Gospel Awards

By Nomfundo Sifundza

GOSPEL songbird Nothando Hlophe has scored another nomination in South Africa.

The singer's featured song 'Wenhliziyo' is nominated in the 'song of the year' category in the Mpumalanga Gospel Awards.

The awards ceremony is taking place this weekend at the AGS Communion City Changers, in Mbombela.

This was confirmed by an elated Sphiwe Nxumalo, from Leserato Events, Hlophe's management company.

Hlophe recently performed at the 10th SABC Crown Gospel Awards where her song 'Sekukaningi' was the theme song for the awards. The singer is also set to perform at the fourth Mpumalanga Gospel Awards this Sunday.

Other performances for the night will include; Dr Rebecca Malope, Dumi Mkokstad, Thinah Zungu, Siphon Makhabane, Mpumalanga Praise, Derrick Ndzimandze and the man of the moment Nduduzo Matse.

The nominated song 'Wenhliziyo'

About Papa Ndu

PAPA Ndu, real name Ndumiso Manana, is an award winning gospel artist, songwriter, music producer, studio engineer, businessman, husband, and father of three. He was born and bred in Mbombela, Mpumalanga, South Africa.

His involvement in the music industry dates back to the early 90s where as a young boy, he co-founded a mass choir known as Imperial Sound, together with another award winning producer Percy Ingle, which became a phenomenon in the Lowveld and neighbouring Swaziland. Through this choir he got exposed to the legendary Benjamin Dube, whom he credits for his great musical influence. He has already worked with a lot of big artists including Steve Kekana, Siphon

'Big Fish' Makhabane, Masibuyele KuJehova, and Donny Ngwenyama.

As a producer, he has produced a number of artists including; Christ Heralds, Masibuyele KuJehova, Goodman Mgibe, Anderson, and others.

As a songwriter, Papa Ndu has written songs for various artists in SA and Swaziland, including gospel sensation Mabongi Mabaso, Tebello Sukwene, and Mpumalanga Praise.

He has recently been involved in directing and working as part of the production team for Mpumalanga Praise and the Mpumalanga Gospel Awards.

He is also a radio presenter for Kasi Radio where he presents a Sunday morning show called "Heavenly sounds".

was written by Mpumalanga based gospel musician called Papa Ndu. Hlophe is the leading featured vocalist in the song.

Other songs nominated in the category include; 'Andzinzandzinde' by Mpumalanga Praise, 'Gamelihle' by Pretty Mhlongo, 'Yacala kimi' by Phindile Phoky, just to name a few.

For Hlophe to win the award, she will need her fans to vote for her to the number 34604. However, only South African numbers are entitled to vote.

To vote: send 'Wenhliziyo' to 34604.



READY: Manzini Cathedral rendering a song.



PERFECT: His Majesty's Correctional Services Choir.

KIDS IN MOTION DELIVER ACROBATIC DANCE MOVES

By Lusito Tsela



SHOOP SHOOP: Kids In Motion performing a song titled 'Shoop Shoop' during the Dance Ignition show held at the Swaziland Theatre Club in Mbabane on Saturday. (Pics: Lusito Tsela)

KIDS In Motion were a marvel to watch during the Dance Ignition show at the Swaziland Theatre Club in Mbabane on Saturday night.

The show, hosted by Velile Dube Productions in collaboration with internationally acclaimed Taelo Dance Theatre, saw the excited children dishing out moves only seen on television.

Parents were left in awe as they watched their children proving that talent and hard work is the best combination of all, thus producing the best dance moves.

An impressive young Siphosethu opened the stage with her dance

moves and the audience could not believe their eyes as she proved that the country has more talent and with the best guidance, the children are going far.

Remarkable

Ronelle Rennie, a Kids In Motion parent passed her sincere gratitude to Dube for the commendable job she does with the children. Rennie said; "most of the time as parents we take interest in ballet classes because we ourselves once had a dream of being one too, we beam with pride when we see our angels stand on tippy toes and do the splits properly because we still hope one day we will be able to do it."

"These ballerinas work very hard, the commitment and discipline they possess is remarkable as most of them come straight from school, having done sports, to ballet up until they are picked up," she added.

Adding, the Kids In Motion parent said Dube's passion ignites any dead log. "Don't ever measure your success according to the size of the group you are mentoring, your impartation of knowledge and technique and of course the inspiration that you are to the children is immeasurable. All these ballerinas want to be like you when they grow up," she said.

Velile Dube, Swaziland's own ballerina,

took to the stage to render a solo titled 'Don't let down' and she was wonderful.

"The Dance Ignition will be an annual event and we are hoping it will be bigger and better than this one as it will be a dance festival," she said.

Dube then passed her sincere gratitude to all the parties that made the day a success, from parents to sponsors such as TransMagnific, the Swazi Observer, Swazi TV and Dudu Dlamini, to mention a few.

Mangaliso 'Elfoe' Masilela was the programme director and managed to keep the audience in stitches with his jokes and left them shouting 'whoop whoop'.



31 gospel acts for Swazi Mobile Umlilo Crossover

By Ayanda Dlamini

...Rebecca Malope and Sphumelele Mbambo to make comeback
...Macford Sibandze revealed as MC for the show.



CONGRATULATIONS: Umlilo Music Productions Director Mduduzi Simelane being congratulated by ACASWA President Mzwakhe Myeni and Vice President Frans T Dlamini at Swazi Mobile offices last Thursday during the launch of the gospel crossover event. (Pic: Ayanda Dlamini)

Locally it will be Mduduzi Nezinceku Zamagawugawu, Ncandweni Christ Ambassadors, Frans Dlamini, Apostle Maculuvu, Police Gospel Messengers, Come to Jesus, Rev. Gcina Masuku, Police Male Voice, Linda Dlamini,

All Nations Christian Church In Zion, Mzamo Dlamini, Mayibongwe Mthimkhulu, Make Maculuvu, Ndawonye Christ Worshippers, Prophet Nkosingphile Dlamini, Pastor T. Myeni, Friday Sotho, Scara Maziya, Scelimphele Zwane and Ukuthokoza KwaMadodana. This stellar line-up was revealed by Umlilo Music Productions Director Mduduzi 'Gawuzela' Simelane during the official launch of the gospel crossover which was held at Swazi Mobile Experience Centre in Mbabane last Thursday. During the launch, it was announced that Swazi Mobile would be the official sponsor of the gospel crossover. as the company pumped in E200 000 towards the show, thus the event is now headlined 'Swazi Mobile Umlilo Gospel Crossover'. It was also revealed that Swazi Mobile Brand and Communications Manager, Macford Sibandze will be the MC of the night.

The show is slated for December 31 to January 1, starting from 6pm till 6am the following day at Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre.

Tickets to the show cost E50 general and for Swazi Mobile customers it will be cheaper as they will pay E40.

VIP tickets cost E150 for both Swazi Mobile users and non-users. Tickets are available at Swazi Mobile outlets in Mbabane, Manzini and Ezulwini, Nandos in Manzini, Mgavuzela outlets, OK Stores and Gawuzela shop in Manzini.

OPERATION 'sihamba sonkhe' is the theme for the recently launched Swazi Mobile Umlilo Music Crossover show.

The recently launched gospel crossover show by Umlilo Music Productions and Swazi Mobile dubbed 'Swazi Mobile Umlilo Gospel Crossover' will see 31 gospel acts, both local and international acts in one stage praising, worshipping the Lord and ushering gospel fanatics into 2018.

A total of 11 acts are from South Africa and they include Dr Rebecca Malope, who will be coming back for the second time, Tswane Gospel Choir, Sphumelele Mbambo, Lusanda, Malibongwe Qwabe, Babo Ngcobo, PD and Family Gospel Wagon, Lizwi Myeni, Sqomqom Nebuhle Bejericho, Qiniso Mabaso, and Mack Thembaletu.

BARE BACKS AT SISEKELO HIGH SCHOOL PROM

SISEKELO HIGH SCHOOL PUPILS CAME DRESSED TO KILL.

A majority of the female pupils came dressed in dresses that revealed their backs and were absolutely stunning.



COSY: Khanyisile Mavuso and Zwakele Simba were a perfect combination during the Sisekelo High School prom held at Sibane Hotel on Saturday night. (Pics: Lusito Tsela)



GOLD AND WHITE: Lelo Maseko looked stunning in this number.

GOLD: Simphiwe Dlamini showing off his E4 400 outfit.



SIMPLE: Qebolakhe Gwebu opted for a simple but elegant look.



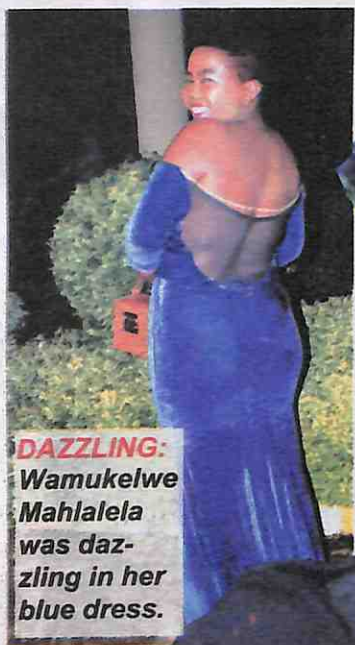
ANGEL: Sikhanyi Pato looked like an angel in her E7 000 outfit.



GORGEOUS: Danielle Ateko showing off her E5 500 outfit.



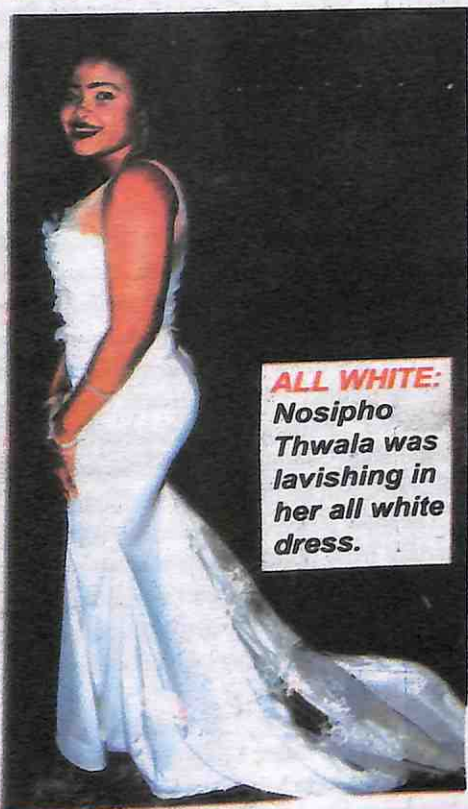
TUXEDO: Vuyo Dlamini looked good in his black tuxedo.



DAZZLING: Wamukelwe Mahlalela was dazzling in her blue dress.



TAILORED: Phumelela Mabuza in his tailored E8 000 suit.



ALL WHITE: Nosipho Thwala was lavishing in her all white dress.



ELEGANT: Lindelwa Hlatshwayo looked elegant in her E2 300 worth dress by Sikhulile Dlamini.



RED ROSE: Anele Ntshalints hali looked lovely in her red gown.

CLASSY MBABANE CENTRAL PROM



BODY HUGGING: Sindiswa Dlamini showing off her black body hugging dress during the Mbabane Central High School Prom held at Lugogo Sun, Ezulwini on Friday night. (Pics: Lusito Tsele)



BEAUTY: Mbali Nkambule striking a pose.



SWAGG: Siyanda Dlamini looked great.



BLACK AND WHITE: Nolwazi Matsenjwa in her white dress matching perfectly with her black clutch bag.



SMILE: Gcebile Sibanyoni smiling upon arrival.



STUNNING: Nosimilo Mamba looked stunning in her blue dress.



SIZZLING: Nkosephayo Gumedze looked hot in her short peach dress.



HANDSOME: Giyani Ndlovu in his blue suit.



ELEGANT: Rebecca Dlamini in her beautiful green dress.



SIMPLE: Zandile Msibi looked beautiful in her simple black dress.



FEELING IT: Mhlengi Zwane showing off his suit.



COME CLOSE: Mzwakhe Bulunga and Sithandwa Gamedze were a perfect match.



International
Celebrity News

Chris Pratt files for divorce from Anna Faris

LOS ANGELES - Chris Pratt has filed for divorce from Anna Faris, TMZ has learned. Pratt filed legal docs Friday to end his eight-year marriage, citing irreconcilable differences. But it's not necessarily what you think, because he and Anna carefully orchestrated the move.

Anna filed her response to the divorce at exactly the same time and the two documents are mirror images of each other.

They are both asking for joint



WANTS DIVORCE: Chris Pratt and Anna Faris.

custody of five-year-old Jack. They both reserve the right to get spousal support, but it's unlikely either will ask for it. *TMZ*

Diddy throws DJ Khaled a star-studded party

LOS ANGELES - Sunday night, the who's who of cool turned out in Beverly Hills last night to celebrate DJ Khaled's 42nd birthday.

The intimate bash, which was held at a private Beverly Hills estate, was hosted by Sean "Diddy" Combs and the rest of the cast of Fox's 'The Four, the competition show that both Diddy and Khaled will be appearing on in 2018.

Notables including Pharrell, Fergie, Jamie Foxx, Diddy's girlfriend Cassie, Snoop Dogg, Kelly Rowland, Mary J. Blige, Emily Ratajkowski, Wiz



PARTY PEOPLE: Diddy, Fergie and DJ Khaled.

Khalifa, Teyana Taylor, Tiffany Haddish and many more hit up the blinging bash. *Daily Mail*

Richie, LL Cool J celebrate American Dream

WASHINGTON - With the notable absence of President Donald Trump, the Kennedy Center on Sunday celebrated singers Lionel Richie and Gloria Estefan, rapper LL Cool J, television producer Norman Lear and dancer Carmen de Lavallade with honours for the arts.

The awards, known as the Kennedy Center Honors, are considered the top recognition in the country for artists across a variety of fields, and the annual event's importance is usually highlighted by a White



CELEBRATED: LL Cool J, Lionel Richie, dancer Carmen de Lavallade television producer Norman Lear and Gloria Estefan.

House reception with the president and the first lady. *Daily Mail*

Criminal claims Samuel L Jackson

LOS ANGELES - Samuel L. Jackson's name was evoked during a crazy arrest at LAX this weekend, where cops say weapons were found on a guy claiming SLJ's his uncle. An unidentified man got busted at the airport Sunday with what police say were multiple weapons on him, including knives, a long piece of rebar and a handful of tools.

During the arrest, you can hear him say, "My uncle's Samuel Jackson. Samuel L. Jackson!" It's unclear what, if any, relation the actor might have to him. Law enforcement sources tell us



CLAIMED: Samuel L. Jackson.

police were alerted to a suspicious man hanging around the airport with a potential bow and arrow. *TMZ*

SA Celebrity News

Demi-Leigh talks facing criticism

NEW YORK - From being crowned Miss SA, to having fellow contestants accuse the pageant of bias and being labelled a racist after wearing gloves while feeding black children at a charity event in Soweto, Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters has had a rollercoaster 2017. And she's stronger for it.

"It was a difficult time, but in the end it made me stronger. I learnt that you have to know what people's intentions are and you shouldn't take criticism from people who haven't made an effort to know you, to know your mind



STRONGER: Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters.

and heart. You should listen to people who have your best interests at heart." *Tshlive*

Mdu secretly took second wife

JOHANNESBURG - Kwaito legend Mdu Masilela is allegedly embroiled in a polygamous battle with his wife, Sarah M, after he and his uncles sneaked out to KwaZulu-Natal to allegedly pay lobola for his baby mama, Sibahle Dlamini, late last year. The award-winning kwaito star is alleged to have committed bigamy by paying lobola for Dlamini without the consent of Sarah, who is his legal wife. Sarah maintained that Sibahle wanted to destroy her marriage.



CLANDESTINE: Sarah M and Kwaito legend Mdu Masilela.

SundayWorld

Wale to perform in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG - This year South Africa has seen many international acts grace its shores, from the likes of Bryson Tiller to hip hop group, The Migos. Now, we can all look forward to seeing American rapper Wale on December 9.

This was announced by local rapper Kwesta on his Instagram page on Friday.

The 29-year-old rapper recently collaborated with Wale on a song called 'Spirit' earlier this year.

In the video which Kwesta posted as his announcement, we see the



COMING: Wale.

Lotus flower bomb rapper announcing that we can catch him in South Africa on December 9. *Drum*

Zodwa Wabantu considering acting career

JOHANNESBURG - Entertainer Zodwa Wabantu might be planning on retiring from the industry when she's saved enough cash, but now she has said that just because she's going to stop dancing, that doesn't mean she'll leave entertainment completely.

In a recent interview on WTF Tumi with Tumi Morake she said that she knows her time is limited and doesn't want her bits to be sagging by the time she decided to move on. "I am retiring because I am checking my ass. I don't want my ass to be next to my knees while I am still doing it (dancing). So I am retiring." She said that while she



PLANNING: Zodwa Wabantu.

isn't sure of her next move, she may consider going into acting. "Not that I am retiring from entertainment. Maybe acting? Who knows? Maybe Mfundi Vundla is watching," she said with a wink. *Timeslive*

WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST

ISIBAYA

TODAY



TRIES: Siphokazi.

Qondi is inspired to fight. Meanwhile, Shadrack arrives in Orlando with a tempting offer for Judas. Siphokazi tries to get Phumelele to come home.

ISIDINGO

TODAY

LIFE SAVER: Matlala.



Nina continues to shut Gabriel out. Matlala tries to save Georgie from trouble. Lerato gets all the right kind of love from people about her hair care products.

Muvhango

TODAY

OFFERS: Matshidiso.



Matshidiso makes Sthe an offer he can't refuse. Livhuwani realises she still has feelings for Tenda. Katlego doesn't want to admit that there might be something wrong. Dee takes the prize for a side-chick with attitude.



TODAY



LIAR: David.

Mam Mothibi comes up with a new idea for controlling Puleng. David lies to Gail and Andiswa plans an attack on her - which backfires in more sense that one.

PICTURE OF THE DAY

"2017 is going to be my year in Jesus's name" ... No chill in Mzansi



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

Capricorn December 22 – January 19

There's a terrific intensity to today that may have you running for cover. You may be tempted to say your peace and run for the hills. Your self-confidence may not be at its strongest, and you may feel as if other people are looking to find fault with you. Remember that you're living this life for you and not for someone else. You make your own rules and set your own standards.



Cancer June 22 – July 22

Dive deep. This isn't a day to stay in shallow waters. This is a day to go beyond your normal limits. Although there may be a great emotional charge accompanying everything you do, let this be the excitement that fuels your passion and not the reason to stop. Getting started may be tough, and you may want to spend the day in bed. Once you get going, it may be hard to slow down.



Aquarius January 20 – February 18

There's a terrific, warm, and nurturing quality to the day. The people around you are validating your inner and outer aspects. Emotions could get intense, but your grounded perspective helps you see through the situation. Spend time cooking up a great meal for those you love. If you don't feel like cooking, splurge on a good meal at your favorite restaurant.



Leo July 23 – August 22

You may think only advanced surfers can handle the big waves. But how are you going to improve your ability if you don't test your limits? This is your day. Take control and push beyond your boundaries. You'll find validation. This is one of your fantastic "up" times when you're glowing with passionate radiance that showers light on the rest of the world.



Pisces February 19 – March 20

You may be uncomfortable with the emotional intensity that's likely to seep into every part of your day. You may wonder what the big deal is and why people are so hopped up over nothing. Perhaps this is your cue to take things more seriously and act with more sensitivity.



Virgo August 23 – September 22

Finding solutions won't be hard, thanks to your detective side today. You may feel like the real truth lies below the surface. At times you're tempted to skip along the top of things without really considering what's going on below. Today it's a completely different story.



Aries March 21 – April 19

There's intensity in your relationships now, and you may feel like every situation is life-or-death. Calm those voices in your head. Meditate, take a yoga class, and breathe deeply. Know that nothing is really as dramatic as it seems. This, too, will pass. In a few days you'll be able to laugh your worries away.



Libra September 23 – October 23

If something is good, it's likely to feel like utopia. If something is bad, it's like the end of the world. There's no middle ground. This is a day of emotional extremes. You feel like you're giving it all or nothing. This is a climactic time for you.



Taurus April 20 – May 20

You may feel weighed down by the emotional pall hanging over everything. Don't let this feeling overwhelm you, although at times this may be impossible. A good friend could call on you for help and emotional support. Don't end up turning the focus around and talking only about your experiences. Loyalty and compassion are keys for today.



Scorpio October 24 – November 21

Move away from the problems instead of stepping into them. You may not be able to see the potholes, so consider taking another road. Don't waste time falling into a hole you can avoid. It may be difficult to deal with your emotions because your usual way of dealing with such intensity is to push it away, ignore it, and operate on a cerebral level.



Gemini May 21 – June 21

Things should come together nicely. Whatever you do, infuse it with passion. You tend to overanalyze things when you should follow your intuition. You know in your heart which way to proceed and how to treat the people around you.



Sagittarius November 22 – December 21

This is a terrific day in which you'll be able to cut through the falsehoods and get to the essence of the issue. Don't waste your time on superficial conversations and situations. Your energy is too valuable to spend on those who can't see the deeper meaning.



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HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



HOME WORDSEARCH

PUZZLE CHOICE

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SHOT HIM AGAIN



"Help!" screamed the hunter into his cell phone "I was trying to shoot a deer and by mistake I killed my partner." "OK" said the ranger into the phone "try to calm yourself down. First I

would like you to make sure he's dead." "Ok" said the hunter "hold on one second." Suddenly BOOM, then the hunter came back on, "yeah he's dead."

USELESS FACTS

1. Since Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving holiday in 1863, Thanksgiving has been observed annually. However, various earlier presidents-including George Washington, John Adams, and James Madison-all urged Americans to observe various periods of thanksgiving.
2. The Pilgrim's thanksgiving feast in 1621 occurred sometime between September 21 and November 1. It lasted three days and included 50 surviving pilgrims and approximately 90 Wampanoag Indians, including Chief Massasoit. Their menu differed from modern Thanksgiving dinners and included berries, shellfish, boiled pumpkin, and deer.
3. Even though President Madison declared that Thanksgiving should be held twice in 1815, none of the celebrations occurred in the autumn.
4. More than 40 million green bean casseroles are served on Thanksgiving.
5. Turkey is the traditional dish for the Thanksgiving feast. In the US, about 280 million turkeys are sold for the Thanksgiving celebrations. There is no official reason or declaration for the use of turkey. They just happened to be the most plentiful meat available at the time of the first Thanksgiving in 1621, starting the tradition.

BRAINTEASERS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Yesterday's brain-teasers**
1. Imagine that you are in a boat, in the middle of the sea. Suddenly, you are surrounded by hungry sharks, just waiting to feed on you. How can you put an end to this?
Answer: Stop imagining!
 2. Give me food, and I will live; give me water, and I will die. What am I?
Answer: Fire
- Today's brainteasers**
1. Which travels faster? Hot or Cold?
 2. When you have me, you immediately feel like sharing me. But, if you do share me, you do not have me.



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NEWS



DSTV END OF YEAR MEDIA PARTY



PARTY TIME: Journalists from different media houses on the dance floor during the end of year party hosted by Multichoice Swaziland. The party was held at Royal Villas on Saturday night. (Pics: Ayanda Dlamini)



DANCE FLOOR: Journalists invading the dance floor and dancing to DJ Mixmash's set.



SWAG: Swazi Observer Accounts Clerk Nomvula Mthupha, Assistant Senior Sub-editor Futhi Dlamini, Human Resource Officer Gcebile Dlamini and News Editor Kenneth Dlamini looking good in black outfits at the party.



LADIES ON FLEEK: Multichoice Communications Officer Dumsile Dlamini, Swazi Observer Entertainment Senior Reporter Nomfundo Sifundza and Swazi TV Kusile Breakfast show host Lungelele Magagula looked amazing at the event.



THANK YOU: Swazi Observer Entertainment Reporter Ayanda Dlamini receiving his gift. (Pic: Sicelo Maziya)



WINNER: Swazi Observer Sports Senior Reporter Qondile Ntiwane accepting her gift during the event.



JOURNOS: (C) Multi Choice Swaziland General Manager Phumi Drummond, Swazi TV CEO Bongani 'Sigcokosiyancinca' Dlamini and Swazi Observer Managing Editor Mbongeni Mbongo posing with journalists from different media houses.

By Ayanda Dlamini

MULTICHOICE Swaziland hosted its annual end of year media party and journalists from different media houses came dressed to the nines as the theme of the party was 'James Bond'.

The party was held at Royal Villas on Saturday evening. The journos danced the night away as they were also socialising and enjoying old school music that was rendered by DJ Mix Mash.



SEXY: MC of the night Dumsile Dlamini directing the proceedings of the party.



'I APPRECIATE': Swazi Observer News Editor Kenneth Dlamini accepting his gift for giving a correct answer during the Q and A session.

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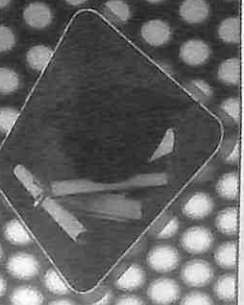
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ESTATE NO. EH 200/2017

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EASTERPAT RODNEY ABNER
P.O. BOX A215
SWAZI PLAZA

R/N 186372

ESTATE LATE:

DORAH LOBUZIMBA DOLLANA
VILAKATI
ESTATE NO. EH 141/2017

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.

THULISILE PAMELA DLAMINI
P.O. BOX A404
SWAZI PLAZA
MBABANE

R/N 186393

ESTATE LATE:

AHMED TAYOB
ESTATE NO. EH 56/2017

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SIKHATSI DLAMINI
P.O. BOX 1287
MBABANE

R/N 186396

ESTATE LATE:

PETROS VELAMUVA SIMELANE
ESTATE NO. EL 59/2017

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HLEKISILE C SIMELANE & DONALD SIMELANE
P.O. BOX 35
MATATA

R/N 186390



New AC Milan coach Gattuso licking 'stab' wounds after draw

MILAN - New AC Milan coach Gennaro Gattuso said Benevento goalkeeper Alberto Brignoli's last-gasp equaliser against his team felt worse than being stabbed after the newly-promoted side gained their first ever Serie A point.

Brignoli scored an improbable diving header in the fifth minute of injury time to draw 2-2 with Milan at the Stadio Vigorito and end the southern club's record-breaking losing run, which has stopped at 14 consecutive defeats.

"It would have been less painful to suffer a stab wound than concede that goal," said Gattuso, who took over from Vincenzo Montella last Monday.

"Even more so conceding the goal in the last 30 seconds to the goalkeeper which is always something strange.

"We knew that we would find a Benevento full of desire, unfortunately we paid dearly for the first mistake."

Giacomo Bonaventura had opened the scoring for Milan after 38 minutes, before George Puscas pulled Benevento level five minutes after the break.

Milan were back in control when Croatian forward Nikola Kalinic put them back in front seven minutes later, only for Alessio Romagnoli to be sent off for a second bookable offence.

With the home side a goal down as the game entered its final minutes and pushing ten-man Milan back in search



HURT: New AC Milan coach Gennaro Gattuso.

of an equaliser, Brignoli headed home Danilo Cataldi's free-kick deep into injury time to end Benevento's record losing run and send the home fans wild with delight. "Someone from the bench told me to go up, there was nothing to lose, I went to jump and I closed my eyes," said Brignoli, who joined Benevento on loan this season from champions Juventus, after scoring his first ever goal.

"I dedicate the goal to all the people who are living a dream that they hoped would be better.

"We have lost so many games undeservedly at the end, even with Juventus, for once after three months of sacrifice

by everyone it is nice to be able to celebrate."

The draw means that seven-time European champions Milan sit eighth on 21 points, 13 away from the Champions League places their new Chinese owners are aiming for.

"It hurts and we are here licking our wounds," said Gattuso. "There are no consolations or excuses.

"We didn't always play well but we played to win right until the end. Benevento did not deserve to lose in their last five games and against us they scored in the last second. They made their own luck.

AFP

BOATENG STRIKE BREAKS HERTHA HEARTS IN BERLIN

BERLIN - Ghana midfielder Kevin-Prince Boateng hit a superb winning goal 10 minutes from time to seal Eintracht Frankfurt's 2-1 comeback victory at his ex-club Hertha Berlin in the Bundesliga on Sunday.

In falling snow at Berlin's Olympic Stadium, the 30-year-old Boateng unleashed a superb shot from the edge of the area to leave Hertha goalkeeper Rune Jarstein with no chance.

But the Berlin-born Frankfurt midfielder muted his celebrations having started his career at Hertha.

"It feels good to have won, because we have an important game coming up against Bayern Munich," said Boateng with Frankfurt hosting the Bundesliga leaders next Saturday.

"Personally, that was perhaps the weakest performance of my career, so I am glad we won."

Boateng had to tread carefully in a bad-tempered game after picking up a yellow card with just nine minutes gone, but Frankfurt coach Niko Kovac, who played alongside Boateng for Hertha a decade ago, kept him on for the 90 minutes.

"We talked about it during the break, but the coach knows I have enough experience to hold myself back a bit," explained Boateng.

The result lifted Frankfurt to eighth,

while Hertha are 12th and five points from the relegation places.

It was a poor display from Hertha, who got off to a bright start when Australia striker Mathew Leckie put in a great pass over the Frankfurt defence which Davie Selke fired home on 15 minutes.

However, Marius Wolf hauled Frankfurt level by rifling his shot into the roof of the net from a corner on 26 minutes.

Hammered

Boateng settled the matter on 80 minutes when he hammered a curling shot into the top left-hand corner for his third league goal of the season.

The half-brother of Germany star Jerome Boateng has played all 14 Bundesliga games for Eintracht since joining in August after a hurried departure for family reasons from Spanish club Las Palmas.

Boateng has played for AC Milan, Portsmouth, Tottenham Hotspur, Hertha and Schalke in a colourful career.

He made the last of his 15 appearances for Ghana at the 2014 World Cup, but left the tournament under a dark cloud after a row with the coach.

Borussia Moenchengladbach missed the chance to go second after crashing to a 3-0 loss at Wolfsburg.

AFP

WOODS FIRES FINAL ROUND 68 AT HERO WORLD CHALLENGE

MIAMI - Tiger Woods capped his return to competition with a fine four-under par 68 on Sunday in the final round of the Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas.

The 14-time major champion, who once wondered if nagging back trouble would spell the end of his career, had an eagle and six birdies on the par-72 Albany Golf Club course to finish 72 holes on eight-under par 280.

Even a front-nine 31 didn't put him within striking distance of the lead, with Rickie Fowler burning up the course.

Woods was in solo 10th when he walked off 18, with Fowler 10-under for the day through 13 and showing no signs of letting up after birdies at eight of the first nine holes and two more on the back nine.

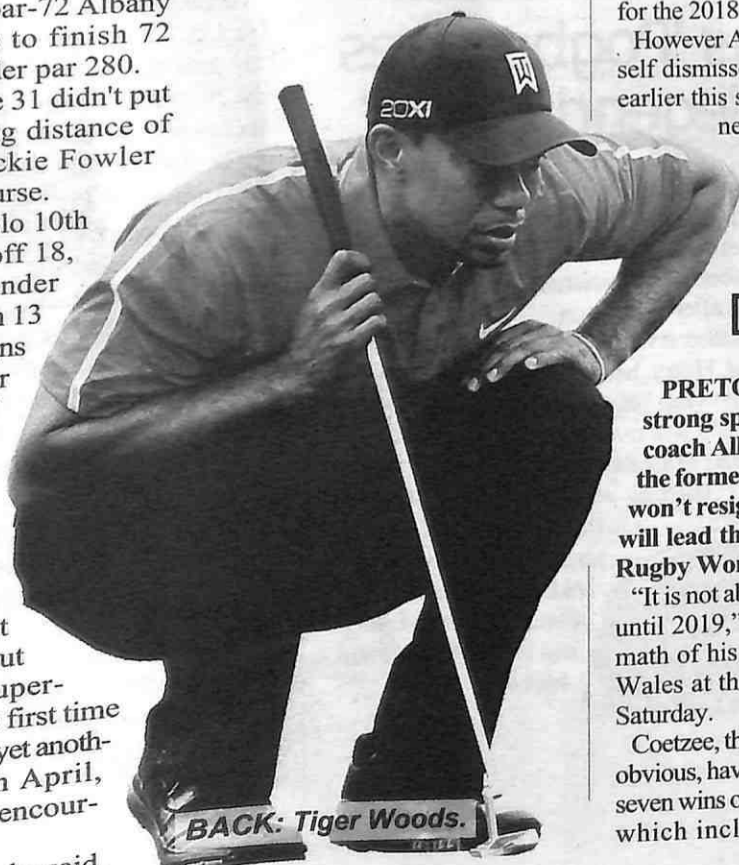
A back-nine double-bogey and two bogeys to finish took some wind out of Woods's sails, but the 41-year-old superstar, playing for the first time since February after yet another back surgery in April, found plenty to be encouraged about.

Most importantly, he said,

he played all week without pain. "Overall, I'm very pleased. I showed some good signs," he said, adding that they pointed toward "a bright future".

Woods's impressive display off the tee included a monster drive at the par-four seventh that led to his eagle.

AFP



BACK: Tiger Woods.

ANCELOTTI REVEALS HE HAS BEEN CONTACTED OVER THE ITALY NATIONAL TEAM JOB

ROME -Carlo Ancelotti claims he rejected the chance to speak to the Italian Football Association (FIGC) about becoming national team manager because he wants to stay in the club game.

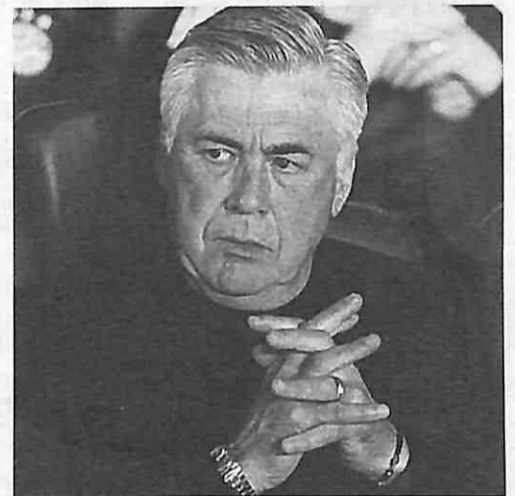
Ancelotti has been among the favourites to take over from Gian Piero Ventura after he was sacked following Italy's failure to qualify for the 2018 World Cup.

However Ancelotti, who was himself dismissed by Bayern Munich earlier this season, said the FIGC needs to resolve bigger issues before it even hires a new manager - including reducing the number of teams

in Serie A. Speaking on the La Domenica Sportiva television show, Ancelotti said: "Yes, the Federation contacted me, I spoke to them. I told them what I am telling you now, that I am honoured by so many people wanting me to be coach of the national team.

"However, that would be like a whole other job, different to being a club coach, as I still enjoy training and working every day. Italian football also has some problems that need to be resolved.

"For example, I think Serie A would benefit greatly by being reduced from 20 teams to 18 and I know there are clubs who are ready to vote for that." Daily Mail



CLAIMS: Carlo Ancelotti.

Defiant Coetzee won't resign as Springbok coach

PRETORIA - Although there is strong speculation that Springbok coach Allister Coetzee will be axed, the former Stormers mentor says he won't resign and is confident that he will lead the Springboks to the 2019 Rugby World Cup.

"It is not about my job, I'm contracted until 2019," Coetzee said in the aftermath of his team's 24-22 loss against Wales at the Principality Stadium on Saturday.

Coetzee, though, is not oblivious to the obvious, having finished the season with seven wins out of the 13 matches played, which includes two draws against

Australia. As much as the knives will be out for him upon his arrival on home soil, Coetzee will be relying a lot on the backing of his coaching staff and all of the players that he utilised on tour. "They say it is called the poisoned chalice and it's not called the poisoned chalice for nothing. It is a great challenge and a challenge I will keep on enjoying. The enjoyment comes from within the team environment and as long as those players are still playing for the coaches, I am there to be leading the team definitely." However, the record defeats to New Zealand and Ireland will certainly count strongly against Coetzee, as well as the fact that

the Boks failed to beat any team above them in the world rankings. While the Springboks enjoyed a three nil series whitewash over France and another win against them in Paris two weeks ago, the two victories against an out-of-sorts Argentina side and a below average Italy, the defeat to an understrength Welsh outfit won't help Coetzee's efforts to remain in the hot seat.

"But that is rugby (record defeats to All Blacks and Ireland), it happens. It happened to Australia and it happens to lots of teams. When you don't get it right, then you don't get it right on the day.

Pretoria News



ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



BRIEFS

Conte backs Hazard to shine more

LONDON - Chelsea Manager Antonio Conte has warned that playmaker Eden Hazard is yet to hit his peak at the Premier League club and backed the Belgian to become one of the best players in the world. Hazard has been instrumental in Chelsea's success since joining the club in 2012, scoring twice in Chelsea's 3-1 league win over Newcastle United on Saturday to take his tally to eight goals and six assists in 18 matches across all competitions this season. "I don't think that Eden is at the peak of his career yet. I think he has a lot of improvement (to make)," Conte told British media. "It's important for him to work, work, work in every training session to improve himself and then to have this kind of performance." *Reuters*

Lukaku in Man Utd spotlight

MANCHESTER - With Zlatan Ibrahimovic fit again and closely scrutinising his performances from the substitutes' bench, Manchester United striker Romelu Lukaku is under pressure to rediscover his goal-scoring touch. Having scored 11 goals in his first 10 games following his £75 million (\$100.8 million, 85 million euros) switch from Everton, Lukaku has found the net only once in 12 matches since. Manager Jose Mourinho continues to profess satisfaction with Lukaku's all-round displays, but the longer the Belgian striker's difficulties continue, the bigger a point of concern it will become. *AFP*



Koeman admits he's still not over his sacking

LONDON - Former Everton manager Ronald Koeman is yet to get over the disappointment of being sacked by the Premier League club and has rejected multiple managerial offers since his dismissal. Koeman was fired in October, after 16 months in charge, as significant transfer spending failed to inspire Everton, who dropped into the relegation zone after winning just two of their opening nine league games. "I had started something at Everton and I really wanted to finish it in a good way. This is why my disappointment is bigger than ever before. I have to be realistic and I am not moaning about it," the Dutchman said. *Daily Mail*

'Spurs not far behind last season levels'

LONDON - Tottenham Hotspur have not deteriorated compared to last season, Manager Mauricio Pochettino said as he backed his team to come back stronger from their current poor run in the Premier League. Spurs are sixth in the table, 18 points adrift of league leaders Manchester City after losing four of their 15 games this season, the same as the entire last campaign when they finished second, and are winless in their last four matches. Despite their poor domestic form, Tottenham have improved on last season's Champions League showing, progressing to the knockout stages as group winners and Pochettino believes City's form rather than Spurs' decline had opened the gap between them. *Reuters*



GUARDIOLA REGRETS POGBA'S DERBY ABSENCE

MANCHESTER - Pep Guardiola says he wishes Manchester City could face Paul Pogba when the Premier League leaders bid to rewrite the history books in their huge derby with Manchester United.

Guardiola watched his side equal a Premier League record by winning their 13th straight match on Sunday when David Silva's late volley snatched a 2-1 win for City over West Ham on Sunday.

They can break that record - set by Arsenal in 2001-02 and equalled by Chelsea last season - and deal their local rivals a huge title blow when they visit Old Trafford next weekend.

Pogba fanned the derby flames in a weekend interview in which he quipped that he hoped City suffer injuries this season only to then rule himself out of Sunday's game by being sent off for a stamp on Hector Bellerin in United's 3-1 win at Arsenal on Saturday.

Comments

"He said that?" said Guardiola when asked about Pogba's comments. "Hopefully we have no injuries and I wish that Paul could play against us. I like to face a team with their best players possible to see who we are able to beat."

"In the end I think it was just an expression. I'm pretty sure he didn't want our players to get injuries."

City have now earned nine league points this season by scoring in the last eight minutes of games, a sign not only of their persistence but also of how defensively teams are playing against them. "I would prefer to win (games) earlier but the Premier League is the Premier League," Guardiola said.

"They (West Ham) didn't want to play, they had 10 players inside the box, they take 20 seconds to the goalkeeper and that has happened the last few games."



REGRETS: Manchester City Manager Pep Guardiola.

"Today I learned to attack a little bit differently, that is good news for me for the future."

"We don't normally play with two strikers and two wingers but we did, so it is a lesson. We can play the same way."

City's last four games have all ended in dramatic, late victories, drawing comparisons with successful Manchester United teams of old and their habit of scoring in so-called 'Fergie time' - named after then-manager Alex Ferguson.

"I heard about the Fergie time," said Guardiola. "I was not here in that period but of course you have to have that." *AFP*

Arsenal fans gutted as 'Pogba gives his shirt to Gunners legend Henry'

LONDON - One of the most infamous memories of an Arsenal vs Manchester United clash involved Roy Keane arguing with Patrick Vieira in the tunnel before the game.

Another involved Gunners players surrounding Ruud Van Nistelrooy after a missed penalty and attacking the Dutchman.

Ahead of Arsenal's most recent derby game with Manchester United however, Paul Pogba was seen hugging Mesut Ozil in the tunnel.

And after the game the Frenchman was seen deep in cheerful conversation with a number of Gunners legends, including

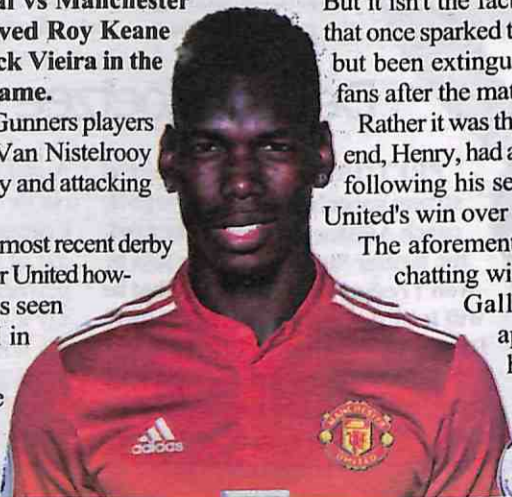
Thierry Henry and Robert Pires.

But it isn't the fact that the fires of passion that once sparked the derby into life have all but been extinguished that upset Arsenal fans after the match.

Rather it was the claim that their club legend, Henry, had accepted a gift from Pogba following his sending off in Manchester United's win over Arsenal.

The aforementioned picture of Pogba, chatting with Henry, Pires, William Gallas and Jose Mourinho appeared to show Henry holding a Manchester United shirt... apparently belonging to the Frenchman.

Mirror



GIVES A HUG: Paul Pogba.

Wenger refuses to give up on title

LONDON - Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger is refusing to concede defeat in the Premier League title race even though his team are now 15 points adrift of Manchester City in top spot.

Mauricio Pochettino has ruled Tottenham out of contention but Wenger is refusing to throw in the towel despite Saturday's painful 3-1 loss to Manchester United.

The Gunners, who last won the trophy in 2003-04 and have three more points than rivals Spurs, are lagging in fifth spot after five defeats in their first 15 games.

Fight

"I am not Pochettino, I am Arsene Wenger," the Frenchman said. "I am here to fight as long as I can. As long as mathematically it's possible, you have to fight. You cannot give any other message out." Wenger believes the performance in the loss to United, who capitalised on two defensive howlers, has revived belief within his squad.

"I believe from the game, it has to make us angry and even more determined," added Wenger, whose side dominated possession and produced a succession of chances but were thwarted by United goalkeeper David De Gea.

"If I am a player, and I think with what we produced, we have a huge potential, and we lose the game. We cannot accept that."

AFP

France coach urges Giroud to leave gunners

LONDON - France assistant coach Guy Stephane has urged Arsenal striker Olivier Giroud to move to a different club to improve his chances of playing at the 2018 Soccer World Cup.

Giroud has been playing an important part for Les Blues in recent years, and scored the goal that secured their qualification to the 2018 World Cup, but Stephane has made it clear that he needs regular playing time.

The 31-year-old striker has only played 234 minutes of Premier League football and is behind compatriot Alexandre Lacazette in the Arsenal pecking order, which has put his World Cup dream in doubt.

"It's clear that he's not playing enough and Didier has already had the chance to talk about it," France Manager Didier Deschamps' assistant Stephane told TF1. "He has to find a solution in the coming weeks."

"It's up to him to see. He's been very good in the last couple of months, he's featured a lot and scored important goals, so now he has to play a lot."

Arsenal next travel to the St. Mary's Stadium in an English Premiership clash against Southampton and will be aiming to make up ground on the Manchester clubs.

Sport24

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

SPARTAK WARN FANS AGAINST VIOLENCE

LONDON - Spartak Moscow have warned their fans to refrain from violent behaviour when they travel to support their club in a crucial Champions League encounter against Liverpool tomorrow.

The Russian champions are hoping to avoid further UEFA sanctions after being punished by European soccer's governing body for the behaviour of their fans earlier in the campaign. "Do not give in to provocations and don't get involved in conflicts with locals, soccer fans and the country's law enforcement," Spartak

said in a statement yesterday.

"We urge you to refrain from any other unlawful actions on the territory of the United Kingdom, including at sports venues and on routes used by fans."

Proceedings

UEFA opened disciplinary proceedings against Spartak last month after fans set off fireworks during their 1-1 draw against Maribor in Moscow.

They were then fined €33 000 after fans displayed illicit banners, set off fireworks and blocked stairways during their 1-1 home draw

against Liverpool in September.

Spartak were fined and banned from selling tickets to supporters for their next away match in Europe after a flare fired from the visiting supporters' stand almost hit German referee Deniz Aytekin in their group opener at Slovenian champions Maribor in September.

Liverpool lead group E on nine points and can reach the knockout stages with a draw against Spartak, who need to win the Anfield encounter to advance to the round of 16.

Reuters

BRIEFS

4 things to watch out for ...

PARIS - Manchester United and Liverpool are among the teams bidding to book their place in the Champions League knockout stage this week, while Atletico Madrid appear set to bow out of the competition. Here, AFP Sport looks at four scenarios to keep an eye on during the final round of group-stage games today and tomorrow. Manchester United were made to wait for a place in the knockout phase after conceding late in a 1-0 defeat at Basel, but Jose Mourinho's team are still all but guaranteed to reach the last 16.

Atletico staring down the barrel

A plucky 2-0 win against Roma two weeks ago kept Diego Simeone's Atletico in contention going into the last round of matches, but victory for Roma over Azeri debutants Qarabag at the Stadio Olimpico would see the three-time finalists eliminated. Atletico, who have lost two of the last four finals to city rivals Real Madrid, have to beat Chelsea at Stamford Bridge to have any chance, having lost the reverse fixture 2-1. Their hopes won't be helped by the fact that Antonio Conte's Blues still have plenty to play for too, as they need a win to guarantee top spot ahead of Roma.



Juve still in danger

Last season's runners-up Juventus would have expected to have qualified before the final match-day when they were drawn in Group D alongside Barcelona, Sporting Lisbon and Olympiakos, but they head to Athens today still needing a win to definitely progress. Sporting have been rejuvenated in the last two seasons under Jorge Jesus, but face the daunting task of having to win at Barcelona to have any chance of ending a nine-year absence from the knockout stage. But Barca have already wrapped up first place so may rest players, and have dropped four points from their last two La Liga matches. If Sporting fail to win, Juve go through regardless.

Liverpool closing in on last-16 return

Liverpool welcome Spartak Moscow to Anfield tomorrow knowing that they only need to avoid defeat to reach the last 16 for the first time in nine years. Victory for the five-time champions would also wrap up top spot in Group E. Jurgen Klopp's men should have secured qualification a fortnight ago, but blew a three-goal lead to draw 3-3 at Sevilla. The Reds are bidding to banish the memories of three years ago when a 1-1 home draw with Basel sent them packing.

Napoli bid to overhaul Shakhtar

With Manchester City already assured of top spot, Shakhtar Donetsk and Serie A high-flyers Napoli are fighting it out for second in Group F. Shakhtar take on City in Ukraine and will qualify for the knockout rounds if they can end Pep Guardiola's side's 20-match winning streak. Napoli head to pointless Feyenoord knowing that victory would see them snatch a ticket for the last 16 if Shakhtar lose to City, after their 3-0 victory over the Ukrainians last time out gave them the better head-to-head record. Napoli.

'Matip could return sooner than expected'

LIVERPOOL - Liverpool defender Joel Matip could return from his muscle injury sooner than expected, Manager Jurgen Klopp said as he ruled out the centre-back for today's Champions League clash against Spartak Moscow.

Matip, one of Liverpool's first-choice centre-backs, was expected to be sidelined for a month after picking up the injury in the club's 3-0 Premier League win at Stoke City last week but Klopp is hoping the 26-year-old can make a quicker recovery.

"He has hurt his muscle. I don't know how long exactly he'll be out, but he's definitely not playing Wednesday," Klopp told the club's website. "A month? No, I don't think so. But as always, it's possible. We have to wait."

"But it's possible that it will be shorter. We will see."

In Matip's absence, midfielders Gini Wijnaldum and Emre Can were part of a three-man defence in Liverpool's 5-1 league win over Brighton and Hove Albion last Saturday and Klopp praised the duo for their adaptability.

"Emre needs to do that, like Gini can do that. They have to do it, we don't have anybody else," Klopp added. "I enjoyed it. It was like 'wow, interesting.'" Reuters

English eyes on Antoine Griezmann for crunch clash

MADRID - As a red-hot Antoine Griezmann hopes to keep Atletico Madrid's faint Champions League hopes alive at Stamford Bridge, the stage is also set for the Frenchman to showcase his talents to a host of Premier League suitors.

Atletico need to beat Chelsea in London today and hope Roma don't beat Champions League debutants Qarabag in the Italian capital if they are to make the last 16 for a fifth consecutive season. The financial blow an early exit would bring to Atletico, who moved into the new 310 million euro Wanda Metropolitano stadium earlier this season, could precipitate Griezmann's departure from the Spanish capital.

But for his loyalty to Atletico and in particular coach Diego Simeone, Griezmann

could have already been out the door last summer. A number of sides, led by Manchester United, seemed willing to meet his 100 million

euro buyout clause, but when Atletico's appeal against a transfer ban was rejected in June Griezmann agreed to stay on. Griezmann admitted at the time it would have been "dirty" to walk out on

Atletico when they couldn't replace him since they are the team who propelled him into the European football elite after signing him from Real Sociedad in 2014.

That loyalty hasn't been wholly rewarded however, with many Atletico fans unhappy at Griezmann's frequent flirting with other sides, including La Liga rivals Real Madrid and Barcelona, often via the French press. AFP



Heynckes takes Bayern back to basics for PSG

MUNICH - Jupp Heynckes, the 72-year-old disciplinarian who has steadied the ship at Bayern Munich, has urged his side to keep it simple for today's crunch Champions League match at home to Paris Saint-Germain.

Bayern need to win by a four-goal margin in order to win their group, a situation they find themselves in because of the 3-0 thrashing by a Neymar-inspired PSG in the French capital that precipitated the sacking of Carlo Ancelotti. At the time, defend-

ing champions Bayern were also five points adrift in the Bundesliga.

But Heynckes has stamped his authority on his fourth stint at the club after Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and President Uli Hoeness turned to their 2013 treble-winning coach in their hour of need. Bayern won nine of their ten following matches and now hold a six-point lead in the Bundesliga.

However in the Champions League, PSG arrive in Munich with a three-point lead over Bayern at the top of Group B. AFP





SAFA: R10m given to FIFA to assist with investigation

Sekotlong pleased with life at Sundowns

PRETORIA- Mamelodi Sundowns forward Thokozani Sekotlong says he has no regrets about joining the Premiership giants during the off-season.

The 26-year-old was a surprise addition to a Brazilians squad packed with attacking talent when he arrived on a free transfer.

With the likes of Leonardo Castro, Khama Billiat, Percy Tau, Yannick Zakri and Anthony Laffor all vying for a starting role as Sundowns' main attacker, many believed Sekotlong was committing career suicide.

After scoring seven goals in 24 games for Free State Stars from a wide role last season, convinced 'Downs coach Pitso Mosimane to hand him a chance.

The new signing impressed in his short cameos scoring against AmaZulu in late October before injury struck on his third start of the season, in the Telkom Knockout last-16 against Chippa United.

"I think it's been a good season. It's been progressive, I am happy with the development and the way it's been going," Sekotlong told IOL website.

"I am just disappointed that I got injured in the Chippa game, that injury knocked me back a bit. But so far, I am happy with everything.

"I think I've had a fair chance. I started in the Chippa game, but I got injured after 20 minutes. Up until then, I was actually gaining momentum in my recovery."

Referring to Castro and Billiat's potential exits at the end of the campaign, the former Maritzburg United man says he's paying no attention to the speculation.

"Obviously it's just rumours - I don't know what's going on. If they give me the opportunity, I just need to take it with both hands," he said.

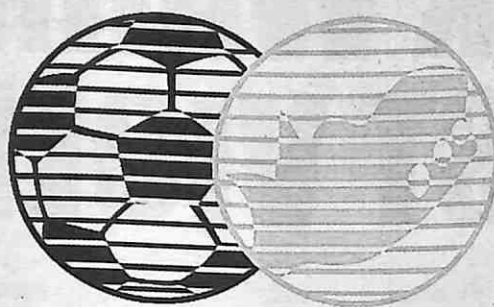
Sports24

JOHANNESBURG - South African Football Association (SAFA) CEO Dennis Mumble revealed that R10 million was given to FIFA to assist with the ongoing investigation surrounding fraudulent acts.

At the end of 2015 more than 14 officials, including ex-FIFA president Sepp Blatter, were accused of fraud, racketeering, and money laundering.

Blatter was eventually removed from his position despite denying all allegations. As months passed, more FIFA officials were suspected of fraudulent acts as the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) made further arrests.

It was discovered that \$10 million was transferred from FIFA's Swiss bank account to the Caribbean in 2008 and South Africa's name



SOUTH AFRICAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

was on top of the accused list.

According to widespread reports, the large sum of money was for the rights to host the 2010 Soccer World Cup.

Mumble says that after the media frenzy surrounding the astonishing discovery made by the FBI and FIFA, he wrote a letter to the football body informing them that SAFA

would "support" an investigation into the matter.

"It was in support of FIFA's investigation because we were never accused of anything other than what was in the media and on social media," Mumble said, as quoted by the SowetanLIVE website.

"FIFA was looking into what was alleged by the Americans and by the Swiss authorities. But because the American investigation mentioned South Africans, we thought we also needed to clear the air.

"I wrote a letter to FIFA early last year and said we would support the investigation and I asked them to let us know how we could that.

"FIFA took us up on that and they said, 'Thank you very much for your offer of support, we would like to know the following...'"

Sports24

Katsande expecting huge Chiefs support in PE

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs midfielder Willard Katsande expects a 'huge' Amakhosi support base in the stands for tomorrow's match away at Chippa United.

Amakhosi are set to meet the Chilli Boys in an ABSA Premiership encounter at the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium tomorrow evening, with kick-off at 19:30. Chiefs have taken several home games to Durban this season as they enjoy a very big following in the KwaZulu-Natal region, and despite tomorrow's game against Chippa being an away one, Katsande also expects his side to have a lot of support from the stands.

"Chippa is a quality team, and it's always nice to play them, because they play fantastic football," said the Zimbabwean midfielder enforcer.

"Also, as Kaizer Chiefs, we draw a huge crowd in PE so I think it's going to be a good game for the fans and for

us as well," the Zimbabwean midfielder hard-man added on KickOff.

Chiefs beat Chippa 1-0 in a Telkom Knockout game at the same venue just one month ago, but Katsande says that will count for little tomorrow.

"The bottom line is we will try to go there and collect maximum points. Whatever happened in terms of winning the cup game is now under the bridge because we are out of the cup."

Sports24

MOTSHWARI AIMING TO BE ONE-CLUB PLAYER AT WITS

JOHANNESBURG - Bidvest Wits midfielder Ben Motshwari has dismissed talk of a move and says he's happy to spend his entire career with the Students.

Having overcome a recent knee injury, Motshwari returned to action with good effect on Saturday evening, replacing Xola Mlambo on the hour mark to help his club beat Bloemfontein Celtic by a 1-0 score-line - in the 2017 Telkom Knockout final in Durban.

Speaking after the game about his future, amid reports of interest from Orlando Pirates and Mamelodi Sundowns, the 26-year-old felt it would make little sense for him to part ways with the defending league champions.

"Those are just rumours," he told The Star. "Things are being said all over the newspapers, especially about Pirates. It has been going for quite some time now but nothing has materialised.

"Wits is also a big team. We've won a couple of trophies now and why would I want to jump the ship? I'm happy here.

"There's something that is good we are doing here at Wits," he continued.

"We have top-quality players here. These guys are my family. Ever since I started playing professional football I've only played for one team, so why not end my career here?"

The Clever Boys are back in action tomorrow night when they host Ajax Cape Town in an ABSA Premiership encounter at the Bidvest Stadium.

Kick-off is at 19:30.

Sports24



EXPECTATIONS: Kaizer Chiefs midfielder Willard Katsande.

Hunt believes Students can still defend league title



POSITIVE: Gavin Hunt.

JOHANNESBURG - Bidvest Wits coach Gavin Hunt believes the newly-crowned TKO champions are still in with a shot at defending their ABSA Premiership title.

The Students have endured a nightmare start to their league campaign and sit bottom of the table with nine points from 11 matches.

However, they are just 10 points adrift of pace-setters Baroka and Hunt has given the example of his side's Telkom Knockout (TKO) run to show how a few consecutive wins can dramatically change things.

"I said to the players now, the four games we have won in the cup, if we had won four games in the league we would be top.

That's how crazy the league is at the moment.

"You would like to think [that Wits still have a league chance]," he said after Saturday evening's 1-0 win over Bloemfontein Celtic in the 2017 TKO final.

"If you look at the league table this year the team at the top doesn't even have two points a game," he pointed out. The Clever Boys mentor feels that the greatest challenge to Wits' title defence could come from the two Pretoria clubs.

Sports24

Weekend Sports Results

COMPILED BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

MTN Premier League		Bekhanyisele Mabulala & MP Menzi Dlamini Maphalaleni League		Ngcina FC		Home Sparrows		Supersport		Mahashulane		
Green Mamba	3	Malanti Chiefs	2	Zero Cosmos	1	Bush Bucks	1	Mhlaleni Superstars	0	Nkamazi AK47	5	
Y. Buffaloes	1	Vovovo	0	Tiger Boys	5	Lukhula Black Stars	2	Nsenga Shagari XI	0	Lozitha Spurs	3	
Red Lions	1	M. Pirates	1	Lukhula Bayern	7	Langa United	1	Manila Stars	0	Gum valley	3	
M. Wanderers	0	Tambuti	2	Matsela Chiefs	2	Bush Ranger	2	Shali United	3	Fletcher United	0	
Royal Leopard	1	Mbabane Highlanders	2	RSSC Siyakha 1800 North East		Rhinos	4	S&S Malkems Promotion League		Ngodini	4	
Mbabane Swallows	1	Matsapha United	1	Zamalek	1	Zwelabantu	2	Gebeni	2	Phondo	0	
Manzini Sundowns	3	Midas City	0	Cosmos	2	Summerise	2	Star Point	3	Dynamite Hotspurs	0	
MTN National First Division		Western Stream		Bacambi	2	Silver Stars	1	Home Talent	0	Troublemakers	3	
Hub Sundowns	2	Barcelona	1	Juventus	0	Free at Last	0	Vickery Nomads	2	Home Boys	2	
Sea Birds	1	Thuluzobona	0	Arsenal	2	XI Stars	0	Swazi Can	0	Power Sparks	0	
Callies	1	Umkhokha	4	North West FA		Tabankulu FC		1	Current Toasters	4	Ndinda Volcano	3
M. Hotspurs	0	Luvunjelo	3	Lubombo Southern Zone		Gamula	1	FC Navara	3	Survivor	1	
Mahlaleni	3	Liselesele	0	Crookes United	2	Black Stars	1	Ntandozi	0	Red Swallows	0	
H. Tycoons	0	Rangers	1	Asbestors	2	Young Stars	0	United Brothers	1	Thunderbolt	2	
Calakaliboli Sigangeni Juniors League U-20		Sharks Mhlangatane League		Phafeni	1	Distillers	0	Vukan Aces	2	Golden Arrows	0	
Total XI	3	Eastern Stream		Sugar Factory	3	Mambane	3	Skom Boys	1	Mdonjane Arsenal	1	
United Express	6	N. Castle	2	Matata	2	Big Bend Wanderers	0	Kukhanyeni Inkhundla Promotion League		Estate Classic	0	
Swazi Trac Hhohho Super League		Estern Stream		Julukha	0	Nisela	0	Estate Classic	0	Nyakeni Cosmos	1	
Southern Zone		Western Stream		Mabhoko	2	Manzanyama	5	Bhekinkhosi	1	Ngwazini	0	
V. Killers	0	Werma Cosmos	0	Lubombo Western Zone		Black Swallows	3	Submarine	1	Kukhanyeni	3	
Billy Ocean	1	Wema Cosmos	0	Black Swallows	3	Mauritius	3	Mdayane	1	Young Killers	2	
Sibuyeni	1	Fighters	1	Heroes	6	Barcelona	1	Corban Hardware Mafutseni Promotion League		Vultures	1	
Umbelebele	0	Celtics	3	Sea Birds	1	Tawern	1	Sicasmelo Sa-Chief	0	Madubula Rovers	2	
Kupheleni	1	Manchester	3	Sithobela	0	Mtjeki	1	All Stars	1	Ntabamhoshana	1	
Emajukujuku	0	Zinyane	1	Manchester	3	Gucuka	2	Young Camibals	2	Young Killers	0	
Northern Zone		Manchester		Mamisa United	2	Bombers	2	Khamatfo	3	Mafutseni United	1	
19 Celtics	0	Chelsea	3	Celtics	1	Vultures	2	Dynamos	1	Ma-G-Man	1	
Black Swallows	1	Golden Arrows	1	Manchester	4	Red Lions	0	Nkongga Pirates	2	Timbutini United	1	
N. Swallows	1	Buhleni Aces	0	Chelsea	3	Thuluzobona	3	Young Killers	0	Young Camibals	1	
Horo Spinners	1	City Stars	2	Shebes Ntabezimpisi League		Golden Arrows	1	Vulamehlo Classic	2	Combine Stars	2	
Mandla Mahewu Mbabane League		Professional		Real Tec	1	M. Arsenal	7	Emalaliyane	0	Mkhuzweni United	0	
Promotion		City Stars		Corporation	1	R. Bombers	1	Khamatfo	2	Sicasmelo Sa-Chief	0	
Real Tec	1	Y. Professionals	1	FC Vaal Stars	4	Skom Boyz	0	Madubula Rovers	0	Supersport	1	
Amawele	2	Manchester	2	Amawele	2	Sigodlo	3	Mkhiweni Promotion League		Sangoofu	0	
Pot O Gold	1	Mz. Sundowns	0	Pot O Gold	1	Fontotje	2	Sangoofu	0	N. Young Aces	4	
Double Action	2	Super Stars	4	Double Action	2	Seven Stars	1	Colani United	0	Toronto	1	
Infer Stars	3	Super Stars	4	Gordon Stars	1	Hungry Lions	3	Luve Classic	2	Manishonga	2	
Gordon Stars	1	Super Stars	4	Sompisi Ntfontjeni League		Professional	1	Step Ahead	1	Manchester United	2	
B. Division		Professional		Zibonele	0	Foster Utd	1	Luve Sun City	0	Luve H. Defenders	1	
National Rangers	1	Golden Arrows	1	Express	2	FC Casino	0	Mbashi Brothers	0	All Stars	1	
Movers	0	Buhleni Aces	0	Nkonjaneni	2	Ntintinyane	0	Executive XI	2	Liverpool	1	
Pots Construction Sigangeni League		City Stars		Liverpool	1	Seven Up	2	White Killers	3	Moyeni	0	
Kangaroo	1	Y. Professionals	1	Trounge	0	H. Pirates	5	Liverpool	4	Moyeni	0	
L. Nationals	2	Manchester	2	Mbabatane	1	Royal Madrid	2	Ngonini Young Aces	0	Luve H. Defenders	1	
Golden Stars	2	Mz. Sundowns	0	Chelsea	0	Suncity	3	Bantu City	0	Luve Classic	0	
Young Fighters	2	Super Stars	4	Bhulane Resort Ndzigeni League		East		Executive	1	Luve Suncity	0	
M. Celtics	0	Super Stars	4	Professional		Sweet Banana		White Killers	3	Moyeni	0	
Young Heroes	1	Super Stars	4	Young Stars		Liverpool		Liverpool	4	Moyeni	0	
Futis Nkhaba League		Young Chiefs		Arsenal		White City		Ngonini Young Aces	0	Luve H. Defenders	1	
Crocodiles	0	Rebels		Celtics		Supersport		Bantu City	0	Luve Classic	0	
Real Rovers	0	Liverpool		West		Blue Birds		Executive	1	Luve Suncity	0	
Shooting Stars	7	M. Celtics		M. Celtics		D. Darkies		Ka-Phunga Promotion League		Zamalek	0	
Brother United	4	Attetico		KK ajax		Gebhulas		Zamalek	0	Shepherd	1	
Bafana	0	Manyisa		M. Madrid		Lozaza		Royal Santos	1	Mpumalanga	2	
Ngwenya Utd	1	Barcelona		Red Sea		Lozaza		Arsenal	3	Rangers	2	
MP Sikhumbuto Timpisini League		Dribbling Stars		Super Aces		Tsunami		Celtics	2	Hotspurs	1	
Superstrikes	1	Community		Professional		Sweet Banana		Swallows	1	Real Amakhosi	1	
Young Bombers	0	Young Savilla		Young Stars		Liverpool		Fighters	1	Volcano	2	
Kudwaleni	4	Ndlalambi		Young Chiefs		Rebels		Youngstars	1	Cyclone	2	
Mshweni	1	Mb. Swallows		Arsenal		White City		Movers	0	Dynamos	0	
Combustion	5	young Tigers		Celtics		Supersport		MP Jele Usuthu Promotion League		Luhleko Flyers	1	
Choppers	2	Njakeni City		West		Blue Birds		Luhleko Flyers	1	Y. Internationals	1	
Juventus	2	Golden Arrows		M. Celtics		D. Darkies		Komadi superstars	1	Javas	0	
Jb Arsenal	1	Red Lions		KK ajax		Gebhulas		Luhleko Revengers	2	M. Rovers	1	
Mv. Sundowns	1	H. Pirates		M. Madrid		Lozaza		Mhlangeni Buffaloes	1	Africa 2010	2	
Sikhhaleni	0	Gunners		Red Sea		Lozaza		Zondwako Killers	3	Dudusini Zamalek	1	
AK 47	0	Soccer rose		Super Aces		Tsunami		Ngogodla Youngstars	3	L. Peacemakers	1	
Blue Birds	3	Matsamo		Buy Cash Pigg's Peak League		Hot Spurs		Black Rhinos	3	Black Aces	3	
Star Wanderers	0	Stone Breakers		Hot Spurs		Darkies		Commandos	2	Luhleko Classic	0	
South Star Mdzimba League		Rebels		Mpolonjeni		Thuluzobona		MP Mankayane Zonal League		Total	1	
Promotion	2	Drikkoppies		Mhlalane		Supersport		Total	1	Boca Juniors	2	
Rangers	1	Green Sea		Citizens		Magwaneni		Ngoseni Bulls	0	S. Youngsters	4	
All Stars	1	Bush Bucks		White killers		Maguga		Malindza Zonal League		Malindza United	4	
Swallows	1	Barcelona		Phophonyane		Bush Bucks		Malindza United	4	Seven Stars	0	
Sundowns	1	Rhumbas		Swazi Trac - Lubombo Super League Results		CK Survivors		Siweni United	4	Young Aces	3	
Rhinos	2	Cosmos		CK Survivors		CPL		Bhelebane	3	Gabi Gabi	0	
Arsenal	1	Blk. Mashuba		Mkhweli United		Dangerous Darkies		Umsheshi	3	Mshana	0	
Top Centre	2	Monaco		Ubombo Flyers		Illovo		Dvokodweni	1	Juventus	0	
Highlanders	2	Chiefs		Rail United		CK Survivors		Promising Stars	0	Zamalek	0	
Kasiko	2	Chiefs		CPL		Juventus		E50 000 Sigcaweni Football League		P.G Rangers	1	
Timbungulu	1	Chiefs		Magwanyane		Juventus		P.G Rangers	1	Classic FC	1	
Thajo Investment Lubombo Eastern Zone		Real Galacticos		City Warriors		Hot Chillies		K.Warriors	3	Mdumezulu	2	
Six to Six	1	Boys to Men		Manyovu		Kukhanyeni		Y.Aces	0	Emashekeshu	0	
Samampela	3	City Rollers		Thajo Investment Lubombo Eastern Zone		Real Galacticos		Y.Lovers	0	Tec-Spurs	1	
Wenela Pirates	4	Young Heroes		Six to Six		Boys to Men		D.Xi	1	K.Wizards	2	
Good Shepherd	1	Mpolonjeni United		Samampela		City Rollers		E.Choppers	0	XI Experience	2	
Double Classic	0	Mpolonjeni United		Wenela Pirates		Young Heroes		T.K.Zee	2	Thufzobona	1	
OK Foods Kwaluseni Promotion League		Fashion International		Good Shepherd		Young Heroes		Y.Bombers	0	Sisonkhe	1	
Mhlane United	3	Real Professionals		Double Classic		Mpolonjeni United		Lubhuku	0	P.Heroes	2	
FC Logoba	2	Amajita		OK Foods Kwaluseni First Division League		Umtfuti		Umtfuti	2	Ludzidzi	0	
Sacrament	2	Zombodze United		Umtfuti		Ludzidzi		Ludzidzi	2	Ludzidzi Kicks	1	
FC Logoba	5	Ntunja Arsenal		Ludzidzi		Ludzidzi Kicks		Ludzidzi	2	Ludzidzi Kicks	1	
Zama United	0	Swazi Wire		Ludzidzi		Ludzidzi Kicks		Ludzidzi	2	Ludzidzi Kicks	1	
Real Heroes	1	Nsenga Cormades		Ludzidzi		Ludzidzi Kicks		Ludzidzi	2	Ludzidzi Kicks	1	
Gocweni Trompies	2	Kwaluseni United		Ludzidzi		Ludzidzi Kicks		Ludzidzi	2	Ludzidzi Kicks	1	
Royal Swallows	5	Kwaluseni United		Ludzidzi		Ludzidzi Kicks		Ludzidzi	2	Ludzidzi Kicks	1	
Dark City	0	Kwaluseni United		Ludzidzi		Ludzidzi Kicks		Ludzidzi	2	Ludzidzi Kicks	1	



MTN Premier League 2017/18

PICTURES

Manzini Sundowns beat Midas City 3-0



BLOCKED: One of Manzini Sundowns scoring chances. They beat Midas City 3-0 at Mavuso Sports Centre on Sunday. (Pics: Sabelo Majola)



CELEBRATING: Manzini Sundowns players celebrating one of their goals.



SHAKE IT: Sundowns assistant coach Musa Manyatsi and Midas City mentor Isaiah 'Ice' Dlamini sharing a light moment after the game.



YES: Some of the Sundowns fans celebrating one of the team's goals.



NET: Manzini Sundowns third goal.



MY BALL: City's Siphosethu Mamba dashing away from Justice Figureido.



FIGHTING: Sundowns' Paito Dube and Linda Msibi fighting for the ball.



ANOTHER GOAL: Manzini Sundowns scoring one of their goals.



CONTROL: City's Mancoba Maseko shielding the ball from Sundowns' Ndimiso Shongwe.

SWAZILAND BUILDING SOCIETY TENNIS TOURNEY



THE WINNERS: Champions of this year's Swaziland Building Society Tennis tourney Correctional Services pose with their trophy as the STA President Maxwell Jele, Secretary Nqaba Mkhali and the tournament's match commissioner Teacher Nhleko looking on.



RETURN: Masiza Ntshangase returning Martin Kirsh's shot during the veterans final.



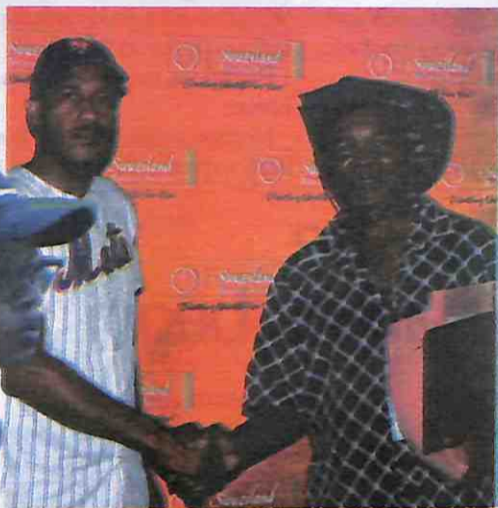
BEAUTIFUL BATTLE: Takhona and Tibusiso in a conversation during a break in the women's singles finals.



SHOT: An Acers player returning a ball.



CONGRATULATIONS: Recreational's Martin Kirsh accepting the team's dues from the STA President whilst Swaziland Building Society Marketing Officer Samkeliso Simelane looks on.



SHAKING HANDS: Jele shaking hands with another winner.



CHAMPS: Correctional Services' Allen Mathonsi receiving the team's trophy from Jele.



FOCUSED: Correctional Services' Tibusiso Ntshangase in action during the mixed doubles semi-final where they faced-off against Acers.



NOI: Acers and Correctional players in a discussion over the score. This was during the men's doubles semi-final match.



Manchester United boss Jose Mourinho will have £80m to spend in the January transfer window with full-backs Luke Shaw, 22, and Matteo Darmian, 28, to be sold to fund the spending. (Sun)



Everton will compete with Manchester City and Arsenal for West Brom and Northern Ireland defender Jonny Evans, 29, in January. (ESPN)

Belgium goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, 25, could reject a new contract at Chelsea, even if the club match David de Gea's Manchester United wages. (Evening Standard)

Newcastle are looking to find a new goalkeeper as Freddie Woodman, 20, prepares to go on loan to an EFL club. The Magpies have played down links to ex-Real Madrid goalkeeper Iker Casillas, 36, who has six months left on his Porto contract. (Newcastle Chronicle)

Everton Manager Sam Allardyce has made Watford striker Troy Deeney, 29, his top target in the January transfer window. (ESPN)

Meanwhile, Allardyce has stated his desire to keep Ross Barkley, 23, but hinted the midfielder could leave in the summer. (Liverpool Echo)

Manager Antonio Conte has told the Chelsea board to sort out new contracts for goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, 25, and attacking midfielder Eden Hazard, 26, before they go to the World Cup with Belgium. (Daily Express)

Arsenal are keen to sign Sevilla midfielder Steven N'Zonzi, 28, with the former Blackburn and Stoke player having fallen out with boss Eduardo Berizzo. (AS, via Sun)

Newcastle striker Aleksandar Mitrovic, 23, could return to Anderlecht in January as his frustration at the club continues. (Nieuws Blad, via Newcastle Chronicle)

Everton, West Ham and Swansea are set to compete for the signing of Augsburg defender Daniel Opare, 27, in January. (Daily Mail)

Arsenal and Tottenham are interested in signing Dani Ceballos. The 21-year-old midfielder is unhappy at Real Madrid. (Calciomercato)

Schalke and Germany midfielder Leon Goretzka, 22, will tell Manchester United, Arsenal and Barcelona his future plans by the end of January amid interest from all three clubs. (Goal)

Tottenham are preparing an offer for 20-year-old attacking midfielder Yusuf Yazici, who plays for Turkish side Trabzonspor. (Sporx - in Turkish)



Brazilian side Gremio have told Barcelona they will have to pay a 50m euro (£44m) release clause to sign midfielder Arthur, after the 21-year-old was pictured wearing the Catalan club's kit. (RAC1, via Mail)

THE PUNCH POW!

...with Mphikeleli Msibi [STRIKING, STRAIGHT AND STRENGTHENED]

The intriguing PLS title race

WITH only two games into the second round, the MTN Premier League title race is heating up even before the Christmas break.

After the weekend game, title contenders Mbabane Swallows and Young Buffaloes have identical records. Both are unbeaten, 11 wins apiece, 28 eight goals scored by both and eight conceded. It's the stuff of dreams, a title race to savour and finally Swallows have a foe willing and able to match them pound for pound.

Both teams' fans now have their fingers crossed seeing that 'Birds' and 'Buffs' have also played in the second round where they again settled for a 1-all draw like in the first round. This means this team will not be meeting to decide the title but will have to beat the other opponents.

The title probabilities have become interesting after Swallows played to a 1-all draw against Matsapha United while Buffaloes narrowly beat Vovovo 1-0.

It is difficult to predict the winner in this campaign that has so far become a two-horse race.

However, you cannot count Green Mamba out as they have been on the rise since Caleb Ngwenya took over as their head coach.

Young Buffaloes have raised the bar in recent games with victories that have propelled the army side



RACE HEATING UP: Mbabane Swallows' Njabulo Ndlovu challenging Young Buffaloes' Ndoda Mthethwa. Both teams are unbeaten in the league.

to the top of the log with Mbabane Swallows.

The 'Beautiful Birds' are no longer the same team and their recent draws have resulted in Buffaloes catching up with them on the log standings.

In the midst of the gruelling race, coaches are also the centre of attention.

Buffaloes coach Dominic Kunene seems to know which buttons to press when the team is under pressure while Swallows coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati seems to crack and panic when things don't go their way inside the field of play.

Buffaloes scored late in their match against Vovovo and that should tell you how much they can grind

results while Swallows made a suspect return of Sphamandla Mathenjwa, who last played against Matsapha United.

The player is not match fit and nearly cost the team after causing the penalty that resulted in Matsapha taking the lead. They also have the ever shining youngster Sizolwethu Shabalala, who could have replaced the limping 'Samba Jive' but 'Koki' failed to make that substitution.

These are some of the things that define a good coach and to me 'Koki' is not a good tactician. He lacks so much in that aspect.

Buffaloes might take this one home.

I know, some will say, it's too early to predict the winner as there

are still a lot of games to go before the league ends.

With all the teams having played the same number of games (16), it is interesting that the usual suspects Mbabane Swallows and Young Buffaloes are already occupying the top spot in the log.

The army side continues with their rich vein of form that saw them finish as league runners-up last season and lift the SwaziBank Cup where they beat Matsapha United.

Missing in the top four is Royal Leopard and Mbabane Highlanders but there is a good reason for that; they have been good enough since the start of the league.

While the league title race is exciting and interesting, the crowds continue to dwindle though. Seeing Highlanders fans throwing missiles into the field of play recently was an eyesore.

We also saw a bottle coming from the Swallows stand this weekend after they were not happy with the referee. This is not the way to go.

If things are heating up at the top, the same cannot be said for the bottom where Midas City are yet to get a single point in 16 games.

As fans watch from the stands with much anxiety, it will be interesting to see whether it will be Mbabane Swallows or Young Buffaloes to land the 2017-18 title.

Buckle up; let the Ingwenyama Cup games begin

AS the launch of the third edition of the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup take place this morning, the excitement over the surprising factor that this tournament possesses is already upon the country's football fraternity.

May I start by congratulating City Warriors for winning the regional Ingwenyama Cup as they will be taking part in the last 32.

This year also marks the third and final year of the three-year sponsorship, and one hopes football officials will do all they can to keep the 'marriage' with MVA going.

As we kick-off this year's tournament, there are great expectations to make this edition the best ever, and everyone has to play their role in making sure that happens. Firstly, everyone involved with the sport should support the sponsor - SMVAF, and most importantly the behaviour should be one that reflects the Swazi

society - respectful.

The magical Ingwenyama Cup, a brainchild of His Majesty King Mswati III, has grown in leaps and in bounds in just a little less over two years.

It was on 10 November 2015 when the tournament was launched by the king. It marked the birth of a new dawn for

not just football but culture.

The king, perhaps without really knowing it, had launched a unique tournament that was to brilliantly combine soccer and culture. It was a first of its kind. We are yet to see a sporting spectacle such as this one also incorporating culture.

Football being the most popular sport not just in the country but the world over, the idea by the king was a masterpiece.

This year marks only the third year since the tournament was launched.

Already, the SMVAF, which is an acronym of the Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accidents Fund, is now in almost every Swazi's and so are the road signs and other road safety messages.

There is

little doubt that the tournament is indeed superb and magnificent in the dissemination of road safety awareness in the kingdom.

Mbabane Swallows are defending champions as they are the only side to have won the tournament.



Hattrick incentive must be spread through

A total of 266 goals have been scored in the 16 games and we are yet to see more goals, including the hattricks and braces that have come through in recent days.

Talking about the hattricks, it is my sincere appeal to the main sponsor to consider extending the incentive to all games if not coming up with special memorabilia for hattrick scorers something they will surely remember for years to come. That said, there are some scoring machines I would like to pay tribute to. Firstly, it is the free scoring Charles Molopo of Malanti Chiefs. It really seems he is unstoppable as he keeps banging the goals in. Then there is Melusi Mkhwanazi from Manzini Sundowns.

This is one boy who has a knack of scoring early goals, catching many defenders and goalkeepers off-guard to strike. Please try and watch this boy and it is my wild guess this boy could be considered for the national team soon.

Lastly, let me once again commend Caleb Ngwenya.

Ladies and gentlemen, a couple of weeks ago I paid tribute to him as a Vovovo coach. He jumped ship and joined Green Mamba and it seemed just what the doctor had ordered.

Ngwenya is unbeaten at Green Mamba in five matches and could freely continue with the count. But just why is he not being considered for national squad duties? This is the man who has proven himself out rightly that he has the brains.

MIDAS CITY, ARTWELL OFFICIALLY PART WAYS

By Sibongiseni Zondi

SOCCER- TROUBLED Midas City have officially parted ways with coach Artwell Dlodlu.

Dlodlu and City's marriage has been a troubled one since the 1-0 defeat to Royal Leopard in October when the coach had a fallout with his assistant Alex Zulu. Dlodlu reported his concerns to the club's management while staying away from training the first team and hasn't been on the technical bench on matchdays since the 2-0 defeat to Red Lions in October. While City wrote to the National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS)

about three weeks ago asking to be exempted from fines for not having a licensed coach on their technical bench during matches, they still maintained that Dlodlu was still part of the team as they tried to sort out differences within the club.

However, in an interview with this publication yesterday, the club's Chairman Innocent 'Chopper' Mavuso confirmed that they had parted ways with Dlodlu. "We spoke to Mr Mdluli and unfortunately we couldn't sort out the complaints he brought forward to us. That is why we then decided to amicably part ways. I just want to stress that we didn't fire him because we don't fire people at this club. We just decided to part amicably,"

he said.

Mavuso added that the club had tried to keep Dlodlu. "We didn't want to part with him but unfortunately it was impossible to satisfy all his requirements. So we have parted amicably and we won't hold anything against him if we hear that he has joined another team," he added.

Dlodlu confirmed parting ways with the club but expressed his disappointment at the way in which it happened. "Yes, it's true that we have amicably parted ways. They told me they couldn't solve the problems. I hold no grudges against City but it is sad that they couldn't solve the problems in the team and have opted to look for another coach," he said.

Matsapha sack Musa, suspend 'Papi'

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER - MATSAPHA United have cracked the whip on the Sikhondze brothers Musa and Xolani 'Papi', who have since been sacked and suspended, respectively.

The two players are said to have landed themselves into trouble after 'Papi' allegedly faked an injury while Musa is said to have absconded one of the team's matches late last month, something that did not go well with the club authorities.

This has led to the left footed winger Musa being offloaded while 'Papi' has been put on ice until further notice.

A source close to the matter revealed that the two players were no longer part of the Matsapha United camp.

"The duo were told to stop attending the team's activities and a decision was taken where Musa was handed his clear-

ance to join a team of his choice and 'Papi' remains suspended until the board makes a decision over his future," the source said.

Efforts to get a comment from the two players proved futile after their cellphones were out of the MTN network when tried yesterday.

The team's Chief Executive Officer Victor 'Mavikane' Dlamini could not be drawn for comment on the matter after his phone rang unanswered when tried several times. 'Papi' last featured for Matsapha during their 0-1 loss against Manzini Wanderers last month at the Mavuso Sports Centre while Musa has only made few appearances as a substitute in the current campaign.

NO COMMENT: Chief Executive Officer Victor 'Mavikane' Dlamini



'Fash' resumes training today

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER - MBABANE Highlanders prodigal son Mfanufikile 'Fash' Ndzimandze will today join the rest of his teammates in training following his recent five-day suspension imposed by head coach Mlungisi 'Professor' Ngubane last week.

The suspension saw the former Moneni Pirates players miss Highlanders' two recent matches against Matsapha United and Royal Leopard following misconduct allegations. Ndzimandze was on the sidelines together with estranged Nigerian midfielder Gabriel Goshen, whose future at the club looks uncertain.

Highlanders Head of Secretariat Mphumelelo Mnisi said he was yet to get an update about the matter when contacted yesterday.

"I am yet to get a briefing about the player. I am hoping to get feedback tonight (yesterday) and I can be in a better position to comment after the meeting," he said.

Ndzimandze's return will spearhead Highlanders striking force ahead of the 2017 SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup set to kickoff this coming weekend. Ghanaian striker Frank Antwi has been leading the team's striking force in the absence of the speedy striker Ndzimandze.

The Mlungisi 'Professor' Ngubane-led charges are currently perched seventh in the MTN Premier League after 16 outings with 22 points.

Correctional are Swaziland Building Society tennis tourney champs

By Sibusiso Dlamini

TENNIS - HIS Majesty's Correctional Services are this year's Swaziland Building Society (SBS) champions.

The team had a great tournament and endured a tough final day to be eventually crowned champions of the annual tourney.

The team started the final day with the men's doubles semi-final match. Masiza and Allen faced-off with Mbongeni and Sibusiso and Correctional won the game in what was a match marred by controversy.

The second match saw Acers' Bruce and Benele lose against Allen and Tibusiso. Correctional took part in four categories, namely; ladies singles, men's veteran's, men's singles and the mixed category.

Masiza Nthsangase drew first blood as he managed to overcome Martin Kirsh in the veteran's match and collected the first point for Correctional. Recreational came back and leveled matters as Thulani beat Phinda in the men's singles, avenging the defeat he suffered at the hands of the youngster. The Correctional duo of Allen and Tibusiso faced-off with Thulani and Takhona and with Correctional in the lead, Recreation lodged a complaint against the light, stating that they could no longer see the ball as it was already heading for 8pm.

Thereafter, tournament Commissioner, Teacher Nhleko, a legendary local tennis player called both teams' captains and the Swaziland Tennis Association (STA) President Maxwell Jele for deliberations, and they took a decision to crown Correctional as

champions because they were leading, but then both teams got a share of E2 000 for their efforts.

When interviewed, the team's captain Masiza Nthsangase thanked his teammates for their dedication, and further stated that the win would be a morale booster heading to the tournament in Mozambique next week.

"I would like to thank all my teammates for their commitment. They worked very hard. We haven't played a tournament in a while, and it's good to have such a great performance, which will also be a good morale booster as we go to Mozambique next week. I would like to plead with the association to make sure that they write letters requesting players at their respective workplaces early to allow for proper communication and planning," he said.

The association's President Maxwell Jele applauded the standard of play shown by teams during the tournament, and extended their utmost appreciation to the sponsor for their continued support. "We just witnessed great tennis here today and it shows that all the teams and players worked hard in preparations. We thank them for this because it means that we are developing as a sport. We can also never be grateful enough to our sponsor Swaziland Building Society for making this tournament a success."

Meanwhile, Swaziland Building Society Marketing Officer Samkeliso Simelane said the company was pleased to support the tournament because they were happy with the standard they witnessed and the fact that they were playing an integral part in developing the sport in the country.

Second victory for team SD in Singapore

By Sabelo Majola

NETBALL - THE Swaziland national netball team added salt to the wound of Singapore in the Mission Foods Nations Cup day two games, beating the hosts 64-51.

This was the second victory for Swaziland in the tournament after getting off to a flying start in the opening games, recording a 48-36 victory over Hong Kong on Sunday.

The second victory for the country meant a second straight loss for 19th ranked Singapore, who succumbed to a 53-54 loss at the hands of Ireland in front of the home crowd. Swaziland are currently ranked 30 in the world and their primary objective is to elevate in the next rankings and they are positively progressing towards that accomplishment. Swaziland will face off with Malaysia in the third string of games today before playing Cook Islands tomorrow.

The tournament is expected to end this coming Saturday.

THE RESULTS AND FIXTURES:

Day	Time	Team 1	Score	Team 2	Score
Sunday	3.00pm	Singapore	53-54	Ireland	
	5.00pm	Malaysia	35-69	Cook Islands	
	7.00pm	Hong Kong	36-48	Swaziland	
Yesterday Monday	3.00pm	Ireland	48-34	Malaysia	
	5.00pm	Cook Islands	48-33	Hong Kong	
	7.00pm	Swaziland	64-51	Singapore	
Today Tuesday	3.00pm	Ireland	vs	Cook Islands	
	5.00pm	Malaysia	vs	Swaziland	
	7.00pm	Singapore	vs	Hong Kong	
Tomorrow Wednesday	3.00pm	Cook Islands	vs	Swaziland	
	5.00pm	Hong Kong	vs	Ireland	
	7.00pm	Singapore	vs	Malaysia	
December 7 Thursday Off Day					
8 December Friday	3.00pm	Hong Kong	vs	Malaysia	
	5.00pm	Swaziland	vs	Ireland	
	7.00pm	Cook Islands	vs	Singapore	
December 9 Saturday	12.00pm	5th	vs	6th	
	2.00pm	3rd	vs	4th	
	4.00pm	1st	vs	2nd	
	5.30pm	Closing Ceremony			



THE WINNERS: Champions of this year's Swaziland Building Society Tennis tourney Correctional Services pose with their title. Also present was the STA President Maxwell Jele, secretary Nqaba Mkhaphi and the tournament's match commissioner Teacher Nhleko.

FIXTURES

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Olympiakos Piraeus	vs	Juventus	9:45pm
Manchester United	vs	CSKA Moskva	9:45pm
Roma	vs	Qarabağ	9:45pm
Barcelona	vs	Sporting CP	9:45pm
Benfica	vs	Basel	9:45pm
Celtic	vs	Anderlecht	9:45pm
Chelsea	vs	Atlético Madrid	9:45pm
Bayern München	vs	PSG	9:45pm

Siza slams 'unprofessionalism' in local league

By Sabelo Majola

SOCCER - FORMER Mbabane Swallows and Sihlangu striker Siza 'King Pele' Dlamini believes local players are not getting international exposure because the league is run unprofessionally.

Speaking to Sowetan, the former Pigg's Peak Bush Bucks and Jomo Cosmos striker, who now serves as assistant coach at Cosmos, shared the same views as those of former Orlando Pirates skipper Lehlohonolo Seema about his native country Lesotho. Seema, who is now Veselin Jelusic's assistant at Bloemfontein Celtic, feels the sudden absence of his compatriots in the Premier Soccer League (PLS) must be blamed on the standard of the league in his native nation.

Like Seema, the retired Sihlangu striker suspects the recent unavailability of his countrymen in the PLS is due to the way the MTN Premier League is run.

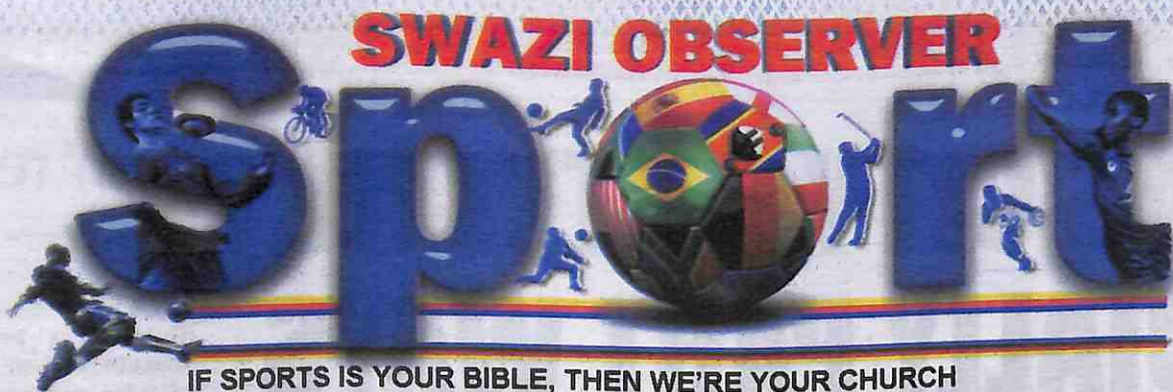
"There are no monthly grants given to clubs, the league is run unprofessionally, and SA scouts might not be interested in it because of that. Any national team that plays with only locally based players will not go far in tournaments," said Dlamini. The striker said something was needed to be done to improve the league. Seema said Lesotho players opt to go for other jobs than relying on football.

Talent

"The talent is there (in Lesotho) but because of the poor league standard, people opt to find proper jobs for a living. This situation affects our national team a lot. Whenever our players go outside to play an international match they are still admiring players (opponents) whom they watch on television. They even get intimidated by the stadium because they are not used to it back home," said Seema.

Meanwhile, Dlamini is among the cluster of players who made it to the popular PLS league from the country, including Sibusiso 'Spoko' Dlamini, Tony 'TT' Tsabedze, Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko, Dennis 'Yuki' Masina, and Bongani 'Ndezi' Masangane, among others. Seemingly, the above mentioned were the last of the capable breed as there is currently no local player plying his trade in the neighbouring league and even though the likes of Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa and Felix Badenhorst have attracted interest from SA teams, nothing transpired from it. Mthunzi 'Xavi' Mkhontfo is the only player plying his trade outside the country after joining DR Congo AS Vita two seasons ago.

BLASTS: Siza 'King Pele' Dlamini.



IF SPORTS IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE'RE YOUR CHURCH

TUESDAY DECEMBER 5, 2017



MATSAPHA UNITED FROWN AT 'MZIMNENE' TAG

By Sibongiseni Zondi

...it's nothing personal, 'Birds' respond

SOCCER - MATSAPHA United have expressed their unhappiness at being called the 'Mzimnene' River by rivals Mbabane Swallows.

It all began last Friday, ahead of the two sides' highly anticipated MTN Premier League showdown which ended 1-all on Sunday at the Somhlolo National Stadium. During Friday's Sports Show on SBIS 1, Swallows General Manager Sandile 'Beyond 2000' Zwane referred to Matsapha, nicknamed the 'Deep Blue Ocean', as the 'Mzimnene' River.

Matsapha didn't take kindly to that nickname, with the club's Chairman Siphon Shongwe expressing his unhappiness on yesterday's Sports Show on SBIS.

"As a club such utterances don't sit well with us. Building a brand is not an easy thing, you cannot build it overnight. It takes time and resources. We are trying to be a brand that is respected. We are the 'Deep Blue Ocean' so when we get called by other names it hurts, especially when it comes from respected people in football," he said.



Shongwe went on to refer to a similar incident which happened earlier on in the season. "We are very disappointed. Something like this happened not long ago and the people involved were not happy but today we are called 'Mzimnene.' We pride ourselves in that we wear blue colours. Matsapha United is here to entertain. Football is entertainment," he said.

The Matsapha Chairman then urged fellow clubs to watch how they promote football matches. "We respect the Mzimnene River as one of the rivers in the country but we didn't choose it (as our slogan). We chose a slogan that we felt suited us. So I ask that even when we are trying to promote matches, let us watch what we say. We have been called by many names already and we ask ourselves if it is still football (or not). Let's just play football and entertain people." He said they have been referred



to as *bosikhotseni*, *tiyingayinga*, 'big-headed', 'egocentric' and 'pompous', something that does not sit well with them.

When sought for comment on Matsapha's grievances, Swallows' Zwane told this publication that the issue was being blown out of proportion.

"It was nothing personal. We were just marketing the game. I don't see how it belittled them. We were just discouraging them going into Sunday's match and it helped them because they fought hard yesterday (Sunday). We are not fighting, it's just football. They shouldn't take it in a bad way," he said. The two sides also drew their first round MTN Premier League meeting back in October while Matsapha famously beat Swallows 2-1 to knock them out of last season's SwaziBank Cup.

Ingwenyama Cup launch today

By Sabelo Majola

SOCCER - THE third and last edition of the E9 million three-year SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup tournament will be officially launched today.

The event will be held at Royal Swazi, Gigi's Restaurant and is expected to commence at 7.30am.

This was revealed by the tournament's PRO Lenhle 'Makawosi' Masuku yesterday.

Masuku said Chairman of the tournament Prince Hlangabeza was expected to deliver His Majesty's message. There will also be the last 32 draw, pitting the 14 Premier League teams, 12 from the National First Division and six from the regions. "We are expecting team officials to grace the event and we will also have representatives from the sponsors," he said.

The first edition of the tournament was launched in 2015 and a staggering E9 million sponsorship was unveiled with



REVEALED: SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup PRO Lenhle 'Makawosi' Masuku.

each segment allocated E3 million. Mbabane Swallows won the inaugural tournament and defended it last season. Ingwenyama cup regional tournament was introduced last year with E40 000 at stake and Northern Hhohho side Manchester United won the cup. They, however, failed to make it to the finals this season and Lubombo side City Warriors beat them to the trophy. The main tournament is likely to kick-off this coming weekend.



'Birds' face E40 000 fine

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER - CAPITAL city giants Mbabane Swallows could possibly face a E40 000 fine after being implicated in referee Mbongeni Shongwe's report for this past Sunday during their 1-all draw against Matsapha United at the Somhlolo National Stadium.

Swallows officials are said to have threatened to assault assistant referee Celumusa Malinga soon after the tension filled match where their supporters also threw a missile into the pitch in the second half.

The report was submitted to the PLS offices yesterday afternoon.

Glamour

The red and white glamour side could be charged according to Article 7(b) and 7(e) of the MTN Premier League.

"Threatening by conduct or words to assault or attempt to assault a referee, PLS official, player, club official, marshal, supporter, fan, spectator comes with a minimum fine of E10 000 and a maximum of E30 000," The team also pos-

...Team implicated in referees report

sibly face a fine of E10 000 for throwing missiles inside the pitch which was directed to assistant referee Malinga.

"Throwing an object of any kind onto the field of play or surroundings or unto any persons thus assaulting or attempting to assault and invading the field of play - a fine not less than E30 000 by the DC," reads article 7(e).

Premier League of Swaziland Chief Operations Officer Pat Vilakati said they were yet to go through the reports when contacted.

"We are still going to sit down and discuss the reports with our prosecutors and we will confirm any developments to the relevant stakeholders if necessary," he said.

Swallows General Manager Sandile Zwane politely declined to comment on the matter when reached yesterday.

"I cannot comment on the matter until I go through the report," he briefly said.