

O SUNDAY Observer

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The Right Place

The Right Sunday



FEBRUARY 5, 2017

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Scene

PULL OUT



INGWENYAMA CUP

2017 FINAL

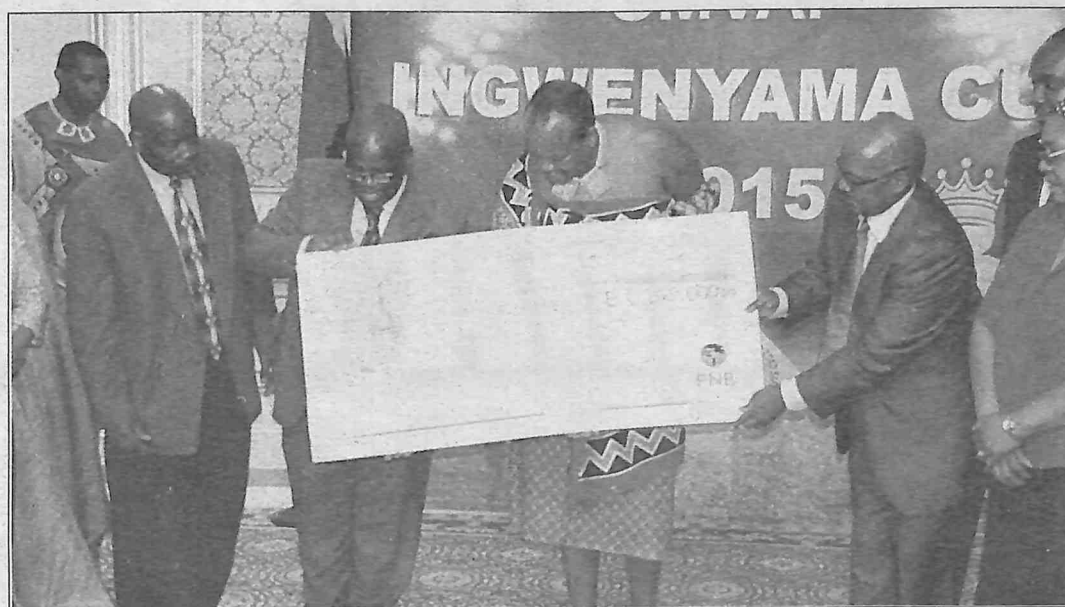
SUPPLEMENT INSIDE



Culture Meets Football



SMVAF INGWENYAMA CUP 2016/17



FOREWORD BY HIS MAJESTY, KING MSWATI III

It gives me great pleasure to see the country taking bold steps towards materialising our commitment to the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020, through such multi-faceted and unconventional approaches to road safety awareness as this inaugural SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup.

Our commitment towards achieving the milestones identified by the Decade of Action for Road Safety remains solid now than ever before, as we are desirous to see a significant reduction in the number of road accidents in the country.

The convention recommends that signatory countries commit to reducing accidents by up to 50 percent by 2020.

Commitment

Such a commitment calls for all sectors involved in road safety issues to explore results-oriented approaches more aggressively, in order to ensure that the country achieves that target.

Road accidents in the country, and in the world in general, hinder development, as many a productive person's life gets to be curtailed unjustly.

It is paramount, therefore, that government show more political will to redress the problem of road carnage as well as road accidents, and save lives, and economies by extension.

In this regard, the inaugural

● May I congratulate the management committee for ensuring a seamless flow of the tournament, and successfully integrating both sport and culture, something which is unprecedented and ground-breaking.

SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup, presents an untrodden path in the dissemination of road safety messaging, as we are convinced that sport, and football in particular, has the largest following in the country.

It is only prudent that we task organisations involved in ensuring the safety of our roads to use this platform, and maximise on their publicity and awareness reach.

Encouraging

Apart from compensating victims of road accidents, Sincephetelo MVA Fund has a social obligation to ensure that those accidents are prevented in the first place. It is encouraging therefore, to see the organisation going out of its way, and approaching the masses directly where they are found. As you are aware, football is not limited to the confines of a stadium. It goes on to get significant coverage on the media, hence associating with the sport is an almost definite way of exploiting wider publicity and reach.

Apart from being a publicity vehicle for road safety messaging, we hope that this tournament has con-

tributed immensely to the standard of football in the country.

Sport, without doubt, continues to provide a form of direct and indirect employment to thousands of youth in the country, hence public and private investment into the sector is very fundamental.

Benefit

We implore football administrators to utilise such sponsorship as one advanced by SMVAF with utmost transparency, and ensure the ultimate benefit of the sport as a whole.

May I congratulate the management committee for ensuring a seamless flow of the tournament, and successfully integrating both sport and culture, something which is unprecedented and ground-breaking.

I thank you.

The King's Foreword was sourced from the SMVAF Magazine Special Edition for the Ingwenyama Cup 2015/16





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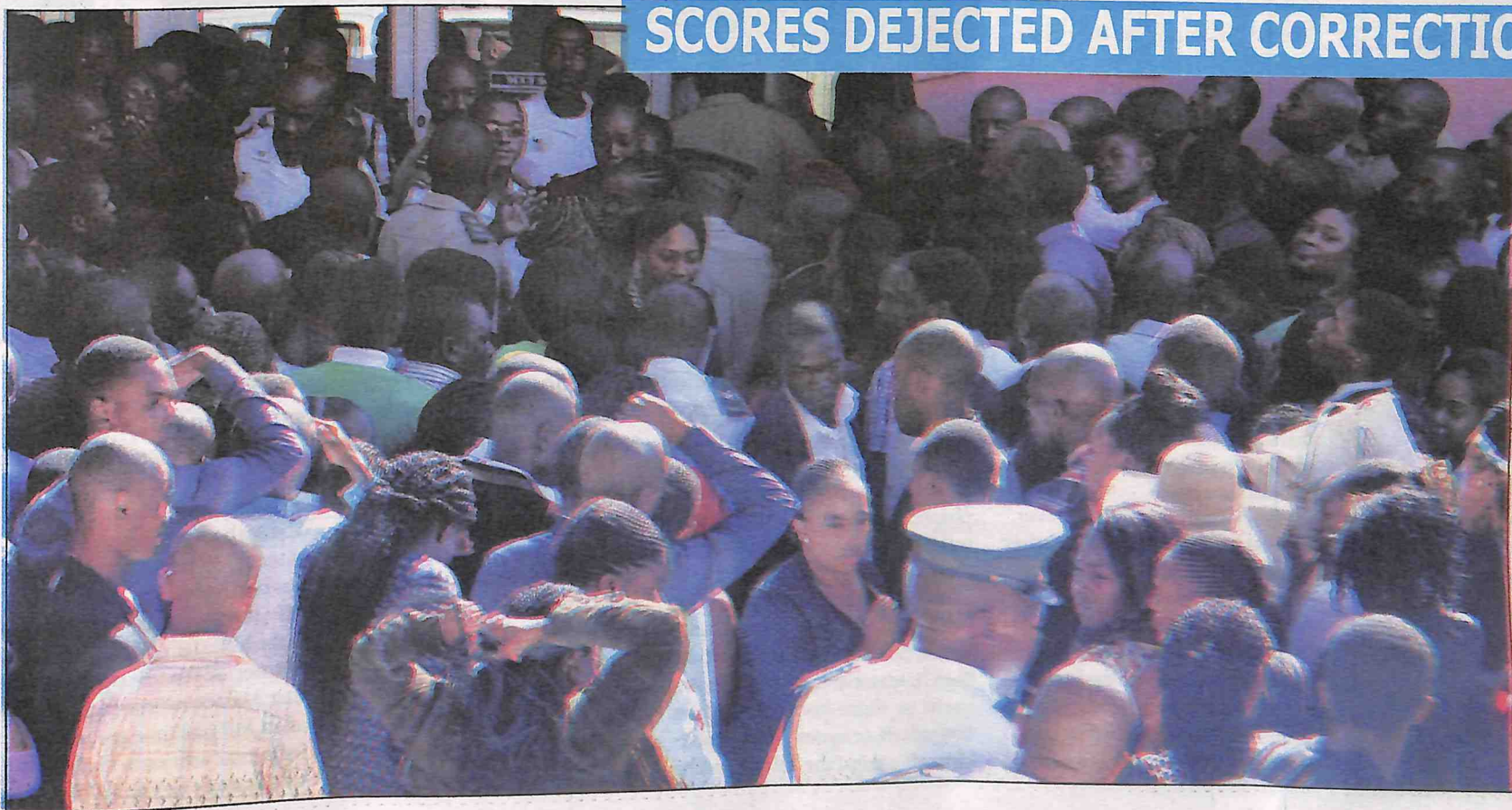
I AM SO DISAPPOINTED - GELANE



admits she's not a 100% recovered

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SCORES DEJECTED AFTER CORRECTIONAL EXAM



Throngs of aspiring warders gathered at four regional examination centres yesterday where they wrote His Majesty's Correctional Services entrance examination. The first groups to write the examination expressed disappointment after discovering the questions were different from those which went viral on social media. SEE MORE ON PAGES 4-5. (Pic: Thembeke Dlamini)

CLARIFICATION

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

With speculation rife on reasons behind Senate President Gelane Zwane's lapse during the parliamentary state opening on Friday, she has revealed her disappointment at the way things turned out.

"All the preparations were marred. I am so disappointed," she said, during an interview yesterday.

She was disappointed that such a spectacle had to play itself out in front of Their Majesties and the nation.

"Even I was confused by what happened. I took the speech, opened to read it, and you won't believe it! The words just disappeared," she said.

"They just disappeared," she said after some time of reflecting, adding, "I don't know. I can't even begin to tell you what happened there as it was my first time that something like this ever happened to me."

She said the experience taught her that the powers of darkness were real, "I guess my experience means I have come of age," she

'I AM SO DISAPPOINTED'



Senate President Gelane Zwane.

said, adding how the devil should not think he would have the last say in all of this.

Zwane's glitch came in the form of her asking for her speech while

it was in her hands as she tried to read the salutations. Her speech is made yearly before His Majesty King Mswati III addresses the nation during the opening of Parliament.

With Zwane being unable to read her speech, Speaker Themba Msibi took over and read it on her behalf.

During yesterday's interview, she lamented how she had spent days contemplating on how best to put her message across and thought she had a good speech befitting the occasion, "I was so disappointed about my beautiful speech," she said several times, adding how Their Majesties expected to hear her deliver it as she had assured the nation during preparations that everything was in order.

She decried the other mishaps which happened during the opening such as His Majesty's microphone not working properly and

SBIS technician Mbuyazwe Dlamini losing his kanga while fixing it. She said she noted all those occurrences and could only pray that nothing greater happens.

In the speech which she failed to read, Zwane stated how His Majesty had given them a mandate to continue passing Bills and policies that provide the required impetus towards the national vision of attaining first world status by 2022. She stated how she hoped that the current crop of parliamentarians would have passed all Bills by the end of their term next year.

Further, she invited the nation to play a more active role in the legislative process as the number of people that responded to invitations by Parliament to make submissions on bills that are being scrutinised by either chamber was disappointing.

ing unhindered.

Zwane fell ill in 2015 and this resulted in her needing medical attention for some time.

The acting Chief of KoNtshingila was first admitted in Manzini for some time before she was transferred to South Africa through the Phalala Fund.

In her absence, Deputy President Ngomuyayona Gamedze kept the fires burning on an acting basis. Her last reported visit to hospital was last year November.

...I will not claim to be 100% but God has been good to me

Senate President Gelane Zwane refuses to lie to herself about being back to her original state of health.

"I know that one in my situation doesn't return to the original state of health but I am embracing the miracle of life that God has given me," Zwane said yesterday.

She recalled how her mobility was reduced last year to the point of using crutches which she stopped using before Parliament opening.

This year, she has been walking unaided as her mobility has improved greatly.

"I won't lie and say I am as I was before I fell sick but look at God," she said. At the end of the opening ceremony while exiting Parliament, Zwane reportedly lost her balance, something that has not happened to her in the past, especially when she needed an aid to balance.

She was thereafter closely observed by this reporter as she was able to

make her way to the marquee without assistance.

She sat on the high table with Their Majesties and partook in dancing when Libutfo performed to the song titled *Ingwenyama Itsatsa Sihlalo eMandvulo*.

When it was time to exit the marquee, she was warmly greeted by Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala before she formed part of Her Majesty the Indlovukazi's entourage where she again walked to the Parliament build-

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Ngi-grand! - Magobetane tells parliamentarians

BY MLONDI MPANZA

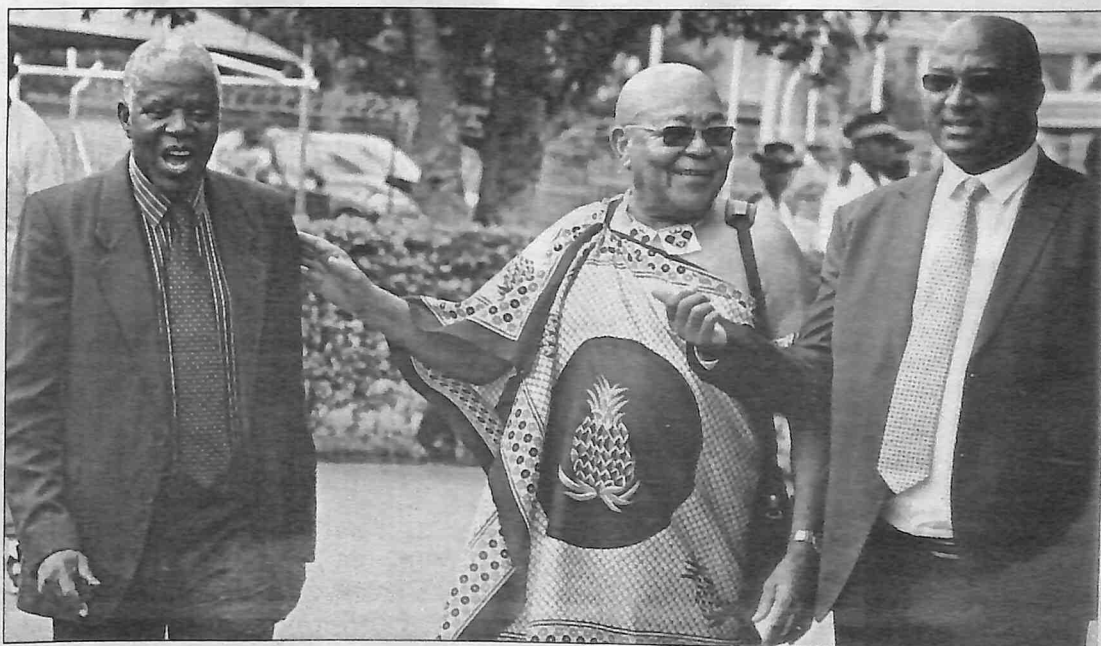
An upbeat Magobetane Mamba showed all and sundry that he is ready for his political comeback as he told everyone in Parliament he was 'grand over,' meaning he had fully recovered from his sickness.

He did this during the state opening of Parliament on Friday where he assured parliamentarians he was fit and ready to execute his responsibilities.

However, this might seem to have come a little too late as his poor health over the past months saw him forfeiting his Cabinet seat where he served as the minister of public service.

The Sithobela Member of Parliament echoed his words yesterday evening when he was called and queried about his health, subsequent to him sharing with everyone how excited he was to be returning to his political career.

"*Hhayi Ngigrand! Ngigrand over,*" he said in a jovial mood, further stating he wouldn't want to comment about anything for now in terms of issues related to Parliament since they were yet to meet as MPs. Of note, this was the first time the former minister publicly spoke about his health after returning to work in October, which was sub-



Former Public Service Minister Magobetane Mamba with Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Edgar Hillary and Swaziland Sugar Association CEO Phil Mnisi.

sequent to spending over 10 months away from politics as he attended to his sickness. During the brief telephonic interview, Mamba pointed out he was yet to see what was on the list of things that needed to be attended to in Parliament and it had been planned how those things would be addressed and it would then be reasonable for him to comment or share his contribution towards those issues. But, he spoke strongly against the 'all talk and no

action,' notion which he said had to be put behind and concentrate on executing their duties as MPs.

The former minister experienced challenges with his health after he had a car accident suspected to have been a result of a stroke he suffered whilst driving, leaving him with head injuries.

At first, the accident seemed minor until when he had to be taken to the neighbouring South Africa for further medical attention and eventu-

ally had to spend months at home attending to his health.

This in the process saw his responsibilities both at ministerial and constituency levels suffering before he was later replaced by Manzini South MP Owen Nxumalo, who took over as the Minister of Public Service in October last year. A couple of weeks later, Mamba returned back to work as an MP this time around where he was met with joy by his colleagues, who warmly welcomed him.

ASIAN PROBE TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT - MGWAGWA

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

The probe into Asians in the country was taken out of context and no one was bold enough to say it was losing direction, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mgwagwa Gamedze said this past Friday.

He was responding to questions on whether United States of America President Donald Trump's executive order to ban nationals from seven countries was not similar to the ban on Asians which was called for by parliamentarians mid-last year.

He said the probe was in all intents and purposes not targeting Asians, "...but everyone staying in the country illegally." It is, however, noteworthy that the probe ended up singling out Asians who are called *Emandiya* by the populace without identifying country of origin.

He noted that there were Asians in the country who had acquired citizenship through correct means



Minister of Foreign Affairs Mgwagwa Gamedze. (Pic: Thembeke Dlamini)

and were businessmen of note whereas there were those who entered the country and then elected to stay because they were able to run a small business.

"The probe was supposed to talk to those who were staying in the country illegally such as those who initially had permits to be here but

never left or renewed them after expiration," he said.

Minister Gamedze said it was also supposed to target those who not only evaded the ministry of home affairs but those who circumvented commercial laws which allow for indigenous Swazis to run certain small businesses in the rural areas.

"The question that was supposed to be asked there, was how these people came about to running such businesses," he said, reiterating that the direction went skew.

The parliamentary committee, which was chaired by Zombodze Emuva MP Titus Thwala, was reportedly elected after a motion that raised, among other things, concern that Asians were flooding the country, amid suspicions of corruption.

During the probe, there were allegations levelled against people of Asian origins as locals went before the 10 member committee.

Some locals stated how they were worried that foreigners from Asia

were buying every piece of land available in the country.

They stated how they were allegedly using companies to buy land in areas they were not originally meant to settle in such that they owned most areas in urban and the rural areas.

Seemingly concerned Swazis, who were given a platform, said there was a loophole in the country's legislation in that as much as it allegedly did not allow foreigners to purchase land, the very same foreigners were allowed if they did so using registered companies.

Some Asian nationals were said to be allegedly registering their companies using indigenous Swazi names such that one may easily assume it was a locally owned company.

Over and above that, borderline xenophobic statements were made against Asian nationals without any checks and balances such as accusations that treated their employees badly and restricted tenants in their rental spaces.

Trump's order has degree of dictatorship – Marwick

A Member of Parliament (MP), who called for a ban on Asians entering Swaziland last July, has labelled United States of America (USA) President Donald Trump's executive order banning immigrants from some selected country where the predominant religion is Islam, as dictatorship.

Swaziland was last year thrown in turmoil after MPs called for a ban on Asians entering the country to be issued and a probe instituted where accusations and allegations about their conduct in the country were made.

Responding to how he viewed Trump's executive order, Lobamba Lomdzala MP said, "We always assumed that Americans had checks and balances. I never thought they could be abused in this manner," adding how he never thought such would happen in America which he termed the leader of the free world.

"But looking at the order, America was built on immigrants. The original Americans were the Red Indians. It is now amazing to note there could be people who are closed out. Based on what?" he said.

He stated that the executive order had hypocrisy and had a certain degree of dictatorship.

On the other hand, supporter of the motion Lobamba MP Michael Masilela, highlighted that the issue was not really about religion as it was widely believed. Khumalo was supported by Masilela during his call to ban Asians coming into the country.

"Looking at this whole thing, it is not necessarily about religion. Maybe it is attitude and long standing history of Americans and those countries," he assumed.

"Trump should have first tightened the screws on vetting mechanisms because the Americans know their own allies and thereafter should have the different nationalities vetted first before they can say anything about religion because if they tag the religion on a person, it will be easy to denounce it for the sake of comfort," he said.

Masilela said the ban will not work, "In the long run, it will be difficult to win the battle as he was supposed to call the affected countries or people to dialogue and outline the threats that are perceived."



Lobamba Lomdzala MP Marwick Khumalo.

Educate Swazis on business –Asian businessmen

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

Lack of business management skills among Swazi entrepreneurs have been cited as the reason for their failure.

This was the feeling shared by most of the Asian businessmen who operate retail outlets in the town centres.

A number of retail outlets in the major towns were visited and the shop owners spared their time to share their views.

Share

During the interview, the businessmen were asked to share their secret to success in business and give their opinions on what caused Swazi owned businesses to fail. They were also asked to state the challenges facing their businesses.

A number of responses were provided by the businessmen when asked to voice their opinions on what fails businesses in the country.

Raju Patel, who owns a supermarket, said in his seven years of doing business in the country, he

has observed that most Swazi business people do not look after their businesses. Some use business finances for personal use. "They drink alcoholic beverages with profit and soon run out of stock," he said. He also added that they lack business management skills "They are lazy, don't work hard and don't have proper business education," he added. He undertook a business management course in India.

Discipline

Another factor highlighted by Patel was that of lack of discipline on the part of business owners as they do not live according to their standards. When asked the challenges faced by his business, he complained of high taxes and rent, stating that landlords raised it every year and there was no room for negotiations.

Zahoor Ranjha (28), who owns a shop that specialises on electronics, said the ideology of business accounted for the failure in local businesses. He stated that they want to make huge profits on one item which makes them expensive, result-

ing in slow turnover.

"We put small mark-up on the items hence our prices tend to be cheaper and move fast," he said. He stated that this resulted in the business having a higher rate of turnover and subsequently more profit compared to his competitors who did not use the turnover model.

Ranjha added that locals were poor in connecting with other business people outside the country.

Negotiate

"You people have little connections with other people outside Swaziland yet you import stock," he said. This makes it hard for local business people to negotiate and get stock at lower prices than Asian nationals. Lastly, Ranjha stated he observed that Swazis do not help each other to grow in business instead they see them as competitors. "For us it is different as we do not like to see our countrymen suffering but see them as a brother," he said, citing an instance where one fellow had his business closed due to outstanding rent but they

bailed him out and he is now back in business.

In the Swazi owned shops that were visited, competition and lack of support were cited as reasons for failure in business.

In the first outlet that specialises in agricultural inputs, the following were stated; high competition, exorbitant rent, lack of support from fellow Swazis, and lack of cooperation among fellow business people.

Deprive

"The lack of cooperation between us as business people in the same industry deprives us trade discount," said the shop owner.

In the second outlet, which is a restaurant, lack of support from customers was also raised as emanating from bad mouthing or reputation. The second reason stated was depending on the business for household and family expenses, coupled with maintaining a high standard of living. The lack of the culture of saving was also said to be missing on the part of the business owners.

TEATQ group welcomes King's speech on education

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

Good news for education sector as His Majesty calls for qualified teachers in schools. The King made the call during the official opening of the Fourth Session of the 10th Parliament on Friday.

The King stated that government would continue to support Free Primary Education (FPE) through ensuring that schools have qualified teachers, among other provisions. Upon learning of this call, degree teachers run-

ning a campaign named 'To each according to qualification' (TEATQ) anticipate good news.

The TEATQ campaign consists mainly of teachers who hold degrees in Bachelor of Education and Humanities, as well as other equivalent certification but employed on contract basis. The members also include holders of degree qualifications who are pursuing their Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE/PGDE).

These teachers are allegedly not remunerated as per their qualification, but

according to the posts they hold.

Through the voice of their Secretary Mxolisi Motsa, the group urged government to act upon the King's call not only by making sure that there are qualified teachers in schools, but by also making their working conditions better to keep their morale high. He said they welcomed the King's speech as it is on point.

On the aspect of qualified teachers, he said they were hoping the government would take action as that is not what is happening in schools. "These

teachers are not motivated as they are not remunerated accordingly," he said.

He described the current situation faced by this group of teachers as exploitation, citing the International Labour Organisation (ILO)'s C100 - Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100) that was ratified by the country in 1981.

"We want equal pay for equal value of work; the work these teachers do is equal so should be their pay," he said.

Probed on what channels they had followed in as far as reporting their concerns to the appropriate authorities, Motsa stated they had explored various avenues that have failed to

push government to address their concerns.

"We have presented our grievances to them but still nothing has changed," claimed the secretary.

Questioned about government's prioritising Religious Education (RE) in schools, Motsa stated that only addressed their plight partially as only a few teachers stand to benefit from it yet they want their employer to engage all of them.

He said their campaign will not stop until their voice is heard and their issues fully addressed by the concerned parties.



Some of the first 1 000 aspiring warders who left the examination room perplexed after finding the questions difficult at SCOT yesterday. Some stated how they couldn't respond to most questions as they were out of their knowledge zone. (Pics: Thembeke Dlamini)



Pushing and shoving started before 9am and delayed the examination as they had to be reordered, resulting in the entrance tests ending before noon instead of 10am.

SCORES LEAVE CORRECTIONAL ENTRANCE EXAM DEJECTED

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

“Only those who had the questions prior to entering the examination room will pass this entrance test,” a medical doctor said as she left Swaziland College of Technology (SCOT) premises yesterday morning.

She admitted to have had a tough time with the questions posed by His Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS) examiners.

“I didn't want to make a fool of myself and left all those questions blank,” she said, adding how in her several years of academic learning, it was the first test she felt she would fail so dismally.

Several degree holders stated how they felt the questions were seriously meant to ridicule them. “How are we supposed to know the prime minister of Australia? Swaziland does not even have any relations with that country save for some people going to school there so how are we supposed to know them?” an infuriated aspiring warder said.

Most professionals admitted to

have received calls from senior Correctional officers to bring their applications, “I don't understand why they called us to then embarrass us like this? Please don't take pictures of us, our employers won't take kindly to us coming here and we might get victimised and yet we might fail on the strength of those questions.”

The first group of aspiring recruits left the examination halls a dejected lot as their faces told their dismal prospects of succeeding.

Completed

“Please don't even ask me about what I have just been through. I can't even describe it,” Wandile Dlamini said. He was part of the first 1 000 who completed the examination just after 8:30.

“We are not yet warders but are expected to know the new and old styles of drilling? They must be joking,” another aspiring warder said.

By 9am, some people stated they had been sent samples of the questions by their peers who had entered the examination room earlier.

“Let's get the meanings of the acronyms UNICEF, UNESCO, ICPSA and ACSA.

Someone else should Google about Vulamasango changing names and the name of the principal there,” a huddled group was overheard as they frantically searched for answers.

Hands were used to note names of the Australian and British prime ministers while the question on common gangs found in Swaziland and South Africa seemed to boggle most minds.

Most people said they only knew responses to the questions on the number of African Union states which is 55, United Kingdom Prime Minister Theresa May as well as some reasons for rehabilitation where five were sought. There was raging debate concerning the last day United States President Barack Obama was in office. When questioned about measures in place to prevent cheating, officers on site said they tried to tell those who have written the examination to leave without communicating with their peers but they had no real control. “Look, they were told to leave their cellular phones but that fell on deaf ears,” he said as he pointed at people who were busy on their cellular phones a few metres from the entrance.

Near stampede delays examination

With over 3 000 aspiring warders, the Mbabane examinations could have been completed by 10am due to the fact that the writing halls could hold over 1 000 people at a go.

There were seven halls for writing and the first group started trickling out at 8:30 as they were given 30 minutes to com-

plete the paper. However, unruly aspiring warders started pushing and shoving resulting in Correctional Services employees having to re-order the way they entered the examination rooms.

The first sign of disorder was when the females started screaming and advancing forward as there seemed to be some shoving by a single individual.

Thereafter, entrance into the examination halls was temporarily halted as proper queues were made, resulting in order restored.

Uncompromising

This took time as uncompromising warder wannabes had to be physically pushed back as they were reluctant to move back in an orderly fashion.



Those leaving the exam room initially had a tough time as the entrance was clogged with people who wanted to get the examination over and done with.

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Some aspiring warders studying some of the bogus questions which circulated on social media.

Bogus cheat notes studied until the last minute

Despite several announcements by His Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS) calling for aspiring warders to ignore questions circulating on social media forums, several people were noted studying them in preparation for the entrance examination.

Armed with notebooks of questions and answers, aspiring warders huddled in groups and tried to memorise some of the purported responses. Scores carried A4 and A5 notebooks with several pages of written notes while others studied the responses on WhatsApp pages.

One person was noted studying about the African Union, SADC and the reasons behind African countries leaving the International Criminal Court.

Some of the bogus questions and answers circulated during the week include:

1. Who is in charge of Correctional Services? its Commissioner General Isaiah Mzuthini Ntshangase
2. What does the initials stands (sic) for HMCS. His Majesty's Correctional Services
3. Who is PRO of Correctional Services. Senior Assistant Commissioner Bongani Khumalo
4. When was the Prison name changed to Correctional? It was in 1995 during a pass-out ceremony.
5. Who is ex-Commissioner of Correctional? Mr Mnguni Simelane
6. When did Ntshangase assume the role of leadership within the correctional set up? 2009
7. Why do you want to be a Correctional officer? To ensure offenders a properly rehabilitated and integrated. *Lenake* you can add more

8. List all Correctional centre. Matsapha Correctional centre. Manzini Remand centre. Nhlanguano Correctional centre. Big bend correctional centre. Mankayane Correctional centre. Juvenile Industrial School Malkerns young persons correctional Criminal Asylum Pigg's Peak Correctional Mbabane Correctional Mawelawela Womens Correctional In all there are 12 but can be 13 when including the college
9. Who is the Attorney General? Majahenkhaba Dlamini
10. Who is the Justice Minister? Honourable Mr Edgar Hillary
11. Who is the former Minister of Justice? Mr Sibusiso Shongwe
12. What is the co-function of Correctional services? It is mainly rehabilitation and integration of offenders so to come out and be helpful to community development.
13. What can you say about Donald Trump? He is awaiting to be sworn in as American President after he ousted in elections Barack Obama (sic)
14. When was the SADC summit held? (year and month). It was held in Swaziland last year 2016 in August
15. Who is the current Chairman of Sadac (sic)? His Majesty King Mswati III
16. He took that leadership from who? From Botswana President Sir Seretse Khama.



This snaking queue doubled around the building and an additional 300 metres in corridors led to one of the examination rooms as 3 000 aspiring warders waited their turn.

Scores of media practitioners take part in examinations

Several media practitioners from four media houses took part in the examinations which took place at SCOT yesterday.

"We are here to try our luck. After all, we are lowly paid and do not really have job security as we are at the mercy of managers who shift goal posts to suit their day to day moods,"

one journalist said.

Assigned

He admitted to have been 'conveniently' assigned to cover the recruitment and after doing his duties, joined the line nearest to the front in preparation for the examination.

"I love my job but when I think of my pay cheque, the

love sobers me up and I see I have to try something else," another camera branding journalist said.

Of note is that the media practitioners comprised of workers from departments within the different newsrooms from drivers to those at management level.

The real exam: Would you have passed it?

Aspiring warders were given 30 minutes to respond to the following questions, which carry 50 marks:

1. His Majesty's Correctional Services held a double celebration on 17th, June 2016. A new style of drilling was introduced
 - a. Name this style (2)
 - b. Name the previous style of drill (2)
2. Give five reasons why rehabilitation of inmates is important in Correctional Services (10)
3. When Mr Edgar Hillary was the Commissioner of Prisons, who was his deputy (2)
4. The latest scenario that happened in one of the prisons in Brazil which resulted in the death of prisoners, was a result of? (1)
5. Prisons unrest and riots are usually a result of prison gangs.

Name three prison gangs that are common in South African prisons and Swaziland. (3)

6. When was the current Commissioner General Mr. I. M Ntshangase elevated from Commissioner to Commissioner General (2)

7. The department has a school called Vulamasango. When this facility was renamed by His Majesty the King (sic)? (2)

8. Who is the principal of the school?(2)

9. The commissioner general of His Majesty's Correctional Services just returned from Texas USA on 28th January 2016, from attending a conference. Name the conference he was attending. (2)

10. What do the following acronyms stand for?

a. UNICEF(2)

b. UNESCO(2)

c. SACRO(2)

d. ACSA(2)

e. ACPA(2)

11. When was the last day of office for the former President of the United States of America Mr Barack Obama? (2)

12. Who is the current prime minister of the United Kingdom?(2)

13. Who is the current prime minister of Australia? (2)

14. How many countries form part of the African Union? (2)

15. Give two major dams in Swaziland which were affected by the recent drought? (2)

16. The Democratic Republic of Congo is currently facing a political conflict involving President Kabila. What is the main cause of this conflict? (2)



EZULWINI SEWERAGE SYSTEM PROJECT MEETING

The Swaziland Water Services Corporation hereby notifies Ezulwini Municipality Residents that the Ezulwini Sewerage System Project is now at the penultimate stage of completion. In this regard, the Corporation in partnership with Ezulwini Municipality, invites all Ezulwini residents to a project progress meeting.

Date: Tuesday, 7 February 2017

Venue: Swaziland Water Services Corporation Auditorium

Time: 17:00hrs

AGENDA

1. Update on Ezulwini Sewerage System
2. House Connections to the sewer system

Please direct any queries and or requests for clarification to public_affairs@swsc.co.sz/ 2416 9000.

Announcement by:
Public Affairs Department

KING WELL PLACED TO SPREAD SPIRIT OF PEACE IN AFRICA - MGWAGWA

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Minister of Foreign affairs Mgwagwa Gamedze commended His Majesty King Mswati III's call for dialogue to discuss national issues and said this was also needed on the continent.

His Majesty reiterated the need for dialogue during the opening of the fourth session of the 10th Parliament on Friday when he stated how the country continued to pride itself in preserving a culture of dialogue to discuss national issues.

Even though the King was speaking of the *Sibaya*, People's Parliament which took place last year, the minister said seeing as His Majesty was a peaceful leader, his beliefs would naturally spill over into his various positions within the continent and hopefully influence those he comes in contact with to embrace peace at all times. He went on to state how the country had made great strides in several areas of the development with the support of international friends and partners. He continued, "We thank you all for your invaluable contributions. Please kindly pass our sincere appreciation to your respective governments and organisation." He highlighted the country believed strongly that it was critical for the global community to live in coexistence with each other, in order to realise sustainable development.

"It is equally essential that as nations of the world there should be respect for each other, irrespective of our economic powers and size of our countries. We com-



Minister of Foreign Affairs Mgwagwa Gamedze.

mend the United Nations for its continued efforts towards attending to the suffering of humankind. The efforts of the African Union in playing an active role in addressing some of the conflicts that we see on our beloved continent, also deserve to be encouraged."

Calling for an end to war and conflict, he said, "We do not need these wars and conflicts because they negatively affect our objectives as enshrined in our continental developmental agenda 2063. What we need in Africa is to concentrate all our energies to economic growth in order to create jobs, fight diseases and poverty to name but a few."

He urged those involved in conflict around the globe to engage meaningfully and truthfully to finding a lasting solution to their differences using dialogue.

Highlighting His Majesty's speech, Gamedze said there was need for peaceful resolutions of conflicts which are in various African countries.

"With His Majesty as Chairman of SADC (Southern African Development Community) he is in the right place to influence the spirit of peace within areas which are volatile not only in southern Africa but the whole continent as he also holds the position of being deputy chairman of the AU," he said.

He said with the King's track record of brokering peace using peaceful means such as dialogue will assist in the bigger stage of the African where he joins three other deputies who make a committee known as the AU Bureau.

The other three deputies are; President of Chad Idriss Deby, Algeria President Abdelaziz Bouteflika and Uganda Yoweri Museveni. The four heads of state are deputies to the Chairman, President Alpha Conde of Guinea.

"In this stage, His Majesty could be called upon to intervene in conflict areas as far as the Maghreb in Libya or in Central Africa the Democratic Republic of Congo, West Africa such as Mali or Somalia in the East where there are repeated threats of terrorism. The scope of his talents are not just limited to Southern Africa," Gamedze said. He explained that there were worrying areas which will need urgent attention where he will be called to intervene. "In all instances, we will make sure that the country's flag, which is synonymous to peace, is always flown sky high," he said.

Champion special education needs

Education Portfolio Committee Chairperson in Senate, Senator Ndimiso Mdluli lauded the call by His Majesty that government must invest in special needs education.

Echoing the King's directive to the ministry of education during the opening of Parliament, Mdluli said it was time that the country was equitable in dissemination of education as there was need to bring special needs education to the same level as mainstream. He said it was pertinent to have an educated population across the board as this enabled the disabled to become earners in society instead of being dependants of state mechanisms.

Disabilities

"The introduction of Free Primary Education saw every child entering school except those with disabilities. I hope the ministry and all stakeholders will champion for the plight of those with learning disabilities to enable them to become economic players.

When you look at the western world, children with disabilities who were afforded education are over-achievers and have made a huge difference in their country's lives. Some have come up with inventions and solutions to modern science. What is to stop a young Swazi who has been nurtured to come up with something life changing," he asked.

Concerning the continuation of FPE, he lauded the initiative saying it would take the country to first

world status with an educated nation.

In his speech, His Majesty said, "Government will continue to support the Free Primary Education programme through the provision of school grants, free teaching and learning materials, infrastructure and nutritious meals for learners and qualified teachers. Government will also invest in the education and welfare of marginalised or special needs and orphaned and vulnerable children.

Economy

The global economy is changing rapidly and as new technologies are being introduced, government is going to continue to strengthen technical vocational education and training programmes. This will facilitate the acquisition of skills needed by the country to transform to a first world status.

The Kingdom of eSwatini has long played the important role of serving the educational needs of the SADC region.

This task has once again been placed at our doorstep. Government alone cannot successfully deliver the SADC University of Innovation and Technology.

It requires highly educated facilitators that have the competency to produce highly skilled labour and provide solutions that transform economies. We appeal to all citizens, companies and friends of the kingdom, to come together to lend a hand towards making this project a reality."

GOOD FOOD FOR JOE PUBLIC

The ordinary members of the public were served ordinary food which was however tasty.

This was stated by some senators who had sampled the food given to support staff and was served from the Parliament's kitchen.

Police, soldiers, nurses and medical emergency staff and correctional services personnel as well as journalists on duty were served a grilled quarter chicken, a hearty helping of either boiled or stewed beef on rice or samp and beans. They were also served a choice

of two salads between creamy spinach, pumpkin mash, coleslaw and beetroot.

Coordinating the serving of the food was Portia who saw to it that over 500 people were served before 2pm. Empty forma-packs were noted after the lunch.

On the other hand complaints were noted from the marquee where senators and members of Parliament complained about their food being tasteless and unimaginative.

"You might find that we are paying E400 a plate for this well displayed but

tasteless food," senators who preferred to speak anonymously said. They stated that there should have been variety served to them instead of the 'square' meal. "I bet the boiled beef came from the Parliament kitchen as it was really tasty," they said while directing attention to plates laden with food being taken away from the next table as people had not eaten much. On the other hand, several people noted carrying food when they arrived in Parliament as they said they expected to eat late.

However, by 1pm, people were making their way to eat as speeches within Parliament had ended.

Ngoma shocked that Sands is so young

Deputy Senate President Ngomuyayona Gamedze was shocked to find out that Sandziso Matsebula, who is better known as Sands was a diminutive young man.

He met him for the first time before the opening of Parliament on Friday.

"Who could this be," Gamedze asked when he was introduced to the *Tigi* hit singer and was shocked to hear he was the artist behind the song making waves in the country.

"Hawu yewena kantsi umncane

kangaka (You are so young)? Are you really the one who keeps my children dancing to the song that goes 'tigigigi'? Great song young man, you have done really well," Gamedze said.

Sands went on to perform superbly before Their Majesties and the nation giving his usually heartfelt rendition of *Vuma* and *Tigi*.

Despite not having much for back-up singers, his pianist, Musawenkhozi Dlamini compensated during the rendition of *Vuma*.

TAIWAN EMBASSY HOSTS NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

● *Termed the Year of the Rooster which follows the Year of the Monkey*

BY MLONDI MPANZA

For many, the year is already two months old whilst for the Taiwanese community today is only the eighth day of the year and celebrations are still ongoing.

This is because this community bases their year on the lunar calendar instead of the solar calendar used by many.

Yesterday, the Taiwanese community in the country celebrated their new year at the Taiwan Embassy in Mbabane where they were addressed by the Ambassador to Swaziland Thomas Chen who welcomed them and wished them a bright new year. As means of celebrating the New



His Excellency, the Taiwan Ambassador to Swaziland Thomas Chen posing with Taiwanese community leaders after the new year celebrations yesterday that were held at the Taiwan Embassy in Mbabane. (Pic: Mlonzi Mpanza)

Year, the community had lunch together at the embassy where the ambas-

sador also gave lucky money to young children.

During the celebrations, the ambassador passed His Majesty King Mswati III's regards to the community after Chen had spent the first day of the Chinese New Year with the King a week ago during the national prayer that was held at Mandvulo Hall.

Chen told those present that the king had expressed his happiness of having the national prayer on a special day in the lunar New Year.

He explained that he meant to join the Taiwanese community last Saturday when they celebrated the new year but couldn't after getting an invitation to the national prayer by the king.

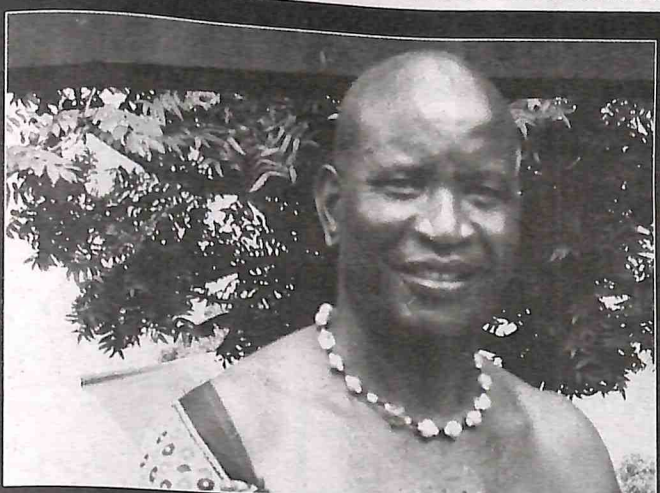
When addressing this reporter about the celebrations, the ambassador explained that the Taiwanese people were lucky ones in that they celebrated the year twice in a row, referring to both the solar and lunar years which begin at different intervals.

Chen said this day varied with each year and this year it happened to fall on January, 28, 2017 and this year was termed as 'Year of the Rooster'.

The year of the rooster which stands for brightness and trustworthy.

The reason behind this expression was because the Year was promising to be a fruitful and successful one and traditionally, they celebrated the New Year for 15 days hence celebrations were still ongoing although they had already returned back to work despite being on holiday mode.

The ambassador explained that contrary to the solar year that has 365 days, theirs had 354 days with the first day varying hence it came on a different date than that of the solar calendar but its normally anywhere between late January and Early February of each year.



Senator Ndumiso Mdluli.



Former Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Khoza's wife, Poppy.

POPPY REMEMBERS FORMER DPM ARTHUR KHOZA

Attending the opening of Parliament brings about feelings of nostalgia for the late former Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Khoza's wife, Poppy.

Looking ageless as she set foot at the Parliamentary building this past Friday, in time to witness the opening of the Fourth Session of the 10th parliament, Khoza said she attended the yearly event in

order to honour her late husband. "I attend the event to honour his legacy," she said, adding how she also loved to note the progress the country has made.

In years past, she attended the yearly event first as a minister's wife. She later attended as a deputy prime minister's wife.

"Life goes on and the country looks geared to embrace a better future to 2022," she said of her

'Just look at me, see that Christ is in control'

Not being one to shy away from interviews during the height of his tenure as minister of justice, Senator Sibusiso Shongwe avoided all reporters during the opening of Parliament on Friday; he paused momentarily and gave a sentence before leav-

ing. "Just look at me and see that Christ is in control, he said, before moving away. Quoting biblical scripture has been his only response each time he speaks ever since he was fired from his position, following his defiance to seek counsel from his political superiors.



The Taiwan Medical Mission were also part of the festivities yesterday.

Further, this day is definitely one every child always look forward to because they are presented with cash in red envelopes which signifies luck and happiness in the eyes of the Taiwanese people. The presentation is normally done by the most senior member of the family and in this regard it was done by the ambassador himself, who also pointed out that the money was

meant to wish the children a happy new year. In turn, the kids are not expected to spend the money, especially on the first day, as they are expected to put it under their pillows when they go to bed and then the money would bring them luck for the New Year. "The kids are encouraged not to spend the money but save it for a rainy day," shared Chen.

ARE MINISTERS BULLIES?

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

The lack of a ministerial code of conduct has seen incoming ministers asserting their positions by bullying their way through situations in a manner belittling their positions as servants of the nation.

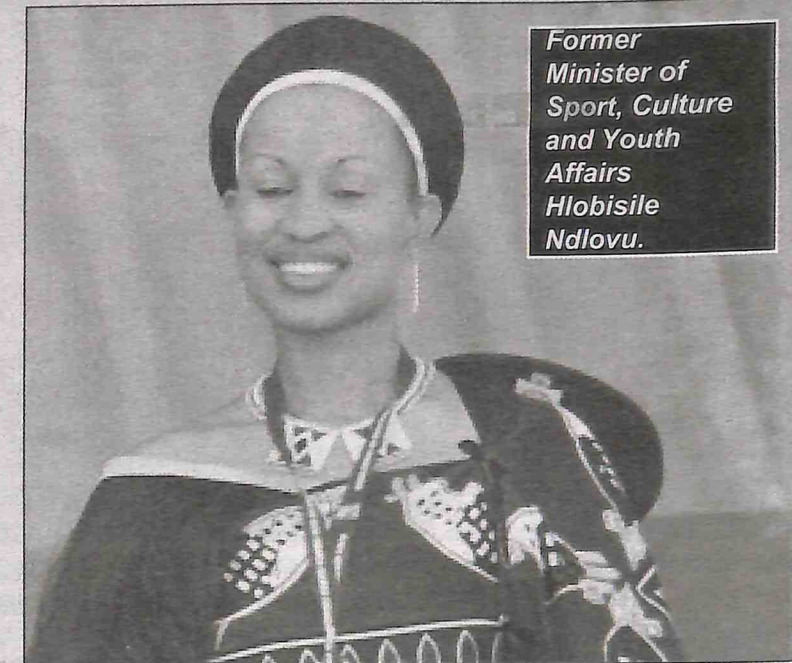
This past week, former Minister of Sport, Culture and Youth Affairs Hlobisile Ndlovu appeared in the Industrial Court in the long dragging case stemming from an altercation which happened less than six months after she was sworn minister of the crown in 2008. Ndlovu was minister of the crown during the Ninth Parliament and served as the only deputy minister during the Eighth Parliament.

She was called in as witness in the case between Seth Nkambule and Swaziland Building Society. Nkambule was employed as Assistant Branch Controller at the Manzini Branch until his services were terminated on July 2009 following his 'failure to follow fair and reasonable instructions of the employer wherein' he was charged with 'poor judgement and insensitivity in handling a high profile member of society, in the process tarnishing the reputation of the organisation.'

He was said to have declined to have the then minister withdraw E3 500 from her account without her pass-book which was used to record transactions. She had initially submitted a voucher without a signature when she sent her personal assistant to withdraw money on her behalf and later went to the bank where she complained about Nkambule's reluctance to permit the withdrawal.

It is now history that the ensuing tantrum thrown by Ndlovu resulted in Nkambule being fired as she not only approached the bank's managers, but withdrew her account from the institution where she said she had hoped to seek assistance to buy a house.

With the present Cabinet, the Minister of Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) Dumisani Ndlangamandla, was nabbed for driving a government vehicle without authority by Government Chief Vehicle Inspector Bhantshana Gwebu while



Former Minister of Sport, Culture and Youth Affairs Hlobisile Ndlovu.

at the inter-ministerial building, less than three months after taking office.

This occurrence was captured by the Sunday Observer on December 14, 2013 where the reporter noted how Gwebu was uncompromising where as the minister stated he was not aware of the crime he had committed as his driver was off as it was during the weekend and he was enroute to a meeting.

The week following the incident saw the minister approaching Swazi Observer management as well as police officers where he complained about the police who were present as well as the reporter who took pictures of him.

The same minister was to later state that the United States of America was using AGOA to bully Swaziland during his tour of the MTN headquarters, christened Mahlahlekhuwini House, in Ezulwini on May 26, 2014.

This was six months into his tenure as minister. Having said this at a conference where there were MTN staffers and members of the media, he was to later go on a tirade and attack the industry during his tour of the Swaziland Broadcasting and Information Services. His tirade followed several opinion pieces by editors calling his utterances to order. Later on, the Minister of Health, Sibongile Ndlela-Simelane hogged the headlines after threatening then Swazi Observer journalist

Sibongile Sukati as reported in February 12, 2015.

The minister sent the journalist a message which read, "I'm going to teach you a lesson." The bone of contention stemmed from Sukati's article about the minister's chauffeur who at that time feared he could lose two of his fingers after he was injured at the minister's homestead in Thembelihle.

According to the report by Sukati, Mathabela was injured by a lawnmower blade as he tried to fix some parts of the machine which were stuck under it. Despite the story on the threat appearing in the paper, the minister was relentless as she again sent the journalist another message, resulting in Sukati reporting the matter at the Mbabane Police Station. The second message read, "This lesson is coming soon," and was sent in the early morning hours of the day the article of the first threat came out.

Asked about the stage of the code of conduct which was promised by the prime minister, Government Spokesperson Percy Simelane said the drafting thereof was as yet completed.

He said in its absence, minister's conduct was governed by the dictates of common law and the oath they took when they assumed their duties to serve country and His Majesty King Mswati III.

I have matured politically - Minister Ndlangamandla

Approached about his several mishaps during the infancy of his political career, Minister Dumisani Ndlangamandla said he felt he had matured politically and could face any challenge without being controversial.

He, however, denied that his actions could have been constituted as bullying as he was never really off the mark. "When you looked at some of the things I said, you can't really say I was putting my foot in the

mouth," he said with a chuckle, adding his enthusiasm to get work done was misunderstood.

He said the time he was nabbed by the now retired Government Chief Vehicle Inspector Bhantshana Gwebu, he was on his way to broker peace between MTN Swaziland and Swaziland Post and Telecommunications Corporation (SPTC). He intimated that his ends defied the means in any case as, "Have you heard of any bad blood between

the two entities ever since I brought them together? So you have to understand that on the day when Gwebu pounced on me, I was pressed for time and needed to get to the meeting timeously." He said the meeting started at 10am and it was already past 9am when he was rudely disturbed. He laughed off his AGOA rants and said history would prove him right, without stating exactly which of his statements would be proven right.

Ungangikhulumisi indzaba lengekho- Ndlela-Simelane

Efforts to ascertain whether the Minister of Health, Sibongile Ndlela-Simelane, was of the view that maturity in politics took time, hit a snag yesterday morning.

When she was called, she was first asked about whether her altercation

with journalist Sibongile Sukati was sorted and she was informed this question was base for another, she responded, "Angiyati kuyindzaba lentfo lokhuluma ngayo (I am not aware of there being an issue)."

Immediately thereafter, she asked for

the next question as she was at home and had things to do. Before the question could be asked, she said, "Don't talk to me about non-issues," in an angry tone before this reporter apologised for disturbing her and discontinued the call.



Former UNHCR Country Representative in Swaziland Neimah Warsame meeting His Majesty as introduced by Indian Consular to Swaziland Mona Ashraff. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

Ugandan Consular Tobias Kamungisha was also among the diplomats who came through to congratulate the King on his speech.



Diplomats, guests and judges following proceedings during the state opening of the Fourth Session of the 10th Parliament by His Majesty King Mswati III on Friday.

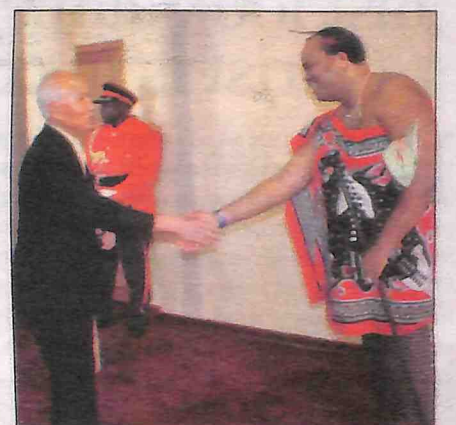
KING MEETS DIPLOMATS



Professor Thomas Frans Whelpton and Dr Adele van Schalkwayk in a conversation with the King. Professor Whelpton edited the Swazi Law and Custom book, which is due to be delivered to the King.



SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax was also among the guests who met the King on the special day. RIGHT - European Union Ambassador to Swaziland Nicola Bellomo sharing a light moment with His Majesty as he congratulated him on the speech.



UNICEF Country Representative Rachel Odede was also introduced to the King. RIGHT - Korean Consular Dr Min meeting His Majesty.



Diplomats proceeded to join the King at the luncheon after the successful state opening.



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Basic Fire - Fighting	1 DAY	E2000 per person	10	Upon booking/confirmation
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	2 DAYS	2 = E 5600 per person		
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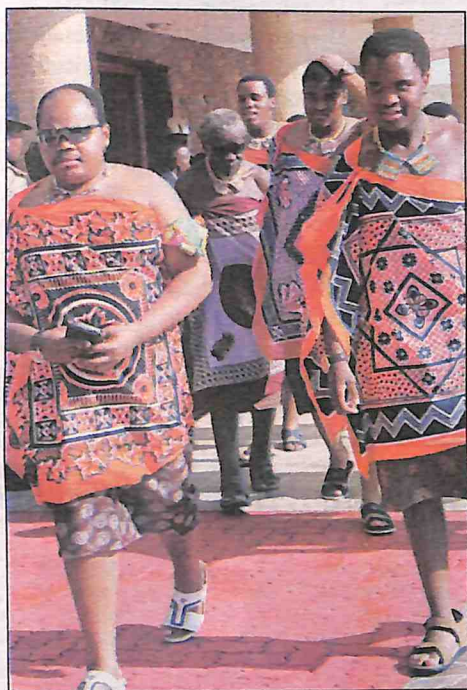

"YOUR LEADING OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY CONSULTANT"



His Majesty King Mswati III listening to speeches during the state opening of the 4th session of the 10th Parliament on Friday. RIGHT - Speaker Themba Msibi and Clerk to Parliament Ndvuna Dlamini announcing the cattle presented to the King. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



Her Majesty the Indlovukazi on arrival for the event.

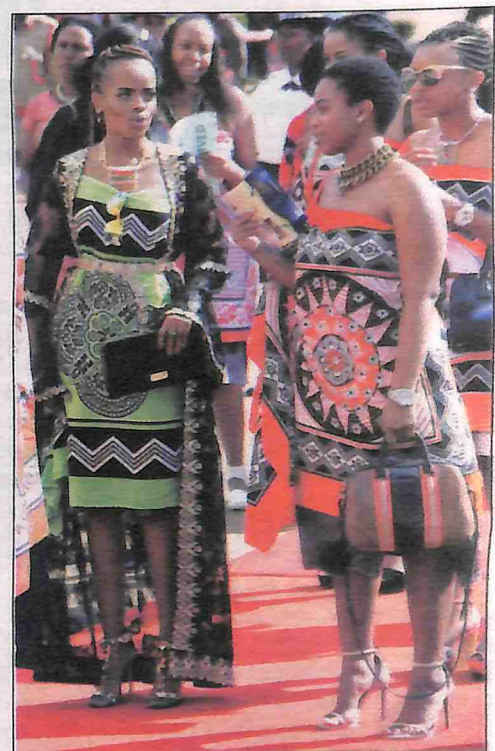


Emazinyane Sicalo and Lindani after the day's events.

MORE ON PARLY OPENING



Ministers Lindiwe Dlamini, Jabulile Mashwama and Winnie Magagula and Senators Bonsile Mngomezulu and Princesses Phumelele and Ncengcenge following proceedings.



Emazinyane Skhanyiso and Temtsimba were also present.



Legislators awaiting the arrival of Their Majesties.



Polycarp Dlamini, Chief Mawandla Gamedze, Chief Gcokoma, Dr A.T Dlamini and Justice Nxumalo were also among the guests at the event.

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OLDMUTUAL

Do great things

EMASI INSUFFICIENT SUPPLY

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

There is seemingly a shortage of supply of sour milk (*emasi*), and consumers are not pleased. Since the begin of January, consumers looking to buy a 500ml or one litre containers of *emasi* from grocery shops are being told to add money so they can buy a two litre instead.

"This is not the first time I come here and find that the 500ml is out of stock, yet I only buy it since I don't have a refrigerator," said a customer, identified as Dlamini in Matsapha.

The owner of the grocery had just told Dlamini this was a problem from the wholesaler.

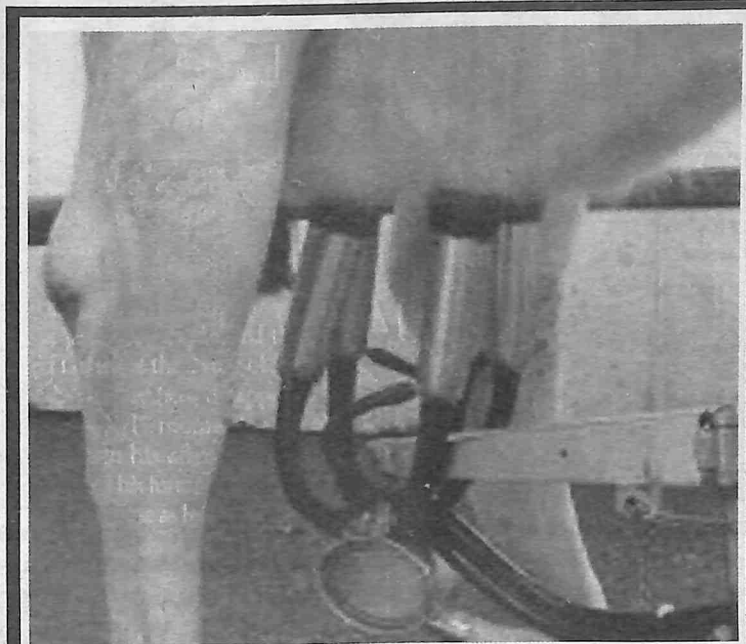
Stock

"It is not that I don't have money to stock the 500ml and the one litre *emasi*, but they are out of stock from the supplier," said Nyawo. He added this was not the first time as he did not get stock even in the previous week.

Another shop assistant selling in a grocery at Mnyokane in the Hhohho region echoed Nyawo's words as she stated they have had two litre *emasi* for the past two weeks.

"We did not find the smaller quantities when we went to stock our supplies, hence they brought the two litres," she said.

It is not only the grocery shops that



There is a short supply in the market of milk products resulting from the lower milk production in the country.

have run out of stock as supermarkets and wholesalers are not spared from the insufficient supply.

A visit to Multi-Save Supermarket in Mbabane proved the shortage as the only quantity of *emasi* found were two litre containers. The merchandiser found packing stated that they do not have the smaller quantities and this has not been in stock for the past two weeks.

The shop manager, who did not like to have his name published, stated they have not received stock from Parmalat yet the customers finished the last batch in two days time.

Speaking to Marketing Officer of Power Trade wholesalers Mlungisi Dlamini, it became evident it was not the wholesalers that failed to stock rather their suppliers. "We have limited stock

and you may find it is already finished as we speak," he said.

When asked why they had limited stock, he stated that was all they received from their supplier.

The Mbabane Market is also experiencing a similar shortage of smaller quantities of *emasi* as they too are selling the two-litre containers.

According to Gogo Nkambule, who sells indigenous *emasi*, she used to sell a litre at E10 now she only sells two litre containers at E20. When asked why she no longer sells the litre, she said one litre containers were scarce.

"We used to sell them but now we resorted to selling the two litre because their containers are readily available," she explained.

Nkambule stated this was due to the fact that people buy two litre soft drinks and dispose the containers which are then recycled for use. She also stated that another factor was the high demand of *emasi* as people fight over the limited stock, she receives on Tuesdays and Fridays.

"People grab them as soon as I display and some even place orders so that when I receive stock, I keep it for them," she said.

Martin Herbst, who is Parmalat Country Manager, admitted there was a short supply in the market resulting from the lower milk production in the

country.

"We are experiencing lower milk production in the country at the moment and expect it to start recovering in the next month or two," he said.

When asked what his company was doing to address the issue, he stated that his company was considering other options by looking for a long term solution.

"We are continuously looking at alternatives, but do not want to get short term solutions like going back to importing milk," he said.

He added they were holding out to establish a longer term solution with local producers.

Probed

Probed about having a break down in the production department which could have resulted in the company failing to supply its customers with the 500ml and one litre of *emasi*, Herbst admitted there was a technical problem that has been finally attended to.

"Yes, there have been technical issues with *emasi* production which has added to the deficit but fortunately those have since been resolved."

Attempts to get comment from the Swaziland Dairy Board proved futile as the only person who was said to be in a position to grant this publication an interview was the managing director. When called, he was reported to be in a meeting and said he would return the call. When called later on Thursday, his phone rang unanswered and the same thing happened yesterday.

Govt, EU sign extension of FPE funding

BY MLONDI MPANZA

Negotiations between the government and European Union over the extension of the funding for the Free Primary Education programme have reached fruition as an agreement has been signed.

This is according to the EU Ambassador Nicola Bellomo, who told the Sunday Observer that the extension would run over a period of 18 months.

He said this in response to questions on the progress made in the negotiations for the extension following the elapse of the then agreement on the funding of the programme.

The ambassador explained that they expected expect serious engagement and, "concrete deliverables on the development of curriculum and our support to education is not limited to the grants. If we do not see progress, we will consider corrective measures."

Session

During the official opening of the Fourth Session of the 10th Parliament on Friday, His Majesty King Mswati III also spoke about the FPE programme which he said the government would continue to support through the provision of school grants, free teaching and learning materials, infrastructure and nutritious meals for learners and qualified teachers.

"Government will also invest in the education and welfare of marginalised or special needs and orphaned and vulnerable children. The global economy is changing rapidly and as new technologies are being introduced, government is going to continue to strengthen technical vocational education and training programmes," said His Majesty.

Adding, he explained this would facilitate the acquisition of skills needed by the country to transform to a first world status.

Prior to the signing of the agreement, our sister

publication, the Swazi Observer daily reported that the EU had put up a condition for the extension which was to the effect that the ministry of education comes up with a work plan before January 20, 2017. The EU was also concerned with some of the policies that relate to EU funded programmes which have since been addressed evident in the agreement. Not only is the EU interested in the access of education but it should be of great quality, as well as an assertions they have always been making that the government should come up with an exit strategy when the agreement finally ends.

In an interview with this newspaper in October, he stated that the funding was supposed to end in 2015 but they extended it until October 2016 after which yet another agreement has been reached by the EU and government.

The reason for the extension last year was the fact that there were excess funds, as well as because the EU considers education a pre-condition for development, thus being one of their priorities. Worth noting is that since the introduction of the FPE programme, the EU has been supporting the government through the funding.

Meanwhile, the FPE programme came in place in 2010 where over 40 000 learners enrolled in Grade One and the programme came about after it was discovered that the access to formal education was

handicapped by several barriers such as poverty, hunger and poor progression of children in the system.

The ministry has noted a high repetition and dropout rate in the school system with low enrolments because children could not afford to pay for their school fees and buy learning material while their homes have no food to feed them before and after school.



EU Ambassador Nicola Bellomo.

Displaying photos of shoplifters wrong

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

The police have once again warned that supermarkets should not be displaying photos of shoplifters as it is illegal and defamatory.

Despite that the police have continually warned against this, supermarkets still have photos of alleged shoplifters displayed on their walls. Many of these have been on display for years.

Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba, said despite that shoplifting was on the rise, this did not make it right. Over the past months, supermarkets have reported an increase in shoplifting, and many of them choose to then display the alleged offenders to discourage the crime.

"This is very wrong. We have repeatedly warned and invited them to call the police and not take the law into their own hands," he said. Mamba said there was no law allowing shop owners to display the offenders' photos.

Shoplifters

"This is defaming the character of the person and their relatives as some of these people may be dead by now," he added.

Mamba also warned shop owners against keeping the shoplifters in their storerooms for a long time before calling the police as this was another form of abuse. "The same goes for those who make them pay double the price of the stolen goods; it is illegal as they must just call the police," Mamba added. Human rights lawyer Mandla Mkhwanazi, who has also previously criticised parading alleged shoplifters on a TV screen viewed by the public, said this was violation of their right, and was degrading and inhumane. "This is violation of human rights and degrading dignity of the individual," he said.

He stated that if a person has committed a crime, he/she should be arrested and dealt with the courts not displayed on screens. When asked what action can be taken by a victim of such, Mkhwanazi advised they should seek legal assistance.

Shoplifters caught stealing at some branches of Pick n Pay and Spar supermarkets are not only arrested but also photographed, with their pictures then displayed by the shop entrance on



Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba.

screen and on notice board, respectively. Once an alleged shoplifter has been caught stealing, he/she is then forced to pose for cameras holding the stolen items. This photo is kept by the shop and will be posted on the wall, which may be on notice board or on screen, usually mounted by the entrance.

The shoplifter is then reported to the police. The person is then charged or sentenced accordingly. Two supermarkets have been noted to practice such 'security measure' Pick n Pay at Mahhala and Mbabane branch and EThekweni Spar in Manzini. At Pick n Pay the photos are displayed on screen while at Spar they are posted on the notice board. Spar Media Relations Officer Mlungisi Dlamini confirmed they do not display pictures of people who have not been arrested or those of minors. "We do not display photos of people who have not been reported to the police or those of children who are under age," he said.

When asked why they displayed photos of shoplifters long after the person has been arrested, Dlamini said this helped the manager to recognise the former shoplifter when they are out of Correctional Services custody since they may return to steal again. He was quick to state this was not the Spar Group policy rather the discretion of the shop manager hence not all shops practiced such.

US ALLAYS FEARS ON AGOA WITH TRUMP AS PRESIDENT

BY MLONDI MPANZA

The Embassy of the United States has allayed fears that pertain to uncertainties over the future of the negotiation of trade agreements with the US, including the African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) with Donald Trump having taken over as President.

The concerns were to the effect it was most likely that Africa would lose its negotiating power with America, inclusive of AGOA under the new president.

This was one of the concerns raised by economists in the country as reported by our sister publication, the Swazi Observer daily on November 11, 2016.

But, the Embassy through their Public Affairs Officer Joia Starks, told the Sunday Observer there was no need to panic with regards to AGOA as there remained strong bipartisan support in the US Congress for AGOA.

In fact, she said in the event the new administration wished to take any action on AGOA, Congressional action would be required.

Also, the US Congress requires the president to determine annually whether sub-Saharan African countries are eligible for AGOA benefits based on progress in meeting certain criteria, including progress toward the establishment of a market-based economy, rule of law, economic policies to reduce poverty, protection of internationally recognised worker rights, and efforts to combat corruption.

The change in presidency in America



Minister of Labour Winnie Magagula.

comes at a time when the country is working around the clock to regain its eligibility to AGOA after losing it on January 1, 2015 when the former President, Barack Obama withdrew it after failing to meet five benchmarks set as a requirement for access to the duty free markets.

Subsequent to that decision, the country lost over 17 000 jobs from the textile industry where most Swazis were employed around Matsapha and Nhlengano.

When the acting Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Social

Security Norman Gamedze, was contacted, he said the country had done all the changes required and it was only the Suppression of Terrorism Act that had to be attended to, which was now in Parliament.

He said he believed that by the time they go to Geneva for the ILO conference in June, Parliament would have passed to this act and further blessed by the King.

"It is equally important to point out that the issue of AGOA is not only being looked into by the ILO but it's done together with the US In as far

as the ministry is concerned, the amendments in the Bills are at least 90 per cent done as we await Parliament to pass them," he explained.

The five benchmarks were as follows; full passage of the amendment to the Industrial Relations Act allowing for the registration of trade union and employer federations, amendment to the suppression of Terrorism Act and amendments to the Public Order Act allowing for the full recognition of the freedom of assembly, speech and organisation.

The country was also required to amend Sections 40 and 97 of the Industrial Relations Act and dissemination and implementation of the Code of Good Practice on Protest and industrial action.

Since losing the eligibility, the country has done great strides in implementing the changes in all four benchmarks with only one still outstanding, being the Suppression of Terrorism Act which is at Bill stage in Parliament.

Although the action by the country has been appreciated, two deadlines for the ILO have been missed and if the Parliament does

not attend to the outstanding benchmarks until June, this would be the third year running of missing the deadline.

It is worth pointing out that

whilst the country missed the deadlines, Parliament has evidently been on sabbatical with the Minister of Labour, Winnie Magagula reported to have shed tears at some point begging the MPs to look into the Bills before heading to ILO.

In essence, the MPs have been blamed for the delay in addressing the Bills with only one being left now, but MP Jomo Dlamini said this issue called to be attended to jointly both by ministers and MPs.

He said this was because a sizeable number of the ministers were actually MPs and so it is, "their responsibility as well to motivate the issue of the Bills and not blame MPs."

Further, the embassy stated that, "The ambassador and various high-level officials have discussed at length with the Government of Swaziland about the AGOA benchmarks that need to be met. It is our hope that those discussions can now move to action with regards to amendments to the Suppression of Terrorism Act and the Public Order Bill."

Besides that, Starks added thus far they have not heard anything about President Trump's administration policy stance on AGOA because he has just taken office and were confident that once the secretary of state designate was confirmed with key positions filled, they would start to know more.

Meanwhile, the election of the new president also came with uncertainties that related to foreign aid to developing countries, which was thought to be at risk with him assuming office based on his ideology.



Army hopefuls taking instructions from one of the officers during a recruitment exercise.

Chiefs advised to choose aspiring soldiers wisely

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

...chiefs can submit older recruits, even married women

Chiefs who have been tasked with choosing aspiring army recruits have been called upon to make wise decisions in order to enable others to enter the USDF in future.

Directing wise counsel to his peers, Chief Prince Magudvulela said it will not serve the nation well for wayward people to be given the chance to become soldiers as this would then cut chiefs

out of future recruitments.

Submit

"Chiefs should not submit names of people who will embarrass us by sending individuals who are not of sound

character because the recruitment is for those who will serve the country. We have been given a privilege of identifying recruits who will serve the nation as soldiers, so the decision should be done fairly," he said.

He highlighted that the recruits chosen by chiefs would be reflective of that particular chief and the whole area from where he comes from so they would be representatives of the chiefdoms; hence there was need for vetting to be done thoroughly.

He was responding to concerns raised by certain quarters after some chiefs revealed how they were looking from within their own families.

Youngest

One chief from Manzini region said he would send his youngest brother as recruit simply because, "He has bothered me a lot and I think he needs to go and work in order to make something of himself."

On the other hand, other chiefs revealed they had heard about being part of the recruitment in the media, but were sceptical as nothing official had been said to them.

"Is this even true? I don't know anything about recommending a recruit," Chief Malandvwa said.

In response to the statements made by the chief, Umbutfo Swaziland Defence Force (USDF) Public Relations Officer Lieutenant Colonel Madoda Mkhathshwa said they were in the process of approaching chiefdoms to inform the leaders

about the recruitment.

"It is probable that most are not yet aware of the recruitment as they are yet to be visited by army senior personnel," he said adding how concentration was presently on the constituency recruitment.

"In other cases, while at the constituency; senior members visit the chiefdoms for the names of those recommended by the chiefs," Mkhathshwa said.

He added that the numbers were not yet confirmed even though the Times of Swaziland put the numbers at nearly 500. However, if the chiefs recruits and the ones from the tinkhundla centres are the only ones who will be recruited, a total of only 380 will be recruited seeing as there are about 270 chiefdoms.

According to information sourced from regional administrator's offices, there are 101 chiefs in Manzini, 36 in Lubombo, 53 in Shiselweni, as well as 80 from the Hhohho region.

On the other hand, the chiefs, at their discretion, can submit names of married women as they are not bound by regimental requirements of Imbali and Ingatja.

Names

"Chiefs can submit names of people from the older regiments such as Lutsango and Bongweni older male regiments according to the characters of people they see fit to join the army," the lieutenant colonel said.

MORE ON PARLY OPENING



Emazinyane Mavela, Benkhosi, Majaha, Lindani and Sicalo witnessed the meeting of the King with diplomats.



Princesses Phumelele, Ncengcenge and Tsandzile inside the chambers.



Prince Sicelo, Mabuyemelika Mazibuko, Maphevu Dlamini, Herbert Vilane, Prince Samketi and Gcasula pictured after the activities of the day.



Heads of security Isaiah Ntshangase, Sobantu Dlamini and Isaac Magagula listening attentively.



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 Mandla Nyaweni: Sis. B; Eng Lang. C; Maths. A; Bio. A; Science. A; Geo C	 Sizwe Simelane: Maths. B; Phys Sci. A; Bio. A; Acc. B; English. D; Econ. A	 Theminkosi Simelane (Upgrading): Maths. A; Phys Sci. A*, Bio. A	 Vuyani Gama: Sis. A; English. B; Maths. D; Bio. A; Science. B; Geo. B; RE. B;
 Bathandwa Ndzimandze: Maths. B; Bio. B; Science. A; Geo. B;	 Ingrid Mkhwanazi (Upgrading): Eng. C; Maths. A; Acc. A	 Vakele Choncho (Upgrading): Eng. A	 Fundile Mkhathshwa: Sis. C; Eng. C; Maths. B; Bio. B; Phys Sci. C; Re. C
 Nkosingiphile Dlamini (Upgrading): Maths. C; Bio. B; Phys Sci. B	 Temantfulini Mamba: Maths. A; Phys Sci. B	 Bongani Ndlela (Upgrading): Eng. C; Bio. A; Phys Sci. B	 Ernest T. Magongo Principal ready to welcome you

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Senator Ndumiso Mdluli and his wife Mavis in Parliament. RIGHT - Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala in a conversation with MP Jomo Dlamini.



Emalangenis among guests as they followed proceedings of the event.



MP Jomo Dlamini sharing a light moment with Foreign Affairs PS Joel Nhleko while protocol officer Dlamini looks on.



Guests monitoring proceedings of the event from the chambers through a screen at a marquee.



Maphevu Dlamini, Hebert Cashata Vilane, Acting PS Siboniso Nkambule and Mlungisi Shabalala were also among the guests.



Chiefs and members of different royal committees following proceedings of the ceremony.



Atsy Dlamini pictured with Princess Temtsimba.

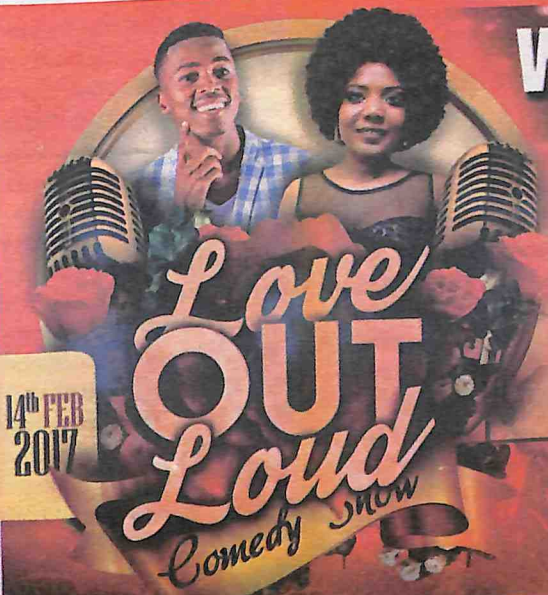


Mbabane City Council CEO Gideon Mhlongo was among the guests.



Guests following proceedings from the marquee.

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Entrance: E150 show only
 E350pp VIP Show+Dinner)
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LOVE OUT LOUD

sun
Swaziland in real time

FAMILY DISCOVERS T-SHIRT LAST WORN BY MISSING CHILD

BY MLONDI MPANZA

● *Take other children to relatives as a safety measure*

A T-shirt last worn by missing Ngabelweyinkhosi Gumedze from Mnyokane was discovered by his family within the family yard.

This was revealed by the minor's father, Makhosikhosi Gumedze during an interview on Wednesday with the Sunday Observer after he was found at his home.

The T-shirt was discovered on Tuesday morning by Makhosikhosi who promptly called the Royal Swaziland Police Service (RSP) about the discovery and they came and took the T-shirt with them for further investigations in efforts to find the child.

It is now 30 days since the minor went missing and the discovery was made 24 days later.

When asked on the state of the T-shirt, he revealed that it was rugged and a big dirty with one of the arms seeming like it had been cut by a scissor and that gave them the assumption that it could have been dug some-

where. "With regards to the latest finding, we suspect that the child could have been taken by someone from the area although we haven't figured out what the motive behind leaving it within the yard is," explained the frustrated father of the 2-year old.

Ngabelweyinkhosi disappeared on January 6, 2017 moments after waking up from his afternoon nap and had just had his lunch when he walked out of the house as he normally did to feed the dogs, however that turned out to be the last day he was seen.

The minor's father stated that they were having sleepless nights as they kept on wondering where the child could have possibly gone to or what could have happened to him.

Shortly after the child went missing, his mother was reported by this newspaper to have taken days away from her place of work, Tex Ray textile firm and up to date it was said that she had not returned to work as she continues to look for her last born baby.

"She left for her parental home a couple of days ago where they are also trying to look for the child and hasn't gone back to work since Ngabelweyinkhosi went missing," explained Makhosikhosi.

He also revealed that Ngabelweyinkhosi would be turning two years old this month, however they could not rejoice about that in light of the dark cloud they are faced with. The visibly frustrated father told this newspaper that this situation has resulted in them deciding to take the rest of the children to relatives as means to keep them safe in fear of the same fate falling upon them again. "We do not trust anyone now, neither do we want to take any risks," he added that the youngest child within their compound now was doing Form Four, otherwise the rest have had to change schools to keep them safe.

This reporter asked Makhosikhosi if their family had crossed paths with anyone from the area who could be

punishing them for that, he responded to the negative stating that they have been in the area since 1993 and had never had problems with anyone.

Once again, he emphasised that they strongly suspect someone they know was behind this and the fact that the T-shirt had no blood gave them hope that maybe he has not been mutilated, that being the worst they fear.

He also said under normal circumstances, the child used to play with other kids within the family compound, otherwise on this fateful day he went outside alone with no one taking note of him. In the meantime, he said they would continue to pray and hope something positive comes up.

On another note, Ngabelweyinkhosi is among three other minors, that have reportedly gone missing in the country over the last couple of months, the other two being a newly born, abducted from his mother at the Mbabane Government Hospital and the other one abducted in Nkwadini



Ngabelweyinkhosi Gumedze.

Zone 2. The newly born was abducted at the hospital where her mother had gone for check-ups after giving birth at home, upon which she left the child with a stranger to collect transport money from a relative in one of the wards only to discover that the stranger had gone with her baby when she came back. The other baby from Nkwadini was abducted by a couple who at first pretended to be looking for a place to rent and later for a certain homestead. Whilst they were being given directions, the male snuck into the house where the baby was, grabbed him and sped off with the women in a black Honda Fit. They haven't been found up to date.

Getrude Shiba inside her market after attending the prayer.



The market remains with no one as all the women attend prayer.

Handicraft women pray for travel documents release

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

The issue of lack of travel documents has warranted cross border hawkers to kneel in prayer as it negatively impacts on their businesses.

The country has been faced with a severe shortage of travel documents which are widely used to travel within Southern Africa.

Even though the women from Nkomazi first met as people who were to sell handicraft to tourists, who are their main customers, the challenges they face have led them to make it a norm to set aside time to worship. Every Wednesday, the traders spare time and gather under the thatched stalls for a brief sermon which is then followed by a prayer. This was revealed by Getrude Shiba who also sells her wares at the market.

"We meet every Wednesday and

pray for different issues that are affecting our country and our lives," she said. Each time they assemble they have prayer items to guide them while praying for the nation.

This past Wednesday, the women selling at Impilo Yakusasa Handicraft in the Hhohho region were praying for travelling documents during their lunch hour fellowship.

"We are unlocking whatever is blocking the travel documents issue in this country," was part of the proclamation that was heard as they prayed.

Ministry of Home Affairs Principal Secretary Anthony Masilela confirmed that the country was still facing a shortage of travel documents which started over two months ago.

When interviewed on Thursday, Masilela said the are only passports available, which the public has claimed are not easily obtainable as they are for priority groups which include students and people working outside the

country. Upon learning about the women's prayer Masilela stated that this was a good prayer and requested them to pray until something happens. "This is a good thing as it encourages to hear such news, let them pray until something happens," he said.

Probed on what was delaying the travel documents, Masilela said it was due to the supplier's policy. "The supplier has a policy that requires us to make an upfront payment before they can start producing them and also require we give them time to produce," he said. Further probed Masilela stated that there were a number of other factors that contributed to the delay. "Consider the fact that the order was made during the festive holidays and the material needed by the supplier is also purchased elsewhere," he said. When asked if the ministry had paid the supplier the upfront money on time, the PS stated that one should differentiate between

paying and placing the order. He said he was not aware on when the payment was made as it is done by the treasury. The public has been assured that the travelling documents are on the way "Let's stick to the fact that the travel documents are coming and they have been paid for," said the PS.

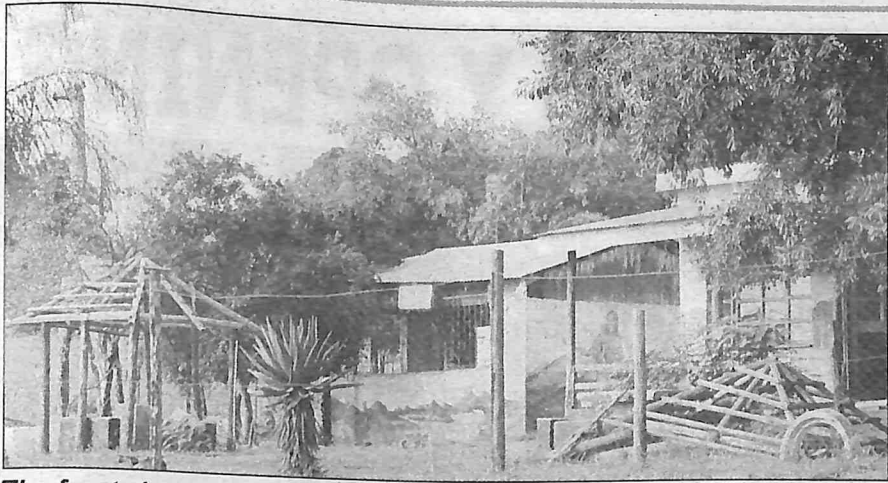
It is not known when the public should expect to get the travelling documents as the time that is needed by the supplier could not be ascertained.

When asked about business people who purchase stock outside the country such as cross-border hawkers, Masilela stated that they fall under the priority group of working people. The PS advised that they should go to the ministry where they would be attended to. In an interview with an official at the ministry it was stated that such people have to bring their permits as proof or trading licences and take passport sized photos from Omniphoto studios as well as their IDs among other requirements. More details are obtainable from the ministry.

On the other hand, Shiba stated that their business was now promising as they had lower sales in December but have seen an improvement from mid-January. "It was quiet in December, we are hopeful our sales will improve since it is February some tourists have already started coming in."

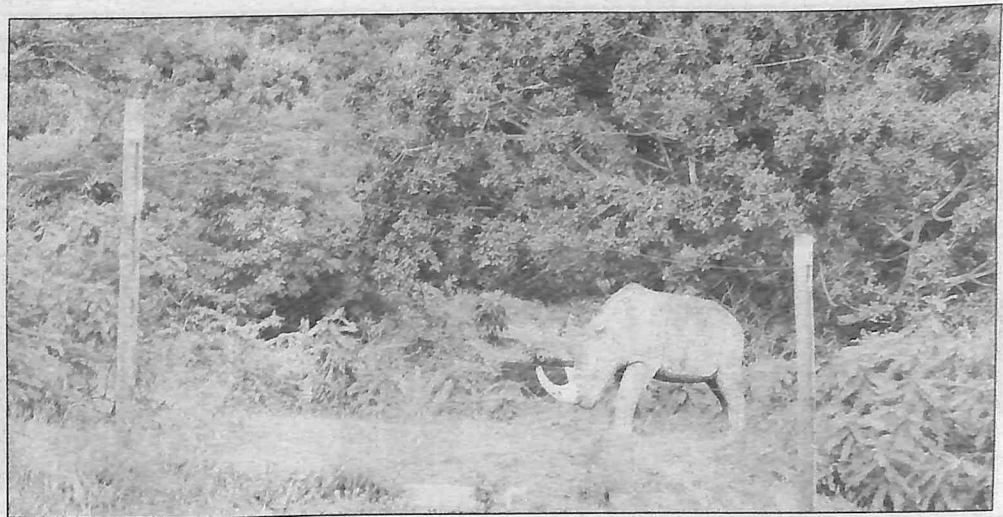
She also stated that they would like to appeal for assistance to have their premises fenced as they are near the road and in danger of accidents from cars that may veer off the road. "There was an accident in December when claimed the lives of two people right near us," she said.

Shiba also added that she is not the only one who benefits from the market as they are a number of women who also have stalls. The proceeds from their sales are then shared with family members. For instance, Shiba stated she and her husband are taking care of a family of about 15 as they have grandchildren who lost their parents. Other prayer items they prayed for were national peace, elimination of corruption and the growth of the country.



The front view of the unattended structure along the Yith'Abantu highway, a few kilometres from Nkwene High School. It has been left lying idle after its owner relocated from the area to Nhlambeni.

(Pics: Mlondi Mpanza)



The compound has clear signs of not having been attended to for a while evident in the overgrown plants within the yard.

SHOPPING COMPLEX ABANDONED BY OWNER

BY MLONDI MPANZA

What was supposed to be a vibrant shopping complex in Nkwene now remains as an unattended structure after being abandoned by its owner.

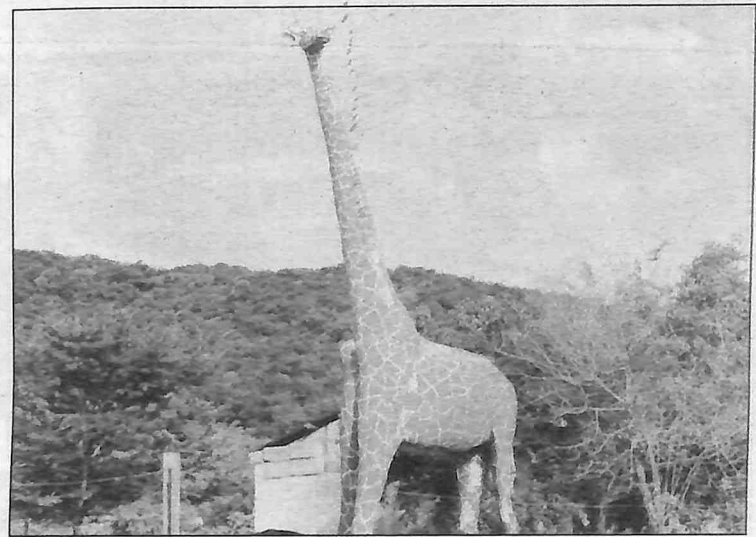
Located along the Yith'Abantu highway towards the Nhlanguano direction, the artistically designed structure is now used only for all the wrong reasons contrary to the purpose it was intended to serve initially.

This is after it was left lying idle by its owner who was a resident of Nkwene at the time but has since relocated to Nhlambeni; in as far as community members are concerned,

Although there was no specific duration of the period it has been lying idle, members of the community who spoke to this newspaper only shared that it had been more than five years since it was left unattended. "It has been a while since the owner left the area leaving the complex unattended," said community members. They added that in as far as they were aware, the owner gave his home located just above the complex to his brother-in-law when he decided to move from the area and thus they had no clear explanation what had been agreed on regarding the complex. When questioned about the reasons why he suddenly decided to leave the area,

there were no clear reasons except for that they only knew that he had relocated to Nhlambeni. Amongst the features of the complex are large sculptured animals namely; a rhino, giraffe and zebra placed outside as decorations and part of the unique design.

Although the main structure meant to accommodate shops was still in what was viewed by this reporter as a good condition, the rest of what used to be shelters now need repairs should anyone be interested in using the structure. The overall state of the whole compound is evident enough for one to conclude that it has been a while since it was maintained despite



A sculptured giraffe on the side of the structure that has been left lying idle at Nkwene.

that it is properly positioned in a location where it would serve well both as a shopping complex or tourist attraction considering the sculptured animals.

The owner whose identity has been withheld by this newspaper could not be sourced for comment as efforts to locate him proved futile in the past week.

Tarring commences in Nhlanguano – Sicunusa road

BY MLONDI MPANZA

At least 7km of the 42.5km Nhlanguano-Sicunusa road has already been tared by Kukhanya Contractors in the project that spectators have claimed has taken long to reach completion.

This leaves the contractor with only 35.5km of the E466 million worth road that still needs to be worked over the next eight months as the road is expected to be complete by September contrary to May as previously revealed by the ministry of public works and transport last year.

During a visit to the site this past Tuesday, employees from the contractor were found hard at work tarring the road from Gege leading towards Magubheleni.

When enquiring about the progress, the employees stated that they were working around the clock to complete the road at least by September.

Having completed the 7km already, the contractor will continue with the tarring up until Sicunusa border gate after which they would then concentrate on the road from Gege to Nhlanguano where it connects with the tar from town around Zheng Yong textile firm.

"We have been hard at work since the year began and we are working tirelessly to complete the project that has dragged for long. The plan is to complete the tarring to Sicunusa before we can do the one from Gege to

● Project expected to be complete by September contrary to May, a date which the ministry of public works and transport had told our sister publication, the Observer on Saturday in August last year.



The 2km road that has already been tared in the 42.5km Nhlanguano - Sicunusa road. This adds up to another 5km from Gege to the border post that has been tared already leaving 35.5km that hasn't been tared in the road expected to be complete by September. (Pics: Mlondi Mpanza)

Nhlanguano," this reporter was told.

Worth noting is that this date is in contradictory to that which was told to our sister publication, the Observer on Saturday in August, 2016 which was the road would be completed in May this year.

The ministry revealed that at that time the progression percentage was at 58.3 however, when the Chief Roads Engineer, Vincent Dlamini was contacted on Friday he said as a ministry they were looking at an earlier date than September but if those on the ground had told this reporter a different date then it was the one.

"Even though we might hope to have the road completed earlier due to different pressures as a ministry, it has to be understood that there have been a couple of unforeseen delays that we came across in the project at some point in time and that should justify the completion date being shifted to a later one," he explained.

Otherwise, the delays have been attributed to factors such as the rains which make it difficult for the contractors to carry out their duties, as well as the fact that sources from within the contractor revealed that there had been challenges with the asphalt team to



Machinery hardening the asphalt in the tarring of the 2km road from Gege towards Magubheleni.

the effect that some of their equipment had problems that needed to be attended to. Efforts to get a comment from Kukhanya Contractors Corporate Affairs Manager, Welile Dlamini proved futile as she referred this reporter to the office since she was on leave. A call was made to the company and the receptionist referred this reporter to an employee identified as Philile before declining to comment and referring back to the ministry.

Besides the tarring, it was observed that most of the work between the Nhlanguano - Sicunusa road had been done with only the bridges that are yet to be completed although the works are also at an advanced stage in as far as they are concerned.

On the other end from Gege - Nhlanguano, it was a different case as there are strips that needed to be filled

with gravel and further compacted until they are ready for the asphalt for tarring. Meanwhile, the project entails the construction of 42.5km asphalt surfaced single carriageway road including two reinforced concrete river bridges and eight box culverts, cattle underpasses and ancillary works.

In the past year, the government set out around E300 000 000 for the supervision and construction of the road which has been experiencing glitches since its inception in 2013.

The ministry has previously pointed out that the delays had been caused by the payments during the inception of the project where the Funder (BADEA and OBID) suspended payments of Interim Payment Certificates.

The road was expected to be complete in only 24 months and has now taken four years due to the challenges.

MORE ON PARLY OPENING



His Majesty King Mswati III after inspecting the guard of honour during the state opening of the Fourth Session of the 10th Parliament on Friday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



Her Majesty the Indlovukazi upon arrival.



Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini.



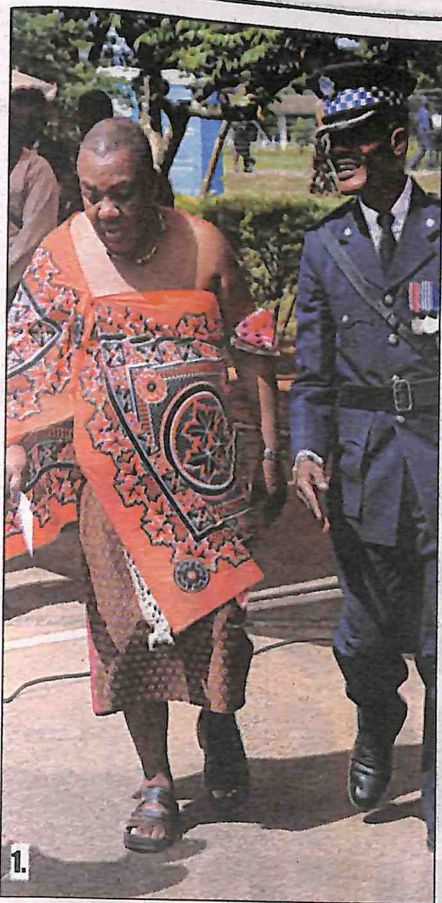
Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini meeting the Senate President Gelane Zwane.



Jabu Mndvoti, Ziyanda Masuku and Tsandziwe Dlamini were amongst the guests.



Former Public Service Minister Magobetane Mamba with Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Edgar Hillary and Swaziland Sugar Association CEO Phil Mnisi. CENTRE- Makhosini Makhubu and Nqobisitha Vilakati. RIGHT - Arrival of Siphiwe Magagula and Muzi Shabangu.



1. Tibiyo TakaNgwane Managing Director Dr A.T Dlamini with his former bodyguard Assistant Superintendent Vusi Mabuza. 2. NERCHA Director Khanya Mabuza being interviewed by Channel S reporter Khanyi Mabuza. 3. Minister of Foreign Affairs Chief Mgwagwa Gamedze. 4. Nkhamba MP Menzi Dlamini and his wife Bongile.



Kukhanyeni MP Bongani Mabuza and wife Winile.



Lobamba Lomdzala MP Marwick Khumalo, Minister of Home Affairs Princess Tsandzile, acting Attorney General Sifiso Khumalo and Senate Deputy President Senator Ngomu'yayona Gamedze.



Minister of ICT Dumsani Ndlangamandla upon arrival.



Minister of Public Service Owen Nxumalo and his wife Patience.



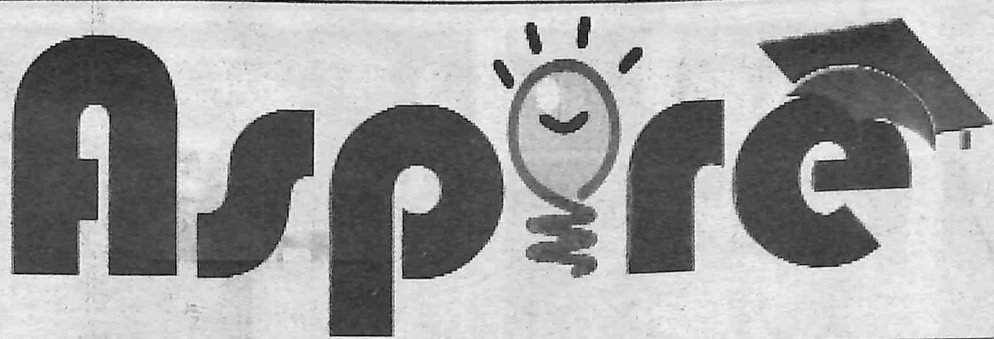
Minister of Housing Phiwayinkhosi Mabuza and his wife Zodwa.



Arrival of PSB member Trusty Gina with Siphiwe Simelane.



Former PM Prince Mabandla sandwiched by Sipho Nkambule and Ngwane Teacher's Training College Principal Dr. Amos Mahlalela.



A Youth Section On Youth Issues By The Youth



WRITER'S NOTE...

Good day readers and a warm welcome once again to your favourite youth section on the land, ASPIRE, where we ASPIRE to INSPIRE.

Today, we have one of the exceptional performers in the Form Five external results as our cover. He goes by the name Mlamuli Gwebu, and he is also an athlete. The former Salesian pupil gives advice to young people on preparing themselves for the exams and a young person's life in general.

We caught up with him at the Pacific Institution, after a two-day session with his teammates. Read about him on this very same page.

We then talked to them about the whole experience and the youngsters learnt great things.

Remember Zoe Nonde. The petite young lady with an angelic voice we had last year. She is back with a killer banger single titled 'Genesis' where she introduces herself to the industry. She worked with the award winning producer - Mozaik on this one, and keep your ears on the ground for music from her.

We also have Istayela Syalahlela, and Free World music is running the game-literally.

We round everything off with the Sunday Podium. Today, I tackle the issue of banning other religions and leave Christianity the only one in the syllabus.

Have a blessed read, and till we meet again, let's converse at sbusisodlaminitheg@gmail.com

Cheers.

Sbusiso Dlamini.

STRETCH YOURSELF BEYOND YOUR BOUNDARIES - MLAMULI GWEBU

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

This young man was one of the best performing pupils in the external Form Five results. Those who know Mlamuli will tell you what a hard worker the former Salesian whizz kid is and his new love for athletics under the Manzini Athletics Club, whereby he is under the tutelage of seasoned coach Muzi Mabuza, seems to be good for him.

The youngster says despite sacrificing a lot of time for his studies, the feeling of being one of the top pupils in the country is indescribable.

"I honestly can't find words to describe the feeling.

I was very, very happy, because finally, all the hard work had paid off. All the things I had to put up with at school, all the sleepless nights, and of course all the bickering from pupils had finally paid off. I won't lie and say it was easy, because to be quite frank, it wasn't. Nothing comes easy and this was not going to be an exception," he says.

When asked to share secrets to his success, the youngster said nothing beats prioritizing and planning, proper planning.

"Firstly, you need to know very well what kind of a person you are and what you want in life. You have to know what is important to your life and when.

And love what you want. Understand your goal and love it. Just know that you will never fail if you love what you want because you will sacrifice



everything else for it. You will know how important it is for you to focus and dedicate yourself. No one will tell you what to do or what not to, because YOU will have the goal in your head, and will make sure that nothing derails you from it."

We then asked him to give advice on habits that hinder young people from fulfilling their dreams.

"I think it all goes back to prioritising. If you know what's important to your life now, you will plan with your time, and will know what's good and what's not for you. I will not try to be the Messiah, and tell young people there are certain steps you have to follow, because there aren't. You will not smoke or drink if you want to excel in your studies. Even if you choose to, you will make sure that

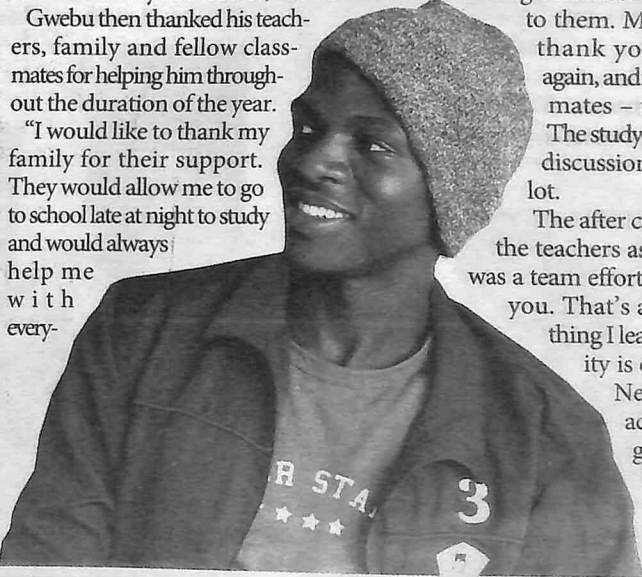
doesn't affect your studies," he said.

Gwebu then thanked his teachers, family and fellow classmates for helping him throughout the duration of the year.

"I would like to thank my family for their support. They would allow me to go to school late at night to study and would always help me with every-

thing I needed. Thank you to them. My teachers, thank you to them again, and to my classmates - thank you. The study groups and discussions helped a lot.

The after classes from the teachers as well. This was a team effort and thank you. That's also something I learnt - humility is everything. Never let any achievement get into your head. Always be humble!"



Pacific Institute - the gold mine

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

If it wasn't for this section, I would have never realised there was a gold mine right under my nose. Luckily enough for me, I got to learn of it this past week, and was enthralled.

This is an institute based at the Checkers complex, which specialises in equipping young people by helping them overcome barriers they face, which may deter them from reaching success.

I got to meet Laura Makhanya, and

oh boy, was he amazing with the Manzini Athletics Club team! Everything she talked about was so practical and realistic and it was glaring that if you apply the knowledge, you WILL fulfil your goals. In the few minutes of being with them, I had learnt a lot, I'm talking about tons of knowledge.

Got

The youngsters also got to meet local hip hop star KrTC on the last day of the two-day training. The institution has the pioneering local

hip hop star in the programme and look at how smart he is with opportunities and business moves.

This guy was there when the industry was nothing but a sorry sight and he is still here today, and is still the guy to go to on boardroom issues. He will be jetting off to the States soon to motivate US students there and that should tell you about the work done by the institution.

Unfortunately the programme is not open to everyone but they do have open discussions now and then where everyone can attend.

When speaking to the athletes at

the closure of the training programme, he touched on the importance of equipping the mind.

"If there's something we never realise as people, it is the importance of equipping the mind. You will watch all the documentaries about all the top athletes in the world, but none of them will tell you about this. It's because this is their secret. The flesh is the puppet of the mind, and the mind is everything."

All the athletes had moving testimonials after the training, so read their stories and see the pictures of the training on the next page.

TESTIMONIALS

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

Mzamo Mngomezulu

When I look back at my achievements with the team, I am happy. But that doesn't mean I have to relax. I guess that what was imparted to me here at the Pacific institution. I am setting a new goal for myself because I am taking myself out of my comfort zone. That's what would happen, and as a result, you would find that I skip training. Now I know that in order to achieve something, you have to change something. You have to make sure you believe in yourself. Attitude is everything. Now, this will be a good year for me, and I can promise the nation when I go out to represent them, I will do well.

Ndzingeko Dlamini

The experience with the Pacific institution has been motivating. It has been really great, as we've learnt a lot of things. We have been imparted with a lot of knowledge and the mind is the tool that drives the body. The lock in, lock out process was also great to know. Sometimes, in life, there are things you need to lock out, and lock in again.

It is what we call balancing. You may focus on what you love, and in my case its athletics, but if you don't balance it with education, then you are doomed.

Also the statoma topic. We are a team, and if we work collectively, there's nothing we can't achieve.

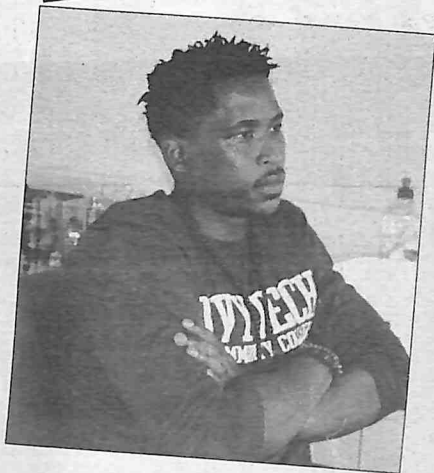
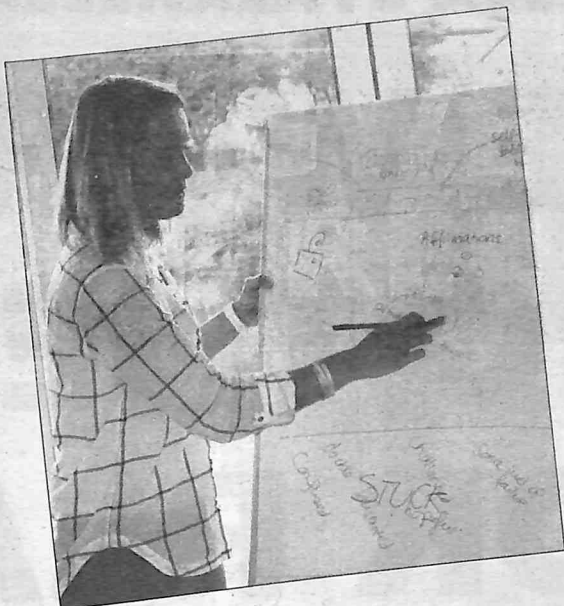
Silungile Tfwala

Quizzed on whether she does not feel lost in a team where she is the only female, Silungile said it didn't even shake her a bit, as the boys motivated him.

"I never feel lost. Instead, they always help me out and I use all the setbacks I face to make sure that I progress. It's all about positive thinking. I would also like to advise all young girls who love athletics to come through and start as early as possible. They can make it, no matter the obstacles they might face. You need to believe in yourself and set your priorities right. I have my own habits, but I am trying to change them this year, because I know what's important.

You also need education. You can be an athlete because you love it, but after a few years, your legs will not be able to take it any longer. After that, you need your education."

PACIFIC INSTITUTE EMPOWERS MANZINI ATHLETICS CLUB



PICS: SIBUSISO DLAMINI

I ACT AND BEHAVE LIKE THE PERSON I KNOW I AM

WHEN I LOCK ON TO "THERE IS NO WAY", I LOCK OUT THE WAY.

I MOVE TOWARD WHAT I THINK ABOUT. MY PRESENT THOUGHTS DETERMINE MY FUTURE.

I AM SMART AND CAPABLE.

ZOE DROPS GENESIS TO CLAIM HER SPOT

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

We introduced you to her last year, and she was telling us about her love for music, and how she was planning on balancing music and school.

I told you she had an angelic voice-sweet but unapologetic at the same time.

And at that time, she was working on her craft as an artist, getting to learn the ropes, and was being featured in most projects.

She says as a result, many people thought she was just a feature girl, or that girl who does the hook. Nothing more!

"Honestly, with this song, I just want-

ed to show everyone I can do this music thing. Some people thought I was just your basic hook girl.

I knew very well it wasn't want.

I am an artist, and I want people to watch me develop into a full blown one. In my mind, when writing 'Genesis', I had all those thoughts in mind. To prove to people that I can sing!"

She also adds this is the start of a new era in her musical journey, hence the name of the track - 'Genesis'.

"This is the start of a journey for me. This is the first of many to come. This is my beginning as an artist, my genesis."

She worked with award winning producer Mozaik on the track, and has nothing but praises for Ngwenya.

"Before, I had heard about him, but after working with him, I now know the man knows what he does.

The man is super talented and he hasn't just won the claim to be called a top producer by fluke, rather it is because of his work. His work speaks for itself. He is very passionate and patient.

Working with him was amazing and I can't wait to continue working on more music with him."

Mozaik did the production for the single after some ground work by Wigo.

Sakhiwo and Wigo worked on the cover art.

Listen to this lady and you will realise she is a gem, as our older sister SCENE said, watch out for her in 2017!



BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

Ladies, and gentleman, music is what touches the heart.

It is where the heart is (just like home), it is what serenades you through love, comforts you during times of sadness, and further elevates your happiness in times of 'situations.'

What can we do without it? What a boring planet we would turn out to be!

Anyways, we will just thank the music coming our way and review it with you dear reader.

Free World music is just running the show in the SA music scenes now. The youngsters are putting in the graft, and whether you love them or you hate them, the work they are putting in is noticeable.

We just can't stop raving about him. His name is David Ngcobo and he goes by the stage name Nasty C. The durbanite is talented for days. Years even!

Just when you thought Bad Hair was enough (I hope people will drop the Bad Hair versus Paradise debate, seriously), he went on to Bad Hair extension. And just when you thought that was just round about enough, he comes with sizzling hot singles to light up the 2017 hip hop year. He has started the year with a bang – literally!

The young lad first released 'Golden'. Thereafter he went on to be featured in The Vinly Kids' DHE.

He was still not done as he went on to release a new banger featuring another Free World son in the gifted Tellaman titled 'Verge.'

A day later, he released another one titled 'A song for Twitter'. I have to confess that 'A song for Twitter' is my personal favourite and it reminds me of the memorable Price City mixtape. Although, I have to say the second verse in 'Verge' gives me goose-bumps every time I hear it. He also has been featured in DJ Cosmo's new jam with Rouge and Kwesta. I officially crown Rouge as the best femcee in South Africa. I swear this lady is a beast. Ms Bragga is good competition though.

He has shown he lives, breathes and eats music. Music is his life and the fame will never get to his head. Take them on young king!

This is what you have been dreaming for, and we hope you are inspiring all the young rappers who want to make a living through spitting bars. Let them 16s feed you sons! And the only way to make sure of that is reading and writing. Read more and work more.

I know for a fact that there's talent still to emerge from this country. If only you guys knew how good some Swazis are, you wouldn't be sleeping on them. Big shout out to Unorthodox – they will never be ready my G.

Erick Rush released 'New Age Voyage'. He has killer tracks in it and as you know very well from Nasty's Bad Hair project, Rush can drop some bars. His project to me proves this to anyone who might have for some reason had doubts.

Listen to New Age Voyage, and I promise you won't be disappointed. This is the introduction of Rush to the world, and all I can say is hope the light won't blind you.

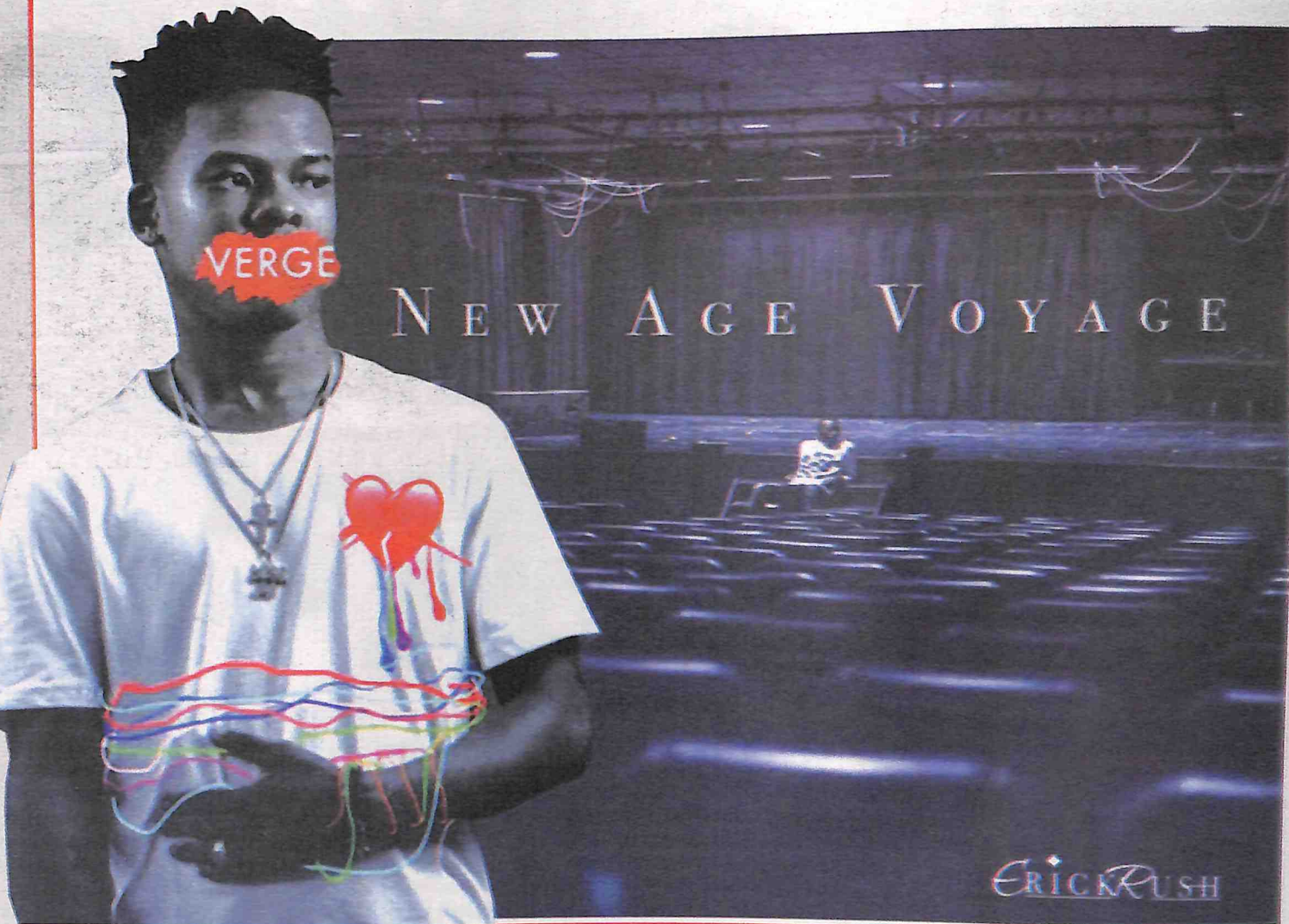
Tellaman has also released a project, an EP titled 'Lucid Dream'.

Then EP features his two Free World brothers Nasty C and Erick Rush, and he also has the new trap gawd in Mzansi Frank Casino.

Watch out for this kid, I really am madly in love with the boy, and those that know me, are aware of the fact that trap isn't usu-

ISTAYELA SYALAHLELA

FREE WORLD MUSIC THE ISH - FOR REAL!



ally my thing. But this boy, he is something different. You can call him a breeze of fresh air to the game.

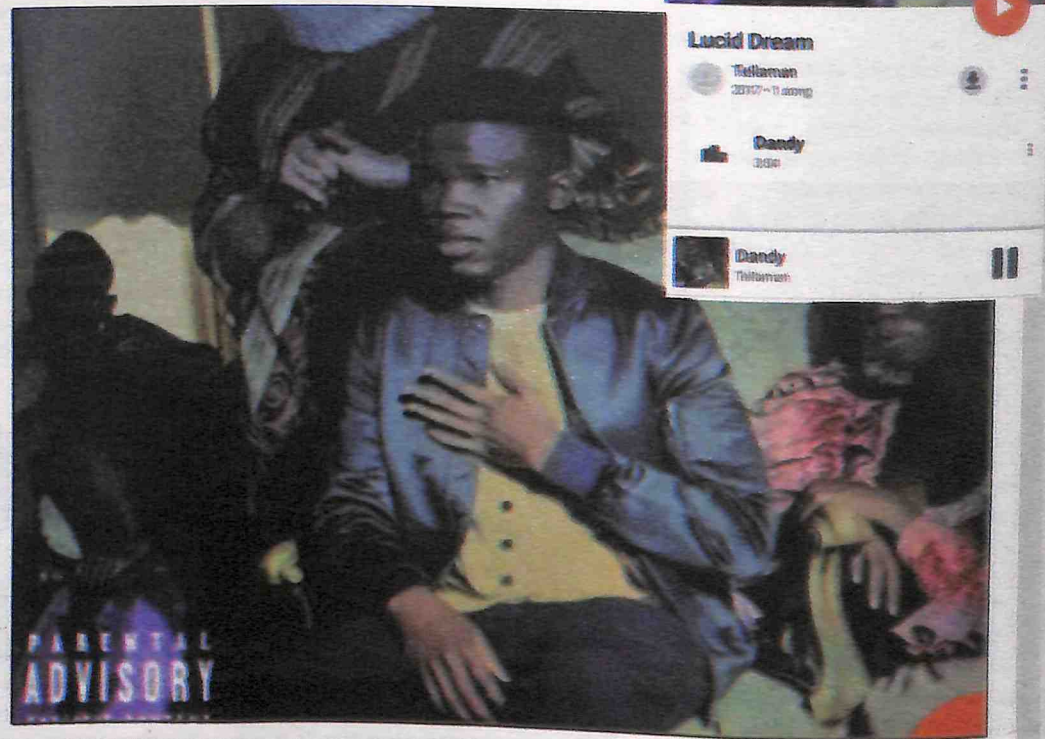
Last year, the OG, Stogie T said some rappers don't have bars, they are outdone by singers. Now, that's Tellaman for you.

He was in the country last year during Nasty C's last performance in the kingdom and he showed he is gifted. This is one hell of a talent to watch out for, because to me he is more like the Bryson Tiller of SA. Okay, some would say he is Tory Lanez, depending on who they prefer.

Guys, before I leave let's get one thing clear. You can hate Meek Mill all you want, but you can never hate his work.

The boy is good, hella good. His projects never disappoint. His work is ever phenomenal.

Free World music is the thing. All in all, let's not forget Zayn. He is the driving force behind them. Till we meet again, cheers.'



SUNDAY PODIUM

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

The decision to only teach Christianity in Religious Education in our syllabus and to completely scrap off the other religions is not just a shocking one, but a sensitive and quite a mistaken move, if you ask me.

Whatever happened to tolerance, just basic religious tolerance?

Tolerance comes with knowledge, which you obtain from learning.

Knowing about something doesn't mean you believe in it. Knowing about the Muslim faith, its holy days, and doings doesn't mean you automatically believe in the faith. Even if you do choose to, isn't that your choice? Your right?

Learning about other religions doesn't brainwash, rather, it teaches one that there is someone who believes in something completely different from what you believe in, and you have to tolerate and respect that person. Because that is just who they are!

Whether you like it or not, whatever opinion you have, you tolerate, and accept them for what they are, because well, that's what they have chosen to be!

Isn't that what civilisation is based upon? The ability to listen, comprehend and learn. And when you apply that, you get to reason and your decision making is poles apart compared to a layman's point of view.

It is one of the reasons we have formal education in the first place, isn't it?

To know things we don't know. To understand people we don't.

Come to think of it, I pity the children who won't learn about other religions. I am proud to have been part of the pupils who were privileged to have learned about other religions, besides Christianity in the country.

That's where I learnt what my Asian friend meant when he said Allah, and that there was something called Ramadan.

I also learnt that *kuphahla* wasn't black magic but a part of the Swazi traditional religion.

Those are things I could have never known about.

To me, the other religions have been stigmatised, and unfairly judged. What have the other religions done to deserve this move? It means Muslims, for example, will have to sit back and watch while their children are forced to learn another religion.

And they have to just live with the fact that theirs was scrapped of the syllabus - too impulsively, too carelessly and too brashly so, I have to add. Without an explanation, none, whatsoever.

I have two points on this policy. Firstly, I am concerned with the lightning speed of the implementation and most of all, the consti-

ARE WE POLITICISING EDUCATION?



tutionality, or is it unconstitutional of it.

And it all boils down to one thing - politics are involved.

There's absolutely no way any new policy would have been implemented so hurriedly unless it has our 'caring' and 'efficient' politicians in the middle of it all. It is so hard for me to believe this is just a move by the ministry of education in an attempt to evolve and be innovative.

I am convinced there's no proper explanation or reason on everything being hastily done. Instead, it makes one glaring point - the whole thing is a political move.

We all know very well that they don't care about us that much.

We are all clear with the fact they aren't committed to the job at hand, and I think we've learned the hard way, with all the drama which unfolded in what is supposed to be an Honourable House. Anyways, let me not digress any further, and continue with the point I was trying to drive in. I will not try and justify

why I am convinced the whole thing is politicised, but I will explain why it is wrong. To the children, what we are now teaching is that the only acceptable religion is Christianity. All the others should be considered as demented or as uttermost ludicrous. This then will result in conflicts, believe it or not.

If you don't know about other people's religions, you don't tolerate them or their beliefs. Simply because you think no one else is right but YOU. And it will be substantiated by the fact that it will be the only religion in the syllabus.

Declaring

Again, are we publicly declaring that all the practices by other religions are wrong? How is the next generation going to live in peace and tolerate each other, whether you are of the Bahai, Swazi traditional or Rastafarian faith?

It is an open secret that Swazis are concerned with the growing number of Muslims in the country. There's also that whole "business stealing"

thing going on, and right now, quite frankly, there's no other way to get a Swazi's attention as a politician than promising to deal with the Asians issue.

We are allowing people to set Christianity up against all the others, and are forgetting that the people who have taken this decision are doing it for their own selfish reasons. But, at the back of their mind, they know for a fact we won't complain because we as a country have insecurities with other religions. Especially Islam. But, that's a topic for another day.

Moving onto my second point, how (un) constitutional is this move?

The last time I checked this is how Section 20 of the Swazi Constitution said -

(1) All persons are equal before and under the law in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life and in every other respect and shall enjoy equal protection of the law.

(2) For the avoidance of any doubt,

a person shall not be discriminated against on the grounds of gender, race, colour, ethnic origin, tribe, birth, creed or religion, or social or economic standing, political opinion, age or disability.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "discriminate" means to give different treatment to different persons attributable only or mainly to their respective descriptions by gender, race, colour, ethnic origin, birth, tribe, creed or religion, or social or economic standing, political opinion, age or disability.

(4) Subject to the provisions of subsection (5) Parliament shall not be competent to enact a law that is discriminatory either of itself or in its effect."

We have broken our very own constitution. And for what, to try and make the Christian faith's lack of confidence acceptable?

Then we might as well choose not to teach our kids Science, lest they start cloning and making nuclear weapons.

BRIEFS

Philippine Catholic Church to slam 'reign of terror'

MANILA - The Philippines' Catholic Church will assail President Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs for creating a "reign of terror" among the poor in sermons to be read at mass across the country this weekend, three church sources told Reuters yesterday.

In its most strongly worded comments so far on the crackdown on drug pushers and users, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines will say that killing people is not the answer to trafficking of illegal drugs and will voice concern about the indifference of many to the bloodshed.

Reuters

Iran tests missile and radar systems in defiance of US sanctions

TEHRAN - Iran held a military exercise yesterday to test its missile and radar systems, a day after US President Donald Trump's administration imposed sanctions on Tehran for its recent ballistic missile test.

The United States sanctioned 13 individuals and 12 entities under US Iran sanctions authority on Friday, after the White House had put Iran "on notice" over a ballistic missile test and other activities. The Revolutionary Guards website said the aim of the military exercise in Semnan province in central Iran was to "showcase the power of Iran's revolution and to dismiss the sanctions."

Reuters

'US should stop using Dalai Lama to stir trouble'

BEIJING - The United States should stop using the Dalai Lama to create trouble for China, a senior Chinese official in charge of Tibet affairs told an influential state-run newspaper.

It would bring no benefit to the US but damage Sino-US ties instead, the Global Times reported late Friday, citing Zhu Weiqun, head of the ethnic and religious affairs committee of the top advisory body to China's parliament. The Global Times, a tabloid known for writing strongly-worded, hawkish and nationalist editorials, is published by the ruling Communist Party's flagship paper. Reuters

'Justice minister stands by diluted graft law'

BUCHAREST - Romania's justice minister says he stands by a law diluting the country's anti-corruption fight, defying strong criticism from home and abroad and days of massive protests. Florin Iordache had temporarily handed his duties over to a subordinate, but returned to his job Friday, and told reporters: "I take responsibility for this ordinance." The ruling centre-left Social Democratic Party has defended the decree, which has sparked some of the biggest protests since the 1989 fall of communism. Romania's Constitutional Court will rule on the legality of the law next week, the last legal resort to stop it. AP

Possible ISIS tweets by Louvre suspect

PARIS - The man who launched a machete attack outside the Louvre in Paris on Friday is believed to have tweeted about the Islamic State group minutes before the assault, a source close to the investigation has said.

The tweets came from "a Twitter account whose owner could be the attacker," the source said, adding that investigators were unable to formally confirm this at the moment.

The messages were posted in Arabic on Friday on the account of Abdallah El-Hamahmy. "In the name of Allah... for our brothers in Syria and fighters across the world," he wrote at 09:31 (08:31 GMT). One minute later he posted another tweet, making reference to the Islamic State group.

AFP



SUNDAYOBSERVER WORLD NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday

SEATTLE JUDGE BLOCKS TRUMP'S TRAVEL BAN NATIONALLY

SEATTLE/BOSTON - A Seattle federal judge on Friday put a nationwide block on US President Donald Trump's week-old executive order that had temporarily barred refugees and nationals from seven countries from entering the United States.

The judge's temporary restraining order represents a major setback for Trump's action, though the White House said late Friday it believed the ban to be "lawful and appropriate" and that the US Department of Justice would file an emergency appeal.

Still, just hours after the ruling, US Customs and Border Protection told airlines they could board travellers who had been affected by the ban.

Trump's Jan. 27 order caused chaos at airports across the United States last week as some citizens from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen were denied entry. Virtually all refugees were also barred, upending



Filipino activists burn a portrait of US President Donald Trump during a protest against his policies.

the lives of thousands of people who had spent years seeking asylum in the US

The State Department said Friday that almost 60 000 visas were suspended in the wake of Trump's order; it was not clear Friday night whether that suspension was automatically revoked or what travellers with such visas might confront at US airports.

While a number of lawsuits have been filed over Trump's action, the Washington state lawsuit was the first to test the broad constitutionality of the executive order.

Judge James Robart, a George W. Bush appointee, explicitly made his ruling apply across the country, while other judges facing similar cases have so far issued orders concerning only

specific individuals.

The challenge in Seattle was brought by the state of Washington and later joined by the state of Minnesota. The judge ruled that the states have legal standing to sue, which could help Democratic attorneys general take on Trump in court on issues beyond immigration.

Washington's case was based on claims that the state had suffered harm from the travel ban, for example, students and faculty at state-funded universities being stranded overseas. Amazon.com and Expedia, both based in Washington state, had supported the lawsuit, asserting that the travel restrictions harmed their businesses.

Tech companies, which rely on talent from around the world, have been increasingly outspoken in their opposition to the Trump administration's anti-immigrant policies.

Reuters

Mattis reaffirms US alliance with Japan 'for years to come'

TOKYO - US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis wrapped up a visit to Japan yesterday, reaffirming Washington's commitment to its defence treaty with Tokyo amid concerns about President Donald Trump's approach to the region and the alliance.

Mattis reiterated that provocations by North Korea, which is advancing its nuclear weapons and missile programmes, as well as China's growing assertiveness in the South and East China Seas, left no room for doubt about US commitment to Japan's defence.

That was similar to the message that Mattis - making his first overseas trip since taking office - delivered in South Korea, Washington's other key Asian ally, earlier in the week. He appeared eager to reassure Japan of US resolve, after a 2016 election campaign in which Trump



US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis shakes hands with Japan's Defence Minister Tomomi Inada during their meeting at the defence ministry in Tokyo. (Reuters)

suggested both South Korea and Japan were benefiting from a US security umbrella without sharing enough of the costs.

"The US-Japan alliance is critical to ensuring that this region remains

safe and secure - not just now, but for years to come," Mattis told a joint news conference with Japanese Defence Minister Tomomi Inada.

Reuters

US refugee swap proceeding - Australian foreign minister

CANBERRA - Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said yesterday that a controversial refugee resettlement deal with the United States would go ahead, despite US immigration officials postponing interviews with asylum seekers.

Reuters reported on Friday that US officials had planned second-round interviews with detainees in an Australian camp on the Pacific island of Nauru, suggesting Washington is already blocking progress on a controversial refugee resettlement deal.

Detainees and an official source

said interview dates were pulled yesterday, hours after US President Donald Trump signed an executive order that suspended the US refugee programme for 120 days and stopped visits by travelers from seven Muslim-majority countries.

Working

Bishop said both countries were still working through the details of the agreement, which sparked a rare diplomatic spat between the two staunch allies, with Trump berating Australia's prime minister in an angry phone call.

"The agreement is to be honoured by the Trump administration (so

I'm pleased this agreement will continue," Bishop told reporters in Western Australia.

Remain

"We remain in contact with the Trump administration and our embassy in Washington is also working with US officials and we expect that vetting process would be as tough as Australia's vetting process in terms of health and security checks," she added.

Bishop said "my understanding is that interviewing and vetting is still taking place," without providing any further details.

Reuters

Britain's High Court blocks new Brexit challenge

LONDON - Britain's High Court has blocked a new legal challenge to Britain's vote to leave the European Union.

The decision comes days after the House of Commons decisively backed a Bill to authorise divorce proceedings from the 28-nation bloc, sending a measure on for committee scrutiny. That result was a victory for Prime Minister Theresa May's government, which had sought to avert the vote. Campaigners in favour of keeping Britain in the single market sought to have a separate vote in Parliament to seek permission to pull out of the European Economic Area, which unites the EU member states and three other countries in an internal market governed by similar rules.

The judges said on Friday "the current claims are premature". UK Independence Party ex-leader Nigel Farage quickly tweeted, "Good news." AP

US Navy sends destroyer to Yemen

WASHINGTON - The US Navy has sent a destroyer to waters off Yemen in response to an attack by Iran-backed Houthi rebels on a Saudi frigate, a defence official said yesterday.

The USS Cole, which had been conducting operations in the Gulf, is now stationed in the Bab al-Mandab Strait off southwestern Yemen, the official said. "They were moved down to the region in response to what happened to the Saudi frigate," the official told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity. Saudi officials say Yemeni rebel "suicide" boats recently attacked the Saudi warship that was on patrol in the Red Sea, killing two sailors. The US Navy has not definitively said whether the attack was conducted by explosive-laden boats or a missile. The USS Cole is well-known in naval circles as the target of an attack in October 2000 in the Yemeni port city of Aden that killed US military personnel. AFP

SundayObserver Scene

COUPLES ISSUE



○ Ayanda Dlamini ○
WRITER'S NOTE:

Hello February, the month of lovers. This month we are celebrating love.

One of the most extraordinary and satisfying experiences we can have as human beings.

They say love is not an emotion. Love is THE connection. Your feelings are a reaction to the quality of that connection. Love is shared between two parties, a couple.

As SCENE, we decided to do a couple's issue. Couples we admire and envy. When compiling this issue, I learnt a lot about love among the couples featured.

We tend to be addicted to intense emotion, especially when it feels good.

So, when we're in love, we want to feel that way forever. But guess what? That higher than 'Cloud 9' feeling goes away after a while.

That doesn't mean you don't love the other person anymore, it just means it's not new anymore.

So that's where the action needs to kick in. Show the person you love them. Don't just assume they know.

Let's face it readers, we're all different. Even identical twins aren't exactly the same. They have different experiences and outlooks about the world. Real love doesn't make other people wrong for being different.

When people truly love another, they accept their differences.

Trust me, I never believed there is love, or it is because of my age? Anyways, I was so touched by Sibusiso Zikalala, a well-known young and upcoming attorney who decided to leave everything behind, including his family and job, all because of love and wanting to share his moments with his partner Katlego. Personally, I would NOT go as far as relocating and leaving everything behind. Read PAGE 4.

We also have the 'good man', Pastor Bakhe and his wife Nokwanda; Bakhe tells SCENE it was love at first sight, read on the opposite page how it all started and get inspired.

It's not a Sunday without our social watch; today I'm just unpacking my thoughts on Somizi and the Grace Bible saga. I believe church should be a place where people of different walks of life are accepted.

No sin should be treated with gloves, but let love prevail in all teachings, read on the opposite page.

Till next Sunday.

Ayanda D.

CONCERN ON PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

Love is a beautiful thing when it is shared between two parties. We live in a new world where it's okay to show a little of public display of affection as a couple.

Celebrities do that every now and

then. However, too much of PDA is not good at all because we come from different backgrounds and are raised differently.

Personally, I believe PDA is not about showing off to society and bragging about your relationship,

but all about appreciating your partner outside the bedroom, showing them some love.

Marriages

In fact, I believe there could be thousands of marriages saved by engaging in more PDAs.

PDAs are not bad after all; they are just abused and misunderstood. Abused by the oblivious few and misunderstood by the traditional majority. Guys, this is my opinion. Let's hear what our readers had to say about PDAs.



PHINDAFUTHI DLAMINI

Well, I date for me not for others. It's really up to you what you do; decency is also a level of respect. So keep it decent and enjoy.

Kissing is respectful, touching some of her assets is not as much respectful but people can live with it. We should try by all means to involve God in our relationship and it will be easy to know what's ok in public. God is key in everything

JEAN HLOPHE



Not the heavy but the lighter PDA, I love it, it makes me feel wanted and needed. Especially when it is done by him, so basically I don't mind it. I love it.

KHOSI SHABALALA

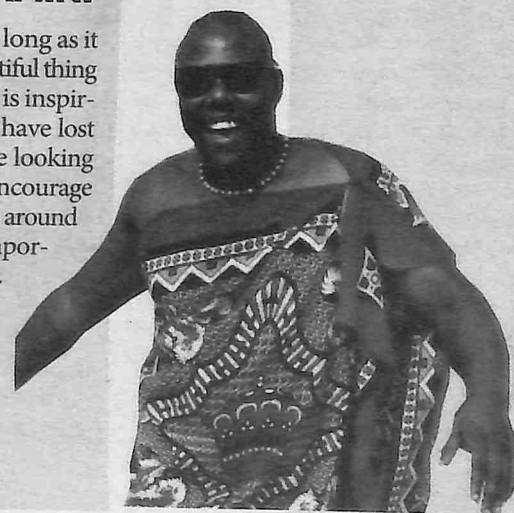


I think there is nothing wrong with showing affection but to a certain degree.

It should not make the people around you uncomfortable but holding hands and kissing (no tongue) is fine.

MELUSI ZOX DLAMINI

I think it is a great thing as long as it is real. True Love is a beautiful thing and seeing people in love is inspiring. Especially for those that have lost hope in love or those that are looking for love. Love is positive so I encourage it, as long as they respect others around them at the time. What is important is that everyone is happy. We equally have to respect those who prefer not to be public with their display of affection. We are all different, in many ways and we come from different backgrounds.



FIFI DOPE RUSS



I'm for public affection, holding hands and that peck on the lips so long as it's not PG rated.

Adults should be free to show their affection to the world, however, there is a thin line. We have to learn to keep it as honourable as possible. We need to understand that even though we have the freedom to show our love to others, we still have a role to play as adults, to teach our young ones the right path to walk on.



The bravery act displayed by South African personality; Somizi Mhlongo walking out of a packed Grace Bible Church has hogged headlines and opened a lot of debates in all media platforms and religious circles.

Mhlongo's act was triggered by what he felt was a homophobic sermon (statement). If we all accept honesty, we all at certain points felt like walking out during a sermon.

There is no sin greater than the other (verse). We sin daily, and God's grace and mercy is sufficient for us all. Pastors (men of the cloth) are at liberty to teach about what the Bible condemns and condone, without favour.

The church should be a place where people of different walks of life are accepted. No sin should be treated with gloves, but let love prevails in all teachings.

The Bible shouldn't be opened

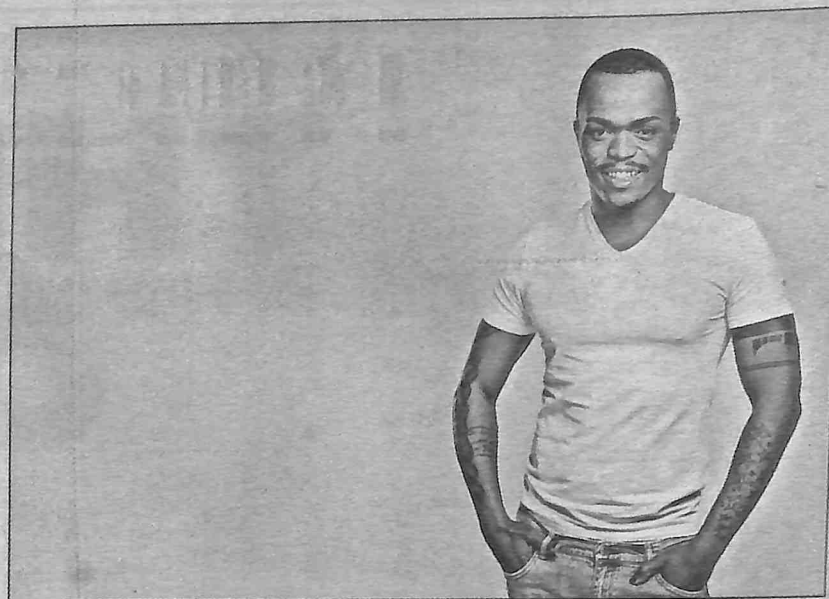
or read as a recipe book where we pick only what we need and leave other things out. Even the sins that brush us up the wrong way should be addressed. Pastors be warned, that no one in the congregant should be left permanently damaged. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of Christ (Romans 3:23). What guarantee do you have that you are going to heaven, if you literally chase people out of the church, judge them and elevate yourself above human nature. Humans are feeble and fallible. To err is human. Let us all have care for one lost sheep amongst the 100. Jesus in his parable (verse) displayed that every soul is equally important. Yes let's leave the 99 and chase after the one missing. Looking for the lost sheep shouldn't be an act of embarrassing the lost sheep. I am not saying the men of the cloth should give preference to members that are faithful in tithes and offering. We will rather lose everything, than lose heaven altogether. Everything we do, let love and rev-

erence prevail. Let the Holy Spirit lead us in everything we are teaching about.

The story of a woman condemned to die because she committed adultery has a deep understanding on its own. Jesus response was 'Let he who has no

sin cast the first stone'. No one among the men did that, which leaves the church with a huge mandate.

Let love prevail in all we teach about and mind the tone and examples we use.



Imagine you are walking down the street or standing in a crowd at church or anywhere.

You turn your head and see a person you are instantly attracted to. Maybe physically or maybe it is the way they are dressed, or how they appear deeply involved in music or prayer if it's at church.

It feels unexplainable, but your gut is telling you to talk to this person. You might work up the courage to say hello, or may miss the connection. Either way, something has come over you and you simply cannot stop thinking about that person. Yes, that feeling is called love at first sight.

Coming back to Pastor Bakhe and Nokwanda Dlamini, they met at school at their year end Student Christian Fellowship. Bakhe says it was love at first sight. "We were both in Form Four, so I was looking for a prom-mate for the following year. It was love at first sight! Her eyes and beauty just struck me. Towards the end of the event, we walked across each other; I greeted her," he says. "From there, I occasionally called her through the St Michael's hostel call box.

I didn't say much; it was just about winning her trust; from there, we became friends. Guess what? At the end of our Form Five, she was my prom-mate!" he adds.

When it comes to communication, Bakhe and Nokwanda know what's good for their marriage. They understand that communication is the key in every couple, "we discuss everything: our fears, future. Our way of coping with some of these challenges is, through fully depending on God to 'cross the bridge' when we get there. If we have no solution concerning something, we keep playing, laughing, and watch whatever issue solves itself," he says.

Bakhe says God is the first anchor, for He is the foundation of their marriage.

Bakhe has become Nokwanda's therapist, is it not adorable? She says, "My husband has become my therapist, as a social worker I find myself debriefing with him. We talk anytime and every time and about anything and everything. He is more upfront and confrontational so he easily wants to talk about even topics that I usually feel are difficult. However, there are times where I become silent, not because I am angry or upset but I

IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT...



think it's my way of recharging."

As a couple, you need to have time out to discuss how you expect the pressures of the different stages of marriage: for example, childbirth, parenting, the empty nest, physical separations, financial setbacks, retirement, illness, and aging. You need to have a plan or strategy to help you cope with such eventualities.

With Bakhe and Nokwanda, everything is easy because they talk almost daily, "I ask her on how her day was when she returns from work. I randomly and regularly create that moment, where I'll just pause, ask her on how she's doing, if she's still happy being married to me. We tell each other often why we love each other. Why our inventories are random is because we are quite a spontaneous

couple," he explains.

Nokwanda appreciates her partner, she says, "he is extraordinary, he prioritises me and our children first, he showers me with love everyday and does his best to support and encourage me to be the best in whatever I do."

The pastor himself appreciates his wife, "I'm forever grateful. She respects me, allows me to be the head of our home; not even once has she ever raised her voice against me. She celebrates me and is a good mother," he says.

Bakhe is always ready to speak about anything, anytime with his wife and that's a sign of a happy couple.

"I don't believe in the sulking business, going silent on each other for days. We address problems there and

there, and move on. In that regard, we share the same belief."

A happy couple normally perform a public display affection to show how happy and comfortable they are, "We hold hands, hug, kiss, and shower each other with words of affection. I'm happy about the way we demonstrate affection towards each other.

We speak positively and converse courteously with each other. I so feel valued by her," Bakhe says.

On the other hand, Nokwanda says, "While I enjoy cuddling and kissing in our home, I also appreciate that my husband shows affection to me in public. He enjoys massages and rubs so whenever we are sitting comfortably, that is what I usually do to show him affection.

The Dlaminis talk about everything

and openly, and that makes them best friends, "Nokwanda is very fun to be with. We are never uptight. We make sure we have fun always," Bakhe says.

"My husband is very fun to be and there is never a dull moment where he is, I think trying out new adventures together can foster spontaneity and laughter," she says looking at her husband.

"I do not talk much but when I do I need my husband to be attentive and listen. I am also very emotional and when I get teary, I just want him to give me an ear and allow the tears to just flow."

They both seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit for the success of their marriage. They also understand that without Christ, marriage cannot function as God Himself is the author of marriage.

"She describes me perfectly. There's nothing I need to understand about her. I've been married to her for quite some time now, to know her back and forth. I'm faster, Kwanda is a bit slower. I'm confrontational; she's not. I'm tougher, she's gentler. That has worked perfectly fine for our union. Where I need to be slowed down; she slows me down. Where she needs to be sped up, I speed her up," Bakhe declares.

I still say Bakhe and Nokwanda are a true definition of a happy couple because they show respect to each other. Showing respect to your partner is a habit that is worth creating, as it's a necessary ingredient for creating a happy, healthy and long lasting connection.

When you express respect towards your partner, you are expressing your love, acceptance, and warmth.

Respecting your partner is all about valuing them for who they are, including differences. You may have a different outlook on life but this does not mean you should disrespect your partner and put them down.

When you experience disagreements, make sure you respect your partner's differences. This does not allow you to disrespect your partner out in public or in front of friends and family.

Always show respect, especially when you have a disagreement. There will be times where you don't agree on an issue and it will be how you handle it as a team that will make all the difference in the world.

By Ayanda Dlamini

THE MONTH OF 'LOVE'

Today we mark the first Sunday of lovers' month, February. This is the right time to show some love to your partner.

Before we even celebrate love, it is impor-

tant to understand the meaning of love, not just love but 'true love.'

Love can be shown in different ways and it comes when you least expecting it. It is amazing to see more Swazis out there cel-

ebrating this month as couples.

Love

As SCENE, we are we are keen on giving you that much needed boost about love hence we spoke to the few couples such as

the well known attorney Sibusiso Zikalala with his significant other, Katlego and Sibusiso Ngcamphalala who is a son to Minister of Sports David, with his ever beautiful Andile Slenge - Ngcamphalala.

The one thing these two couples have in common is they have not let anything bring their marriages down.

Their love goes to a point where they constantly put up each other's pictures on social media platforms.

We spoke to them just to remind all our dear readers that true love exists not only on TV.

They say true love is all about the willingness to accept another for who and what he/she is, even if they are totally different from you. And yes, accept them willingly and happily without really trying to change them.

SCENE caught up with the ever busy attorney Sibusiso Zikalala who left his job, home, friends and joined his partner Katlego in South Africa after they got married in 2012. Not every man would relocate and leave everything behind, just to be with his partner. But then again he eventually got a job and that was a big move.

Sibusiso met the environmental scientist Katlego at a church event. She had accompanied the guest speaker, who was a mutual acquaintance. He saw a well mannered, beautiful, class; smart lady and he knew she was the one, "the looks were obviously what I noticed first. She is well mannered; carries herself with class and poise; shares the same values as me; she is smart without being arrogant, strong willed without being bossy, assertive without being aggressive and independent without being irresponsible. She is obviously very beautiful and God-fearing," he says.

What is so adorable about this couple is they are open to each other; they both have access to each other's social networks and email passwords. There comes into play the other pivotal aspect when in a union, trust.

These two trust each other and that is undeniably adorable.

"We both have secondary cards to each other's bank accounts and have signing powers there to. She does not have a friend I do not know of and I do not have friends she does not know of. In fact, if you cannot be my wife's friend, then you cannot be my friend. We are totally transparent with each other," he adds.

Couples run into obstacles, road-blocks, or conflicts in the long run and its normal but we then react differently, some run home to get advice from mother or blame one another.

However, Sibusiso believes all the conflicts they have eventually cause them to understand each other better, "As matters stand, we are quite in-sync with each other financially. We are very blessed in this regard, because not too many couples can say that about themselves. Of course there is that odd occasion when one does something out of character. But they are few and far between. I think it goes with being totally honest and transparent with each other in all things, including and especially finances. The only real issues are the things we wished

...With attorney Sibusiso Zikalala and wife Katlego

... She does not have a friend I do not know of and I do not have friends she does not know of. In fact, if you cannot be my wife's friend, then you cannot be my friend.



we could afford, which we aren't yet able to, like a holiday home in Jeffrey's Bay and the yacht that must come with it," he stresses.

This is obviously when the dust has settled and they have kissed and made up and they believe this helps in marriage because no one wins or loses a fight in marriage because 'you are one'. If one loses then, they have both lost.

As couples, communication is the key and men and women often have different communication styles. Without understanding each other, a lot can go down. These two love birds work through it by compromising and always willing to learn.

"I am a communicator, both by profession and calling. So I usually demand that what we say to each other be effectively communicated. I believe you must say what you mean and mean what you say. Katlego is not as much of a communicator as I am, so it has been a bit of a challenge to be on the same wave length when talking about issues," he declares.

"Further to that, because I am a man and a Swazi man at that, I expect and even demand respect. Now, because she is from a totally different background, what is respect to her is not

necessarily respect to me. So aligning our understanding of that took a little time," he adds on.

Katlego, on the other hand, is an emotional person. So she requires Sibusiso to be sensitive more than just being rational in how he deals with her.

"I have had to learn to tap into my emotional side for her sake. I am still learning," he says.

Sibusiso believes if you love someone, you have to compromise your preferences for the sake of the relationship. You cannot be selfish and expect to have a successful marriage, "As a man you need to learn to tap into your feminine side. Watch romantic movies every now and then. Watch 'Our Perfect Wedding' and such other things, if it means you are to have quality time with your woman. My wife has had to tolerate action movies, soccer and CNN. She has to listen to me talk about politics and history and all the things normal women do not bother themselves about," he says.

Sibusiso and Katlego's relationship is solidly grounded on the foundation of good communication. They talk at every given opportunity about anything. They do not wait for specific appointed times because that causes

rigidity. They spend a lot of their time together and everything of interest or concern is dealt with as immediately as possible.

There is absolute joy in the smallest of things like when you wake up next to your partner, or even during tough times, when you should be grateful that you have your partner beside you.

Understanding true love is all about making the love between two people shine right through. As a couple, your partner should be able to make you laugh when you want to cry, and they should be able to hold you even when you make them mad! As a couple, you breath love, you become best friends, you enjoy each other's company.

Same goes for this two love birds. They are best friends, "we are each other's best friends, so I suppose it figures that we enjoy each other's company. But I don't think we enjoy each other when either of us is angry, especially at each other. We could (will) be more spontaneous if (when) we have more money," he agrees.

When it comes to expressing affection for one another outside the bedroom, the Zikalalas have learnt to protect each other when they are with third parties, speak highly of each other and praise each other, "this helps to disarm our haters of any ammunition they may have against us.

Intimacy...

We see couples happy and cherishing outside but we are not aware of what happens inside the bedroom. Most couples never want to talk about what happens in the bedroom. Come on guys, we live in the 21st century, we should not leave such topics but indulging in could help the third party in some way or the other. We are here to encourage each other. When it comes to sexual intimacy, some couples are not in the same page and this eventually brings tension or conflicts.

Sibusiso agrees with SCENE that every couple experiences conflict when it comes to intimacy, "I do not think there is a couple that does not have conflict about sex, one way or the other. This is more so with Christian couples, as previously stated, because you are raised being told sex is a sin and then all of a sudden, you are supposed to do it every day," he says.

"But like I have said before, you work at it; compromise where you have to; make it work until it works. This has caused things to be better for us over the years. What has helped us understand is that, sex is not something one does to the other, or that one does for the other. It is something we do together," he adds.

Other than intimacy, couples express affection for one another, holding hands, kissing, exchanging words or vows.

The attorney believes it helps being actually attracted to the person you're with. That way



SMVAF INGWENYAMA CUP 2016/17



FOREWORD BY HIS MAJESTY, KING MSWATI III

It gives me great pleasure to see the country taking bold steps towards materialising our commitment to the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020, through such multi-faceted and unconventional approaches to road safety awareness as this inaugural SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup.

Our commitment towards achieving the milestones identified by the Decade of Action for Road Safety remains solid now than ever before, as we are desirous to see a significant reduction in the number of road accidents in the country.

The convention recommends that signatory countries commit to reducing accidents by up to 50 percent by 2020.

Commitment

Such a commitment calls for all sectors involved in road safety issues to explore results-oriented approaches more aggressively, in order to ensure that the country achieves that target.

Road accidents in the country, and in the world in general, hinder development, as many a productive person's life gets to be curtail unjustly.

It is paramount, therefore, that government show more political will to redress the problem of road carnage as well as road accidents, and save lives, and economies by extension.

In this regard, the inaugural

● May I congratulate the management committee for ensuring a seamless flow of the tournament, and successfully integrating both sport and culture, something which is unprecedented and ground-breaking.

SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup, presents an untrodden path in the dissemination of road safety messaging, as we are convinced that sport, and football in particular, has the largest following in the country.

It is only prudent that we task organisations involved in ensuring the safety of our roads to use this platform, and maximise on their publicity and awareness reach.

Encouraging

Apart from compensating victims of road accidents, Sincephetelo MVA Fund has a social obligation to ensure that those accidents are prevented in the first place. It is encouraging therefore, to see the organisation going out of its way, and approaching the masses directly where they are found. As you are aware, football is not limited to the confines of a stadium. It goes on to get significant coverage on the media, hence associating with the sport is an almost definite way of exploiting wider publicity and reach.

Apart from being a publicity vehicle for road safety messaging, we hope that this tournament has con-

tributed immensely to the standard of football in the country.

Sport, without doubt, continues to provide a form of direct and indirect employment to thousands of youth in the country, hence public and private investment into the sector is very fundamental.

Benefit

We implore football administrators to utilise such sponsorship as one advanced by SMVAF with utmost transparency, and ensure the ultimate benefit of the sport as a whole.

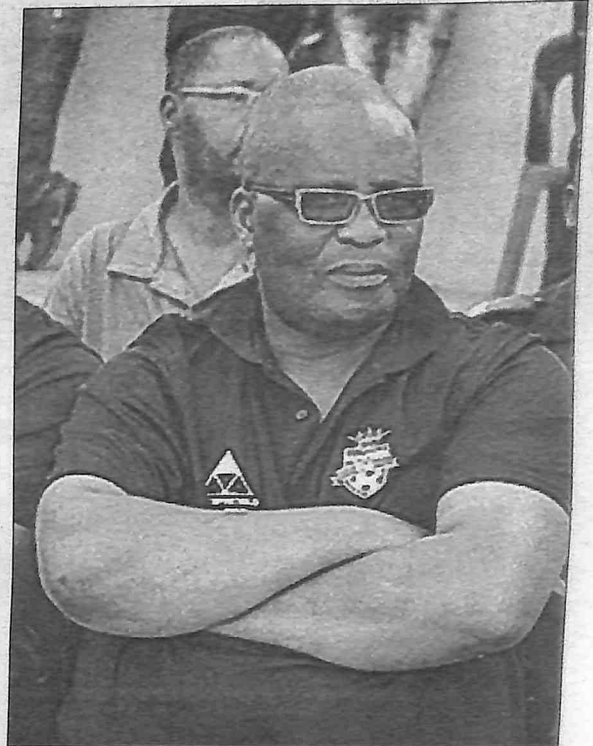
May I congratulate the management committee for ensuring a seamless flow of the tournament, and successfully integrating both sport and culture, something which is unprecedented and ground-breaking.

I thank you.

The King's Foreword was sourced from the SMVAF Magazine Special Edition for the Ingwenyama Cup 2015/16



SMVAF INGWENYAMA CUP 2016/17



INGWENYAMA CUP, THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA

● The Ingwenyama Cup is by far the most prestigious initiative we have been called upon to implement, both in magnitude and scope. While we are humbled that we have been tasked with its implementation, we realise that His Majesty could have assigned any other organisation, and we would have to support the initiative like we do with numerous national events driven by other organisations.

Other than sport, SMVAF's Corporate Social Initiative program will continue to intervene and make meaningful contributions to other sectors, particularly health, education, sanitation, food security, and arts & culture.

This was said by SMVAF Board Chairman Zweli Jele, who reveals, in an interview, a future post-tournament outlook of 'legacy projects'.

Below is the full interview with Jele.

Sincephetelo (S): Clearly, His Majesty's patronage of this tournament demonstrates political will. How does it feel that your organisation has had the privilege of implementing this initiative?

Jele (J): As an organisation, Sincephetelo MVA Fund is humbled to be associated with any initiative patronised by His Majesty King Mswati III at any level. The Ingwenyama Cup is by far the most prestigious initiative we have been called upon to implement, both in magnitude and scope. While we are humbled that we have been tasked with its implementation, we realise that His Majesty could have assigned any other organisation, and we would have to support the initiative like we do with numerous national events driven by other organisations.

S: From a policy perspective, what role does your organisation play in the promotion of social initiatives in the country; e.g. sport and youth development, education, health, and arts and culture?

J: As a corporate citizen of the Kingdom of Swaziland, we have a responsibility to contribute meaningfully towards the country's social courses through supporting initiatives such as the ones you mention. As you would expect with any corporate citizen, we have had to adopt a Corporate Social Investment policy that provides guidelines how we can make meaningful interventions whose impact can be measured. This Corporate Social Investment policy itself aims to assist the organization achieve its strategic objectives. Naturally, the CSI Policy focuses funding on those stakeholders and communities primarily involved

with Sincephetelo MVA Fund's strategies. It is worth noting though that some investments may be made on a wider level towards national, social and economic programmes including the above.

S: What motivated SMVAF to contribute so significantly towards sport development, soccer in particular, through the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup?

J: We considered a number of things. But, first and foremost, we were motivated by a desire to contribute in delivering common good at a national level while supporting culture and sport. We were also motivated by the prospects of reaching the thousands of Swazis who patronise the game through this vehicle. Undoubtedly, football is Swaziland's most popular sport that is played by about 40 000 (plus/minus) and watched and followed by hundreds of thousands countrywide. It has been proven to have a 'positive addictive' effect among the youth that, at its best, it can suppress other negative addictions.

We figured that using the sport as a vehicle for communicating our message could well prove the panacea to

the problem of drugs, crime and early sexualactivity, all of which have fatal consequences, and have been found to be one of the many variable factors that lead to traffic accidents.

S: The tournament has succeeded to integrate culture with sport; something which is unprecedented in the history of both in this country. What lessons could be drawn from this in as far as the upholding of our cultural identity in the modern day is concerned?

J: One must say we were pleasantly surprised to see how well this new approach has been received. It must be pointed out though that in our planning, we were never in doubt that, as a corporate Swazi citizen that is supported by His Majesty's Government, we had an equal responsibility to both sports and culture.

We might not have been able to state with any level of conviction and certainty if at all these would work together; however, there was never a doubt in our minds that we, together with other stakeholders, would have to make it work.

We are humbled, once again, that we have been associated with what is now

seen as a first. We know, however, that without the custodians of our culture, it would not have been possible to achieve our objectives. The lessons we can draw from this experience is that no nation can achieve any form of modernity without its cultural identity. Our culture defines who we are - without it much of our aspirations are meaningless.

S: From staging the inaugural tournament, are you convinced that partnering with football can help your organisation meet its core mandate faster and cost-effectively?

J: Whatever doubt may have been there as pertains football being the right vehicle to meeting our objectives prior to staging the tournament has been off-set by the roaring success that the inaugural Ingwenyama Cup has been.

When His Majesty's wishes were pronounced to us, we quickly had to put on our thinking caps in an attempt to figure out how best we could use this tournament as a vehicle to convey the Fund's mandate: specifically that of compensation of accident victims and supporting other stakeholders in the prevention of traffic accidents. All

things being equal, we were convinced that the tournament would help us achieve the following objectives:

- Create a positive image of Sincephetelo MVA Fund on the minds of the populace.
- Get more young people to play the game and stay away from drugs.
- Promote road safety to the thousands of captive audience who patronize the game (in their language).
- Improve the standard of the game; thus improve its attractiveness.
- Create role models who live positive values and have a clean profile; and inspire the youth.
- Make the sport of football attractive and meaningful to traditional structures.

Having considered the above, we were convinced that it was in our best interest to stage a football tournament that would impact and change Swazi football for the better and make the sport attractive to as many young people as possible to keep them away from drugs and other social ills.

This way the tournament will instil a sense of community pride and good sportsmanship. We are convinced that if you take drugs out of the equation, the battle to reduce road traffic deaths will have begun in earnest. After all, drugs, particularly alcohol, are among the leading causes of road traffic accidents.

Further, we believe that this vehicle will enable SMVAF to build strong brand loyalties in the mind of the general populace and acceptance of what contemporary SMVAF stands for.

S: It was announced earlier that SMVAF would implement legacy projects emanating from this tournament. When can we expect to see their implementation, and in what form would they be in?

J: The guiding light for the implementation of the legacy projects is our Corporate Social Investment Policy. As a matter of policy, we plan to make interventions in the following areas: health, food security, education, arts and culture. As to when these would be implemented is a matter of logistics, suffice to say the Fund will announce the way forward in due course.

SMVAF INGWENYAMA CUP 2016/17



INGWENYAMA CUP ELIMINATIONS

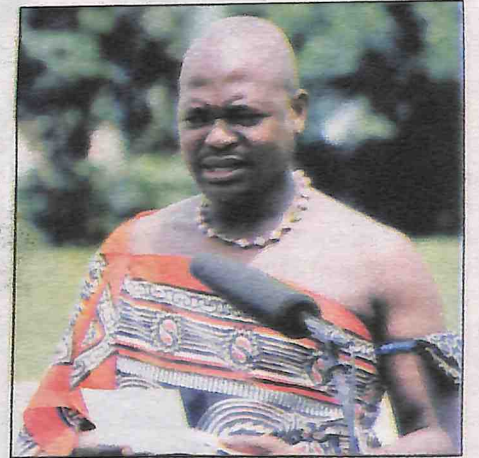
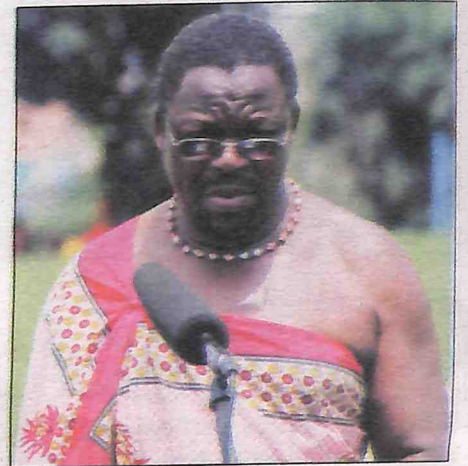


This year was a different year as second and third position runners up at regional levels were given a sec-

ond chance to pave their way to the finals through semi-finals eliminations held across the four regions.

The Manzini Region was the last one where the eliminations were held Mavuso Exhibition and Trade Centre on Saturday.

This is where the eventual winners for the region were selected. Below is the pictorial coverage of the eliminations at Mavuso.



SMVAF INGWENYAMA CUP 2016/17



INGWENYAMA CUP RECAP, 2016



The first instalment of the Ingwenyama Cup Culture was a spectacular showpiece which left the fully packed Somhlolo National Stadium wondering why such has not

been happening all along.

It was all His Majesty's idea to have the culture incorporated to the soccer tournament and it fitted just like a hand in a glove.

The best among the categories were presented with trophies and prize monies for their achievements.

It was His Majesty who personally presented the winners with their prizes which

was a proud moment for the participating groups to have an opportunity of a life-time to pose for a picture with the King.

This is a pictorial synopsis of what went down on the day of the finals last year.

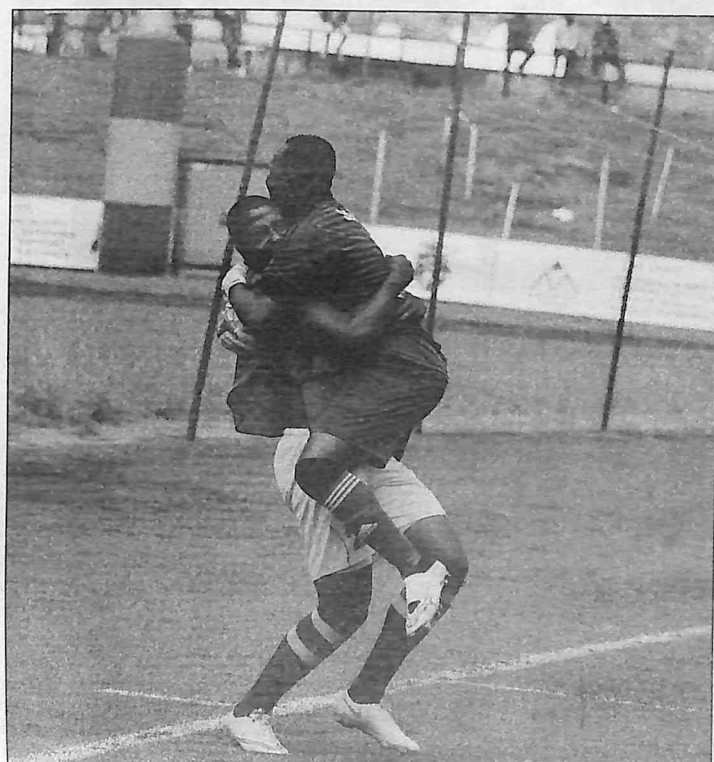
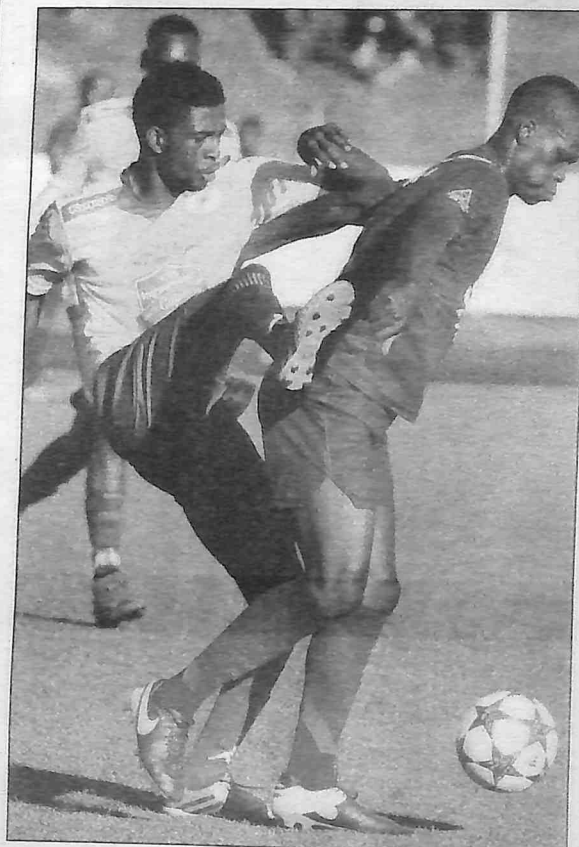
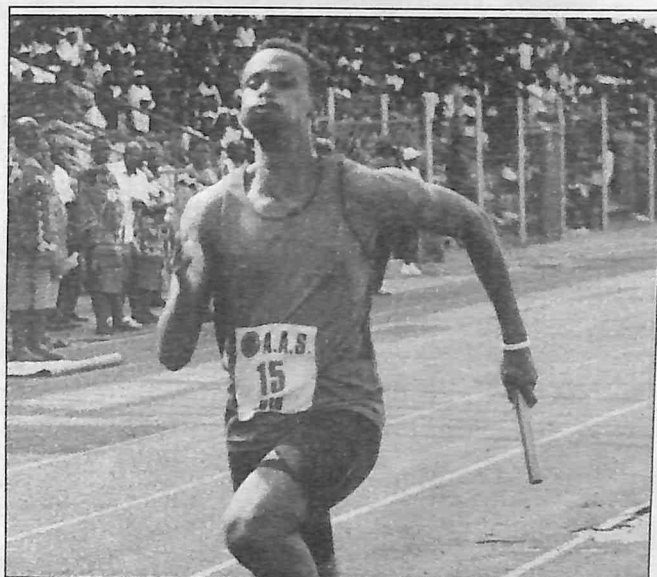




SMVAF INGWENYAMA CUP 2016/17



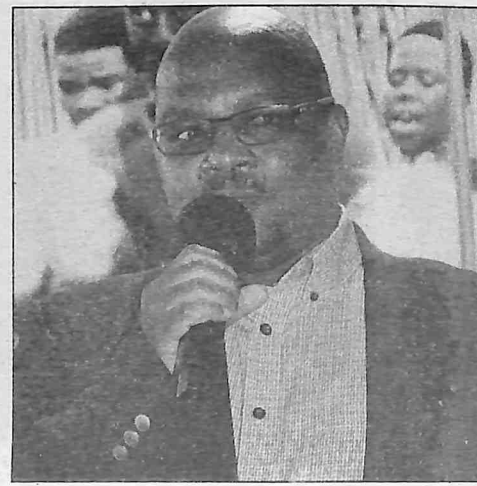
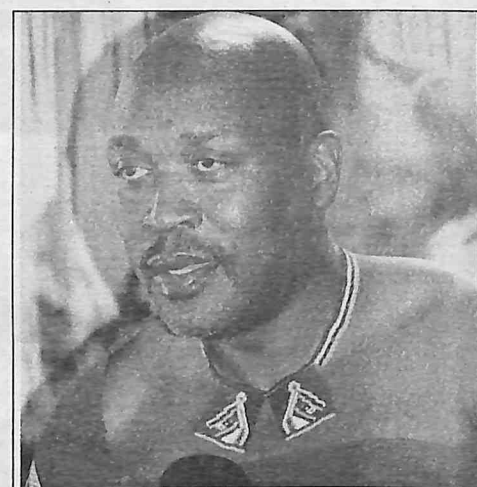
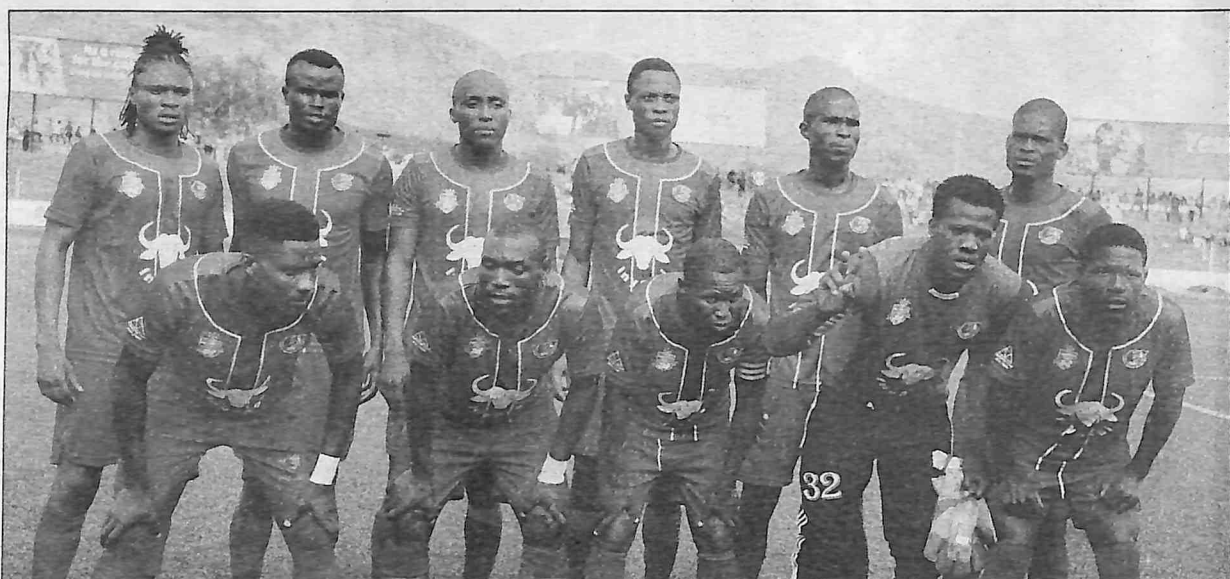
INGWENYAMA CUP



SMVAF INGWENYAMA CUP 2016/17



THROUGH THE LENSE



SMVAF INGWENYAMA CUP 2016/17



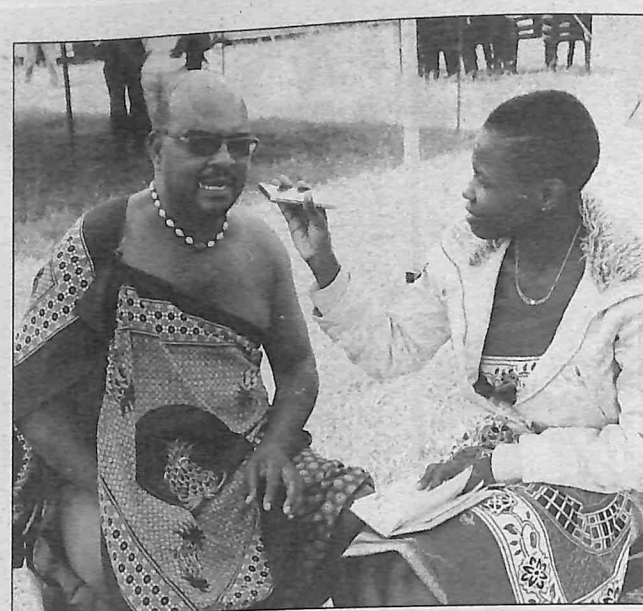
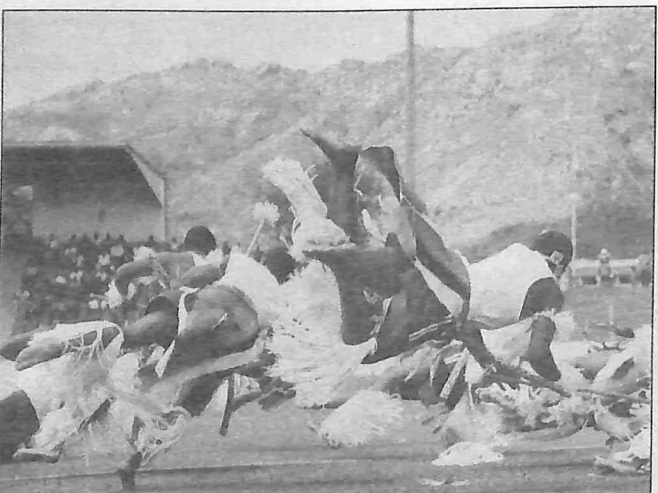
THAB'SILE'S CORNER



The Ingwenyama Cup Semi-Finals, which was double header, between Buffalos and Tambuti FC and that of Mbabane Swallows against Manzini Sundowns was spiced up with cultural performance by Ingadla from Elangeni and that of Indlamu by Lushikishini. The show stopper on the day

was the drum player of the Lushikishini group Thabsile Shongwe who was a marvel to watch with her passion in playing the drum which is an accompaniment for the dancers.

Below is the action of the day courtesy the Ingwenyama Cup Culture committee.



The Sincephetelo Fund in brief...

The Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accidents Fund (MVA Fund) commenced operations under the fuel levy system on the 1st January 1988.

The MVA Fund was established by an Act of Parliament under the Motor Vehicle Accidents Act No. 13 of 1991 as the instrument by which the Government of Swaziland compensates road accidents victims who have suffered bodily injuries or loss of support following the death of breadwinners. Between 1973 and 1986, compensation to road victims was operated by the Insurance Industry under Third Party premiums. Due to the horrendous and escalating accidents rate, the Insurance Industry was compelled to increase Third Party premiums by percentages that were high.

The Government of Swaziland became concerned that most people would not afford Third Party cover and road victims could be left without compensation, hence the establishment of the MVA Fund as a fuel.

The mandate of the MVA Fund is therefore defined clearly in the Act as being "to provide for compensation for certain loss or damage caused unlawfully by means of motor vehicles and for matters incidental thereto". Compensation under the fuel levy system is therefore a legal right deriving from the law of delict and founded on the juristic notion that if X commits a wrong against Y, which results in Y suffering damages (either by an act or by omission), then X is obliged by law to restore Y to his/her original position, or in other words, to compensate him or her.

The first step to lodging a claim is obtaining a police report from the police station to which the crash was reported. Once the report has been submitted to the Fund, a claim form will be issued to the claimant.

The MVA Fund compensates

for accidents that occur within the Kingdom of Swaziland. Therefore, one cannot claim for an accident that happened outside the country. Section 12 of the Motor Vehicle Accident Act, which provides basis of the cover, reads as follows: "A claimant who has suffered loss as a result of injury to himself, or as a result of the death or injury of any person, in either case caused by or arising out of the negligent driving in any place in Swaziland of a motor vehicle by another person or other unlawful act of the person driving the motor vehicle (the driver) or the owner of the motor vehicle or his servant in the execution of his duty, shall, subject to the conditions, limitations and exclusions imposed by this Act, be entitled to claim the benefits prescribed by this Act from the SMVA Fund."

The claimant must be person or claimant to have suffered loss by reason of injury to him or herself or by the death of another.

The cause must either be the driving of a motor vehicle or an unlawful act associated with a motor vehicle and the conduct must be performed by the owner, driver or an employee of the owner acting on the course of his/her employment.

A degree of fault on the part of the owner or driver of the motor vehicle or the employee is required. This constitutes negligence, which forms the basis of any claim. A casual link is required between the loss suffered by the road accident victim and the conduct of the negligent owner or driver.

A claim must be lodged within two years after the occurrence of the accident. Accident survivors or dependants who wish to claim are however encouraged to lodge claims soon after the accident occurrence.

However, minors and people with mental illnesses are excluded from the two year restriction

SMVAF INGWENYAMA CUP 2016/17



Ingwenyama Cup Culture committee members.

THE FINALISTS ARE AS FOLLOWS

Lubombo Region		Hhohho Region	
Category	Winners	Lutsango	Nkanini
Lutsango	Malindza	Sibhaca	Maphalaleni
Sibhaca	KaMkhweli	Ingadla	Maphalaleni
Ingadla	Nkilongo	Timbongi	Velimoya Msweli
Timbongi	Skhumbuzo Ndlovu	Emajaha	Mkhuzweni
Emajaha	Kalanga		
Manzini Region		Shiselweni Region	
Lutsango	Lozitha	Lutsango	Buseleni II
Sibhaca	Ngculwini	Sibhaca	Mbangweni
Ingadla	Ngculwini	Ingadla	Buseleni I
Timbongi	Sicelo Dlamini	Timbongi	Timisile Masuku
		Emajaha	Buseleni I

COME ONE COME ALL

Ingwenyama Cup Culture Committee Chairman Prince Bukhosi has promised fireworks at the finals when it comes to culture competition. He urged the nation to come in great numbers to witness the spectacular culture showcase.

He said they were ready for the big day on Sunday where the nation and their majesties would witness the finalists from the four regions battling for the first top spot.

He said the regional eliminations were a great success since there were no complaints or protests received the different regions.

"As a committee we believe we did a good job during the elimination stages which attracted scores of people across the country.

It was a proud moment to see the nation coming together to compete in the respective culture categories. We are now looking forward to a successful final at Somhlolo on Sunday" he said.

He also urged people to come in their numbers to be part of this competition. "It will motivate the King to find a fully packed stadium on Sunday, so people must come in their numbers and be part of this big day.



I believe this is just the beginning of even bigger things to come because His Majesty is passionate about culture so if people come in big number he will do even bigger things for nation when it comes to promoting culture. We also promise to put up an even better show this year compared to the last which was our very first. Last year was the first"

he added

The Chairman said all the groups selected to partake in the finals deserved it and will present a spectacular showpiece on Sunday. He added that all the categories namely Ingadla, Sibhaca, Lutsango, Timbongi and Lacwebetelako will be represented during the finals on Sunday. *By Simon Shabangu*



Ecsponent boost for Buseleni Cultural Groups

The three culture groups from Buseleni under Nkwene Inkhundla group will go into the Ingwenyama Cup final oozing confidence after clinching sponsorship from Ecsponent.

Ecsponent, a company dealing with Investments presented 50 units of Emahiya, 50 golf T-shirts and 50 T-shirts to the Nkwene constituency culture groups to compete under the Ingadla, Lutsango and Emajaha categories during the finals to be held at the Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday.

The presentation was held at the

company's premises at Ezulwini Gables on Thursday. Presenting the sponsorship was the company's Country Director Edwin Soonius who said they were happy to be part of this historic moment.

"We are happy to be part of the Ingwenyama Cup and hope the sponsorship will go a long way in promoting the spirit of culture. He said the company was approached by Inkhosikati LaNdwandwe, wife to Prince Gabheni to sponsor the team.

"The sponsorship was our way of giving back to the community and we do wish the team all the best on

the day," he said.

Receiving the sponsorship was Nkwene based businessman Philemon Vulimpompi Nhleko who expressed gratitude to the company for sponsoring the team.

"We would like to thank the Directors of Ecsponent for sponsoring our team.

This will definitely boost our confidence and we are positive our team will win," he said.

He then urged other businessman to support the company so they could continue supporting the Swazi nation



SMVAF INGWENYAMA CUP 2016/17



ROAD TO THE FINALS:

● In both editions the road to the final has been interesting as we witnessed exciting football and shocks as some teams were sent packing in the early stages of the tournament.

The Ingwenyama Cup final has kept supporters at the edge of their seats since the inaugural edition last year.

In both editions the road to the final has been interesting as we witnessed exciting football and shocks as some teams were sent packing in the early stages of the tournament.

Buffaloes have reached this stage of the tournament without conceding a single goal and Swallows conceding two.

We take you through finalists Buffaloes and Mbabane Swallows' journey to the finals.

MBABANE SWALLOWS

Last 32

Swallows.....5

Hub Sundowns...0

The Ingwenyama Cup defending champions had it easy in this stage of the tournament as they cruised past National First Division outfit Hub Sundowns, beating them 5-0 in the grand opening games played at the Somhlolo National Stadium on December 11. It was a brace from Sabelo Sikhali Ndzinisa and goals by Wonder Samba Jive Nhleko, Njabulo D4D Ndlovu and Captain Tony TT Ndlovu that earned them the ticket to the next round.

Last 16

Swallows.....2

Sea Birds.....1

The red and white glamour side met with Manzini Sea Birds, a team that has proved to be their hoodoo side in the game. The team had it tough and managed a 2-1 victory against the Manzini outfit. Scoring for the Birds was veteran winger Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko who scored a brace while Sea Birds' striker Muzi Tsabedze netted for his side.

Quarter-finals

Swallows.....4

Vovovo.....0

The team faced giant killers Vovovo who ousted hub giants Manzini Wanderers in this tournament. Swallows however proved too strong for the Mbabane based National First Division outfit beating them 4-0 at the Mayaluka Stadium in Big Bend. Netting for the Birds were Sanele Mkheweli, Sikhali, Sandile Hlatshwako and King Mydo.

Semi-finals

Swallows.....2

Sundowns.....1

What an exhilarating game between Swallows and Manzini Sundowns. The two sides met in this stage of the tournament in the inaugural edition with Birds managing a 5-2 victory. Sundowns had a score to settle and they indeed gave Swallows a run for their money. The game played at the Somhlolo National Stadium proved to be the 'final before the final'. Sundowns

was first to open the score sheet through defender Phumlani Dlamini but their joy was short-lived as the Mbabane giants equalized about four minutes later through playmaker Papy Tshitshimbi. Swallows winger was unfortunate as he missed a penalty but he was able to make amends as his eventually scored the team's winning goal seven minutes before time.

YOUNG BUFFALOES

Buffaloes.....6

U. Flyers.....0

After an early exit in the inaugural edition of the tournament, Young Buffaloes stepped up to the challenge this time around. Their journey started against Ubombo Flyers whom they walloped 6-0. The man of the moment was Sifiso Mazibuko who netted four times for the army outfit while Mzwandile Nkonyane and Ndoda Mthethwa sealed the deal with a goal apiece.

snatched a late winner through striker Phiwa Dlamini.

Quarter-finals

Buffaloes.....1

Malanti.....0

A brace by striker Ndoda Mthethwa was enough to see the army side advancing to the semi-finals of the tournament against Malanti Chiefs. The army side did not struggle as Malanti struggled throughout the match marking the end of the road for them.

Semi-finals

Buffaloes.....2

Tambuti.....0

Surprise package Tambuti was next in line for the Dominic Kunene led charges. The army side had it easy against the giant killers which sent Correctional Services outfit Green Mamba and struggling giants Mbabane Highlanders in the quarter-finals and Semi-finals, respectively.



2015/2016 Edition

LAST 32

Ludzeludze Brothers	2	Midas City	1
Kontshingila	0	Sea Birds	4
SikhaloSe Africa	3	Tambuti	1
Ubombo Flyers	2	Malanti	1
Vovovo	0	Red Lions	1
Horo Spinners	0	Bad Boys	3
Hlathikhulu Tycoons	0	Moneni Pirates	3
All Nations	0	Green Mamba	7
Madlenya	0	Royal Leopard	5
Amalanda	1	Young Buffaloes	1

(Amalanda won 4-2 after penalties)

CPL	1	RSSC Unired	2
City Warriors	0	Mzn Sundowns	5
Sisonkhe	2	Mzn Wanderers	2
(Sisonkhe won 5-4 after penalties)			
Manchester United	1	Mbn Swallows	4
Hub Sundowns	0	M. Highlanders	3

LAST 16

Moneni Pirates	1	S. Se Africa	1
(Moneni won 5-4 after penalties)			
Mbabane Citizen	1	Hellenic	1
(Hellenic won 9-8 after penalties)			
Mbabane Swallows	5	Ubombo Flyers	0
Sisonkhe	0	Red Lions	0
(Sisonkhe won 4-3 after penalties)			
Manzini Sea Birds	1	Royal Leopard	1
(Leopard won 5-4 after penalties)			



Hellenic	1	RSSC United	2
Manzini Sundowns	1	Bad Boys	0
Ludzeludze Brothers	0	Green Mamba	4
Amalanda	0	M. Highlanders	4

Quarterfinals

RSSC	0	Royal Leopard	2
Mbabane Highlanders	1	Green Mamba	1
(Green Mamba won 4-1 after penalties)			
Mbabane Swallows	3	Moneni Pirates	1
Manzini Sundowns	1	Sisonkhe	0

Semi-finals

Royal Leopard	2	Green Mamba	0
Mbabane Swallows	5	Mzn Sundowns	2

FINALS

Mbabane Swallows	2	Royal Leopard	0
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Second Edition

Last 32

CPL	0	Vovovo	1
Ubombo Flyers	0	Y. Buffaloes	6
Luyengo Foxes	0	M. United	5
Bad Boys	0	Mzn Sundowns	0
(Sundowns won 4-2 after penalties)			
Manchester United	0	Royal Leopard	1
Amalanda	1	Tambuti	4
Mbabane Citizen	1	Red Lions	2
Tycoons	0	Malant	4
Hotspurs	2	City Warriors	1
Sikhalo Se Africa	1	Mzn Sea Birds	1

(Sea Birds won 4-1 after penalties)

Black Aces	0	Green Mamba	7
Rangers	1	Midas City	4
Sibovini	1	Mzn Wanderers	5
Ludzeludze Brothers	0	M. Highlanders	4
Hub Sundowns	0	M. Swallows	5

LAST 16

Mbabane Swallows	2	Sea Birds	1
Mbabane Highlanders	3	Madlenya	2
Red Lions	0	Moneni Pirates	7
Matsapha United	0	M. Sundowns	1
Vovovo	4	M. Wanderers	2
Malanti Chiefs	1	Midas City	0
Tambuti	1	Green Mamba	1

(Tambuti won 5-2 after penalties)

Young Buffaloes	1	Royal Leopard	0
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QUARTER-FINALS

Tambuti	2	Highlanders	1
Swallows	4	Vovovo	0
Buffaloes	2	Malanti	0
Sundowns	1	Pirates	0

SEMI-FINALS

Tambuti	0	Buffaloes	2
Swallows	2	Sundowns	1

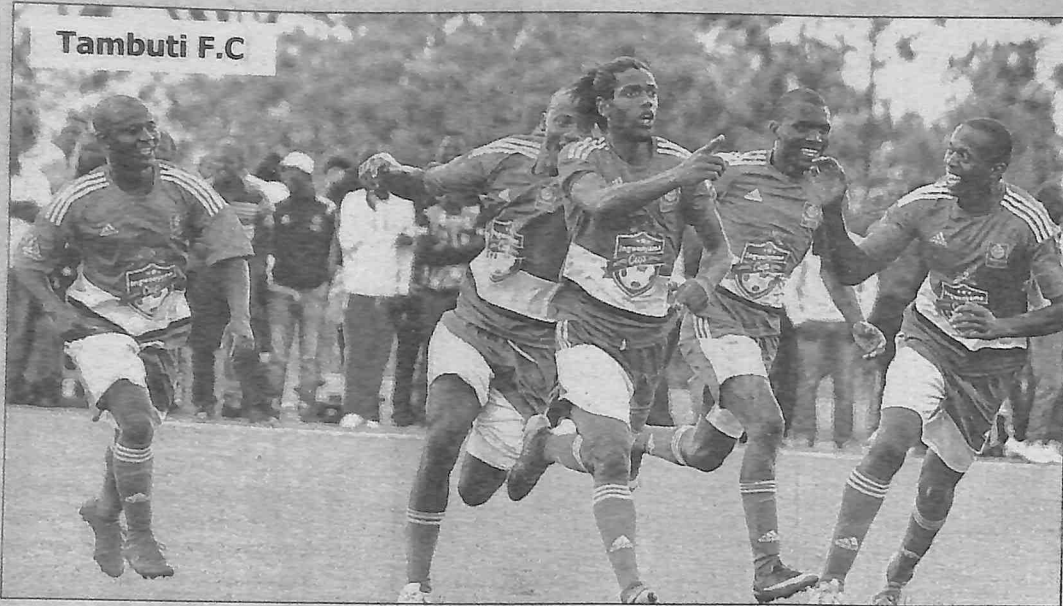
FINALS

Swallows vs Buffaloes

SMVAF INGWENYAMA CUP 2016/17



Tambuti F.C



Vovovo



TAMBUTI, VOVOVO - THE GIANT SLAYERS

Premier League rookies Tambuti FC and National First Division outfit Vovovo are teams whose names will not be forgotten in the second edition of the tournament.

The team shocked many when they ousted giants in the Ingwenyama Cup tournament. Tambuti knocked out Green Mamba before stopping struggling Mbabane Highlanders to make it to the semi-finals of the lucrative knockout tournament.

It was an achievement for the side as they were unfortunate to be booted out in the early stages in the first edition of the tournament.

The Alou Badara led outfit started their mission against Amalanda and they cruised past the First Division side after beating them 4-1 in the preliminary stages. A hat-trick by Nigerian forward Ugochuckwu

Ohakwe and a goal from Mpendulo Ngidi earned the team their ticket to the round of 16.

Against the Correctional Services outfit Tambuti narrowly made it through after winning 5-4 after penalties. This was after they settled for a 1-1 draw in normal time.

The quarterfinal clash against Mbabane Highlanders was more exciting. The game played at the King Sobhuza Memorial Stadium attract over thousands of supporters.

Tambuti were the first to score about 35 minutes into the match but Highlanders leveled matters in the fifth minute of added time, sending the game into extra time. It was a powerful Volley by Fabrice Mopina from over 25 yards that ended the Mbabane side's journey in the tournament.

It was however to be the end of the road for the side as they sent packing by army side Young Buffaloes where they lost 0-2 at the Somhlolo National Stadium about two weeks ago.

Vovovo, on the other hand eliminated hub giants Manzini Wanderers in the round of 16 games.

The National First Division side recorded a 4-2 victory against the maroon and white outfit which seems to be unlucky in the tournament. The team was sent packing in the in the preliminary stages of the tournament little known Sisonkhe FC in the first edition. Midas City was also not spared this time around as they also made it to the first round of the games.

Their journey was cut short by Malanti Chiefs who advanced following a 1-0 victory.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE INGWENYAMA CUP:

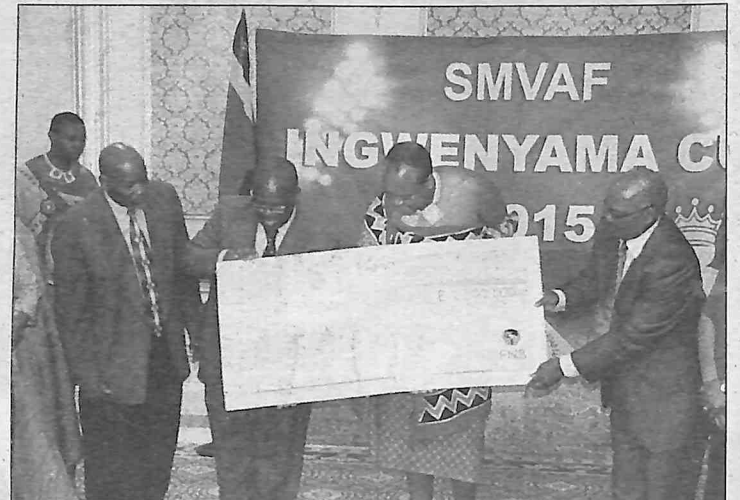
Richest tournament in the country

A whooping E9million sponsorship package was introduced for this tournament by His Majesty King Mswati III on November 10 last year.

The sponsorship by the Sincempetelo Motor Vehicle Accident Fund was to be spread over three

years. The prize for the winners in the first edition was E1.1 million and has risen to E1.2 this year.

This year's edition of the tournament also saw teams in the region fight for E40 000 first prize which was the first of its kind in local football.



Blend of culture and sport

Who would have thought football and culture would be incorporated together. The Ingwenyama Cup has been a colourful position and has seen the two activities blend together to unify the Swazi nation.

It was not only football teams com-

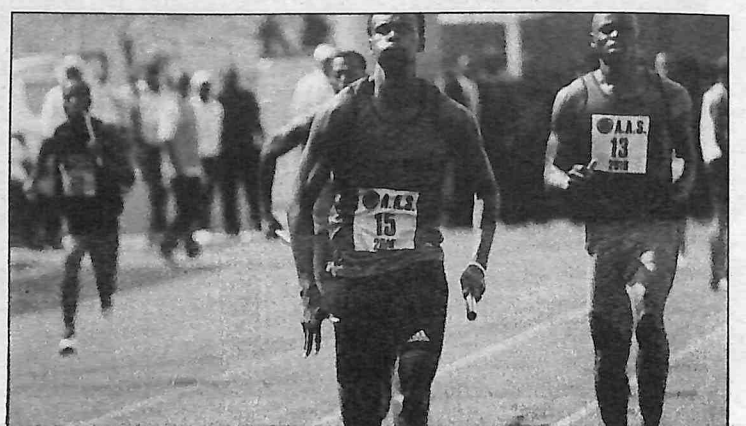
peting in this tournament but cultural teams from all over the country battled it out in different cultural activities including Sibhaca, Ingadla, Lamnyama, Lutsango and Timbongi, something that has attracted others from outside the country.



Inclusion of other sports

The Ingwenyama Cup gets bigger and better by the year. Last year the tournament incorporated other sports namely athletics where supporters got to see, amongst others, local sprinter Sibusiso Swazi Bolt Matsenjwa in action.

This time will also see athletes competing in the 10 000km race to be held at the Somhlolo National. The Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) Chairman hinted that the finals of the next edition of the lucrative tournament might be held over two days.





VS



05 FEBRUARY 2017 GATES OPEN @ 6:00AM SOMHLOLO STADIUM

The finals of the country's biggest tournament comes to a close. Come watch Young Buffaloes and Mbabane Swallows battle it out. Also catch Emajaha; Imbongi, Ingadla; Lutsango and Sibhaca. Join the thousands of patriotic fans and support your teams on your way to the stadium.



Remember to obey all traffic safety laws.



She's heaven sent

Dreams do come for true eventually.

You just need to be patient. They say patience is virtue. Before Sibusiso Ngcamphalala met Andile Slengen-Ngcamphalala, he prayed for a model and a down to earth woman, "I had prayed to God and described the kind of lady I was looking for (model type) and immediately I laid my eyes on her during the Mr/Miss Wings beauty pageant, I knew she was the one," Sibusiso states.

Andile is the former Miss Wings and Miss Cultural first Princess. She is not only a beauty queen but also has the brains too. Her personality defines her beauty and this is what attracted Sibusiso, "her beauty and body structure made realise she was the one," he says.

The understanding of true love takes a lot of time, patience, and the readiness to accept each other by the individuals involved. Sibusiso believes his wife should be spoiled and he makes sure he does that. "When she says we have to go to The Mall, I know I have to cancel all other plans I had because chances are high that we will spend

...The understanding of true love takes a lot of time, patience, and the readiness to accept each other by the individuals involved.

the whole day there," he says.

He is a man of his words, in as much as he is in a very demanding industry which requires one to have a partner who is understanding and supportive. He makes time for his partner, "I maintain a successful career and relationship through avoid bringing work issues to the house but because of my schedule, sometimes the two do cross paths," he says.

Andile believes she and her husband have a good relationship and they have become best friends. "Friendship is what leads to a better relationship but I think in order to have a romantic relationship, some kind of attraction needs to be there. Being able to be friends within a relationship is a good thing too, perhaps, a necessity," she tells SCENE.

Andile is not only attracted to her husband's physical appearance but his genuineness, "Sbu is not only physically appealing but also has brains and is a goal getter. His sincerity caps it all. This

may sound silly but everything just felt right, his smile makes me smile," she blushes.

"He is so gentles with me. I also LOVED his sense of humour as it tends to go hand-in-hand with being calm and easy going, which I really appreciate. We really have a good chemistry," she says.

The Ngcamphalas have so many ways to keep their relationship sparkling, "we are able to balance our business endeavours and time spent together, handle our differences creatively plus communication is key. We communicate kindly and clearly," Andile shares. "Having a strong relationship doesn't mean our occupational goals have to suffer, we prioritise them and this may mean weakening our professional aspirations in return for our relationship growth at times.

We also try to stay connected even if we are not together by sending quick private messages or email just to show he is on my mind," she states.

you do not even have to try to show affection. The affection is just a natural response to how you feel about them, "So we have pet names, we buy each other stuff spontaneously. For instance, I bring her food at work. We give each other massages.

I smack her bum and she smacks mine. Steal a kiss in the passage or while she sleeps. Tell her she is beautiful. Tell her you love her as often as possible.

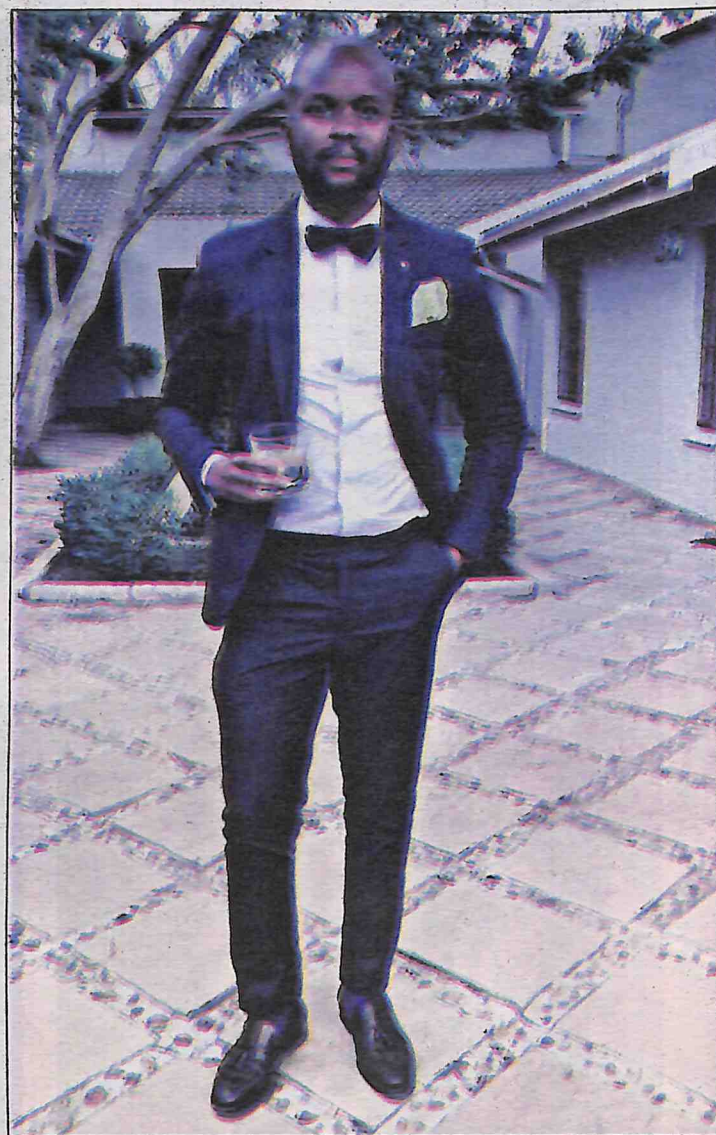
Caress her hair for no reason.

That kind of thing. It helps," he declares. In long-term relationships or married couples, one gets bored when the other party grows grey. In most cases, women grow much faster and she then behaves like a mother. In most cases, it bores the other party and he goes for young ones (that's what they are called lately, 'young ones').

However, Sibusiso loves the fact that

Katlego is growing older because as she grows older she is growing wiser and more mature,

"In case you have not noticed, older women are sexier, not just in their looks, but in their personality. They know what they want and are more focused in life. So, no; it doesn't bother me that she is growing older. It makes me love her all the more," he says. Love lives here. *By Ayanda Dlamini*



The gentleman of class

● Peron Don Of Style award winner

Few years ago, some failed to realise that men can be stylish and wear fashionable clothes.

Gone are the days when men didn't bother themselves about their looks and how they dress.

Tom Ford says it better when he says looking good is a form of good manners. The way you dress as a man says a lot you.

SCENE met the Peron Don of Style award winner Nkhosinathi Mvubu, popularly known as Nathi. Yes, he is a proud Swazi based in South Africa.

He is not only an attorney but a gentleman with class, always looking good. His followers on social networks always look forward to his next post, especially on Instagram.

He won the Peroni Don of Style award in 2014, which was interestingly the last year the award was given out. "So it's flattering to know that I was the last one to win it.

Winning the award happened purely by chance as, I did not even know about its existence when I was first approached. It turned out to be a fun and memorable experience," he says.

The Don of Style award was essentially about being a gentleman, suave and effortlessly stylish. Peroni is a traditional Italian brand, so to be a Peroni Don off Style you have to embody all these forementioned qualities, and most importantly have a fresh sense of style.

It is generally believed that fashion influences your lifestyle as an individual but Nathi does

his own game. "I do not think fashion has a major influence in my lifestyle really. It's good to dress well and tidily, but clothes are made for people and not people for clothes.

We wake up early in the morning not knowing what to wear and it becomes stressful sometimes." Nathi says he does not even think about what to wear or follow a certain routine, "During the week I have to dress formally because of my line of work, and on weekends I dress up or down, depending on where I have to go. I guess you could say my outfits pick themselves (laughs)," he says.

"It is not something I actively think about. So I do not have a set routine.

Useful guides are the occasion, the weather and most importantly comfort," he tells SCENE.

He buys clothes that make sense to him, "I wear whatever makes me feel good about myself, after all fashion trends come and go, it is important to not get too hung up on them," he tells SCENE.

"There is no point in looking good if you do not feel good about what you are wearing. Most importantly, my clothes are about me and no one else, you are already second best if you are trying to dress and look like someone else," he adds.

Nathi was surrounded by stylish and fashionable characters from a very young age around the out-cast of Mbabane. "I grew up with a clear sense of what looked good and what did not," he says.

COUPLING HAS BECOME FASHIONABLE



AKA & BONANG



SHONA & CONNIE



BEYONCE & JAY Z



MBALI & BLACK COFFEE



ROBERT & PEARL



GAIL & KABELO

Have you ever met a couple that made you envy what they had? Social media is putting us under pressure guys, looking at the international celebrities flaunting their partners on Instagram to be specific. Don't we envy them? Personally I do.

The sweet romance between South African rapper AKA and TV personality Bonang Matheba will surely make you ask yourself – why am I still single? The extraordinary couple have quickly become one of Mzansi's favourite celebrity couple just like that. They are jetting off to Lagos, United States, recently Thailand, etc. I must admit I'm totally envious of their love affair.

On social media, we usually get a fever each time the lovebirds share one of their pictures together or send a sweet shout out to each other. At the rate the two are going, fans are undoubtedly waiting for Bonang Matheba and AKA's big day.

Readers, we have more couples that we envy: the two obvious power couples the Caters (Jay-Z and Beyoncé) and the Obamas (Barack and Michelle). A lot I can say about the Obamas and the Caters. Yes, they are the perfect example of POWER couple. Wait, did I just leave the Fergusons (Shona and Connie)? No, no, I cannot leave them behind. Their empire is built on nothing but love.

By Ayanda Dlamini



OBAMA & MICHELLE



NEWS . GOSSIP . ENTERTAINMENT

TITBITS

BEYONCÉ'S PREGNANCY EXCITES SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media has been abuzz with the news that the greatest Queen B, Beyoncé or better yet, Sasha Fierce's alter ego is expecting.

Having crooned over baby Blue Ivy, who is now a toddler, for years social media is more than ready to croon over the fact that Beyoncé Knowles, Mrs Carter, is not carrying one, but TWO babies.

With comments such as, "Beyoncé ubindze nje she's been baking... ☑," this is one pregnancy everyone wants a piece of.

Some disappointed people have even gone as far as bringing to light how her last project, 'Lemonade' had everyone looking for Becky with good hair and loving the fact that Bey showed her 'black' side as she said carried 'hot sauce' in her bag translated to be a baseball bat with which she 'sorted' her problems.

Speculation was rife after the

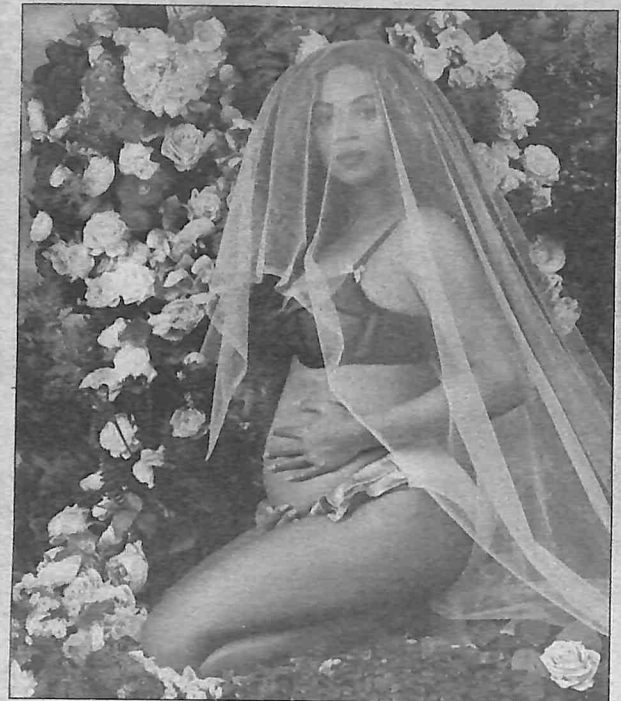


release of the project that things were not all rosy within the Carter mansion, or is it Carter's mansions?

After all, 'Lemonade' was not just an affirmation of her 'blackness' which by the way gave birth to videos making fun of white

people who have always embraced her as 'one of their own', but seemed to be a confession that, "I too go through relationship problems with my husband."

Swazis have NOT been left out of the Beyoncé cheering squad as



some have even gone to the extent of claiming the Carter family as their own.

Nothing unifies as does the prospects of a new addition to the family. Most people are crazy in love right now.

Some of the comments across social media platforms:

User 1: I am in love ngatsi bami

User 2: Go B! Go B! Go B!! ☑

User 3: Oooh nice my girl B. Solo awungitjeli ngani

Lundi's memorial held at Grace Bible

Lundi's memorial held on service was held at Grace Bible Church, Soweto.

The very same church that was named and shamed as a homophobic church on social media.

According to reports, the church building was filled to capacity and Tyamara's friends helped usher the mourners to their seats. Deborah

Fraser went straight for the elephant in the room when she took the podium.

"I love you gay people," she said, "because you guys are supportive and full of love."

She received a long round of applause as the LGBTI community showed their appreciation for her words.

Socialite Pasha joins hilarious #CassperNyovest challenge

Local socialite, Pasha broke the net when she posted her picture on Facebook where she did the hilarious Casper Challenge.

Her friends went crazy over the picture, "If you've got it, flaunt it! S'khotane tendencies!

#CasperNyovestChallenge Humble

with a bit of Kanye," she posted.

Posted

Cassper caused quite a stir last year when he posted a picture of himself standing on the bonnets of his two Bentleys.

Before Cassper knew it, the internet was overflowing with people

trying to replicate the image using the hashtag

#CassperNyovestChallenge.

Despite not having a Bentley or two to pose with, fans used their imaginations.

And the results are hilarious.

Mporoma gets own challenge

The last week of January saw Nomalungelo rightfully take her number one spot in the local music charts.

'Mporoma', her latest single, has taken the country by storm to the point of seeing people post their pictures at their BADDEST, because after all, 'Mporoma' is all about letting loose and letting go.

This challenge AND song has shown the funny side to Nomalungelo who has in the past been known for her afro jazzy-pop sound, think Imiyalo.

And even though she has always been a good looking girl, her evolution has come with a sultriness which only

maturity can nurture.

According to the song's producer, Claiming Ground Record's Muzi 'Mozaik' Ngwenya, the evolution of Nomalungelo sees her dapping with a musical style that transcends age groups and genres as she takes all generations on a musical journey with her God given talent.

This challenge is different from all the trending challenges that have ridiculously trended on social media.

Think the death pose? Who thunkit? The make-up-less challenge? Is it a challenge to now go about with your natural face? Join us as we get over our stresses and dance to Mporoma showing our Mporoma faces.



Behind the Scene

BEAUTIFUL FASHION AT PARLY OPENING

By Nomfundo Sifundza

PEOPLE came out to witness for themselves the 10th Parliament opening on Friday. There are various fashion tips SCENE picked from what people were wearing there. We love seeing people looking good and comfortable. Here are a few of the snaps we fell in love with:





SUNDAYOBSERVER AFRICA NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday

Zimb protest leader remanded in custody

HARARE - Zimbabwean protest leader Evan Mawarire was remanded in custody by a court in Harare on Friday after police arrested him on charges of subverting the government and inciting public violence.

Mawarire, an evangelical pastor, started the popular 'This Flag' protest movement last year, becoming a figurehead of opposition to veteran President Robert Mugabe's regime.

He was detained at Harare airport as he returned to the country on Wednesday after fleeing in July in fear for his life when Mugabe publicly denounced him.

Magistrate Elisha Singano remanded Mawarire in custody until February 17 and said he could apply for bail at the High Court.

Zimbabwe security forces cracked down last year after internet activism by the 'This Flag' movement led to a series of anti-government protests and work strikes.

"He (Mawarire) urged all Zimbabweans not to go to work and revolt against the government," Edmore Nyazamba, the public prosecutor, told the court after reading out the charges.

"There were violent demonstrations in the country where several properties were damaged."

Nyazamba said Mawarire had also asked overseas Zimbabweans to converge in New York to confront Mugabe during the UN General Assembly. *enca*



Zimbabwean protest leader Evan Mawarire.

US reconsiders reporting rule on DRC 'conflict minerals'

NAIROBI - The US Securities and Exchange Commission is reconsidering its rule requiring public companies to report their use of minerals from Democratic Republic of Congo, where multiple armed groups have stakes in the vast country's trillion-dollar mineral wealth.

A change by the SEC could either benefit the armed groups and increase the region's potential for conflict or help everyday Congolese who have felt the economic pinch as some companies stayed away, experts say.

In a statement earlier this week, the newly appointed Republican acting Chairperson of the SEC, Michael Piwowar, called the rule "misguided," saying there is little proof it has reduced conflict or eased humanitarian suffering in DRC.

In addition, he said, it may be creating a "vacuum filled by those with less benign interests" that could undermine US security interests.

He ordered the SEC to review the regulation. The SEC issued the rule in 2012 under the Dodd-Frank financial overhaul law.

It has required public companies to disclose information about their use of minerals from DRC, where armed groups linked to atrocities have profited from minerals used in electronics, jewellery and other goods. *AP*

MOZAMBIQUE PEACE TALKS TO RESUME MINUS FOREIGN MEDIATORS

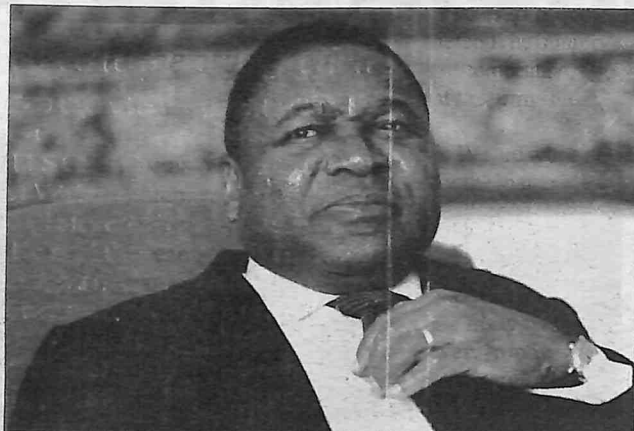
MAPUTO - Mozambique President Filipe Nyusi said Friday a fresh round of peace talks aimed at ending a low-level conflict between government and RENAMO rebels would resume soon, but without international mediation.

Mediators from the European Union had overseen the initial stages of the talks that began last July, but they left the country in December without securing a truce.

In a speech, Nyusi said he had written to all the international mediators who had participated in the dialogue, thanking them for their role in diffusing tensions between the two sides.

"I expressed the deep gratitude of Mozambicans for their valuable contribution to the quest for peace, the supreme interest of Mozambicans," he said, adding that the mediators' efforts "managed to bring closer the positions of government and RENAMO."

"Today, this phase of the peace process can be considered as concluded," said Nyusi, speaking on



Mozambique President Filipe Nyusi.

Heroes' Day, a national holiday.

"In short, another stage of the dialogue should begin, for which we would like to request they remain available should Mozambique deem it necessary."

Nyusi revealed he had "cordial interaction" with the RENAMO leader Afonso Dhlakama on the creation of two specialised working groups to continue the negotiations. These will separately focus on military and decentralisation issues. "I will have the

pleasure to announce, in the coming days, the next phase of our arrangements," he said.

Foreign mediators comprised of six international organisations including the European Union, oversaw the talks that took place in the capital Maputo.

They left the country in the middle of December. But two weeks after their departure, Dhlakama proclaimed a unilateral military truce which is in place until March 4. *AFP*

Angola's Dos Santos 'to stay in control' even after stepping down

LUANDA - Angola's Jose Eduardo Dos Santos is set to remain the leader of the ruling People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), when he steps down as president later this year, BBC reports.

Dos Santos confirmed on Friday that he would step down, ahead of elections in August.

The long-time leader has been in power for almost a decade.

He named Joao Lourenco as the candidate to run in his place.

A South African based

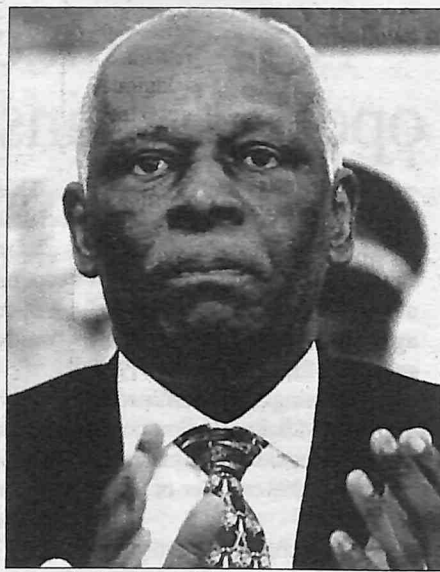
political analyst Gary van Staden, however, played down the significance of Dos Santos' announcement, Reuters said.

"He is still going to stay in a very powerful position in the party, which means he is going to stay in control and the president will defer to him," Van Staden was quoted as saying.

Lourenco, a former general, emerged as the probable successor late last year at a meeting of the MPLA.

Earlier in the year, Dos Santos had said he would step down in 2018.

News24



Angola's Jose Eduardo Dos Santos.

Ex-general poised to be Angola's next leader

LUANDA - The likely next president of Angola, Joao Lourenco, is a ruling party loyalist and former general who endured several years out of favour after he angled for the top job in the 1990s.

Since then, the 62-year-old Lourenco has convinced key regime players and analysts he is the right man to succeed President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who has ruled the oil-rich southwest African nation for 37 years.

Currently Defence Minister

and Deputy President of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) party, Lourenco is firmly "part of the inner circle of power," according to Didier Peclard, Angola specialist at the University of Geneva.

Dos Santos on Friday named Lourenco as the party's presidential candidate in the general election expected in August 2017.

Lourenco previously failed to hide his desire to succeed Dos Santos when the president hinted

in the 1990s that he might step down.

Dos Santos and his closest aides considered the ex-general was being opportunistic - and Lourenco was forced into several years of "political purgatory," according to Peclard.

Dos Santos' apparent flirtation with resignation was merely "a political manoeuvre to bring those in the party with ambitions out of the woodwork, and Joao Lourenco paid the price," said Peclard.

AFP

BRIEFS

'Nightmare' of migrant rescues off Libya as EU leaders meet

ROME - As EU leaders met in Malta on Friday to tackle the migrant crisis, rescue ships off Libya described an "absolute nightmare" of multiple operations to save people, including babies from a fresh wave of rickety boats. The Aquarius, a humanitarian ship chartered by SOS Mediterranee and Doctors Without Borders (MSF), and the Golfo Azzurro chartered by Spain's Proactiva Open Arms, rescued more than 500 people in the early hours of the morning. The Italian coast guard said other operations were under way as the Aquarius and Golfo Azzurro raced to intercept more migrant dinghies. *AFP*

Leader of Congolese militia missing from Uganda

KINSHASA - The leader of a Congolese rebel group who had been living under security in Uganda has gone missing, after scores of his fighters escaped their military base, the army said Friday. The leader of M23, a mostly ethnic Tutsi rebel group which fled Democratic Republic of Congo after being defeated by its army in 2013, went missing shortly after about 60 rebels disappeared from a military base where they had been given shelter. "No, we don't know where he is," army spokesman Richard Karemba said of the M23 leader Sultan Makenga. "We communicated that to the DRC government as far back as January 16th this year." *enca*

Chad's Deby says there's no money for elections

N'DJAMENA - Veteran Chad President Idriss Deby has announced a further postponement of parliamentary elections initially due in 2015, blaming a lack of funds as the oil-exporter's struggles with a drop in oil prices. "When I say we can't hold legislative polls, it's because of a lack of means," Deby told journalists on Thursday on his return from the African Union summit. "In the time of the lean cow, we can do nothing. Once we have the resources, we can organise the legislative elections," Deby said. Deby also called for talks with the political opposition, which hotly disputed his first-round victory - with almost 60 per cent of the votes - in a presidential poll in April. *AFP*

National Confab report, solution to religious crisis - Jonathan

LAGOS - Amid growing religious intolerance, former President Goodluck Jonathan has explained that only the recommendations by the 2014 National Conference could solve the country's crises. He made the disclosure in Washington when he met the United States' Congress House Sub-Committee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organisations. According to him, adopting the confab's resolutions could have prevented the ethnic and religious tension that led to the killings in Southern Kaduna. *allafrica.com*

Paris Louvre attack suspect says he is Egyptian

PARIS - The suspect in the attack near the Louvre museum in Paris on Friday is a 29-year-old man who says he was born in Egypt and entered France on January 26, probe sources said. The man is thought to have landed in France on a flight from Dubai, but investigators are still trying to establish his identity, the sources said. In his visa request to come to France he declared he was Egyptian. "He entered France on January 26," one source said. The man wielded a machete and shouted "Allahu Akbar" ("God is greatest") as he lunged at soldiers patrolling outside the Louvre, home to the Mona Lisa and one of the world's most-visited museums. *AFP*

Focus on SA scene

ANC HATE CRIME BILL, DRAWS LINE IN WRONG PLACE - MAIMANE

PRETORIA - The African National Congress's draft Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill, commonly referred to as the 'hate crimes Bill', draws the line in the wrong place, says Democratic Alliance leader Mmusi Maimane.

The DA says the proposed law will make criminals of people exercising the right to free speech. "South Africa's 1994 'miracle' ended centuries of legislated racial discrimination. But the heads and hearts of South Africans were not miraculously wiped clean in that seminal moment," Maimane said in his weekly Bokamoso newsletter.

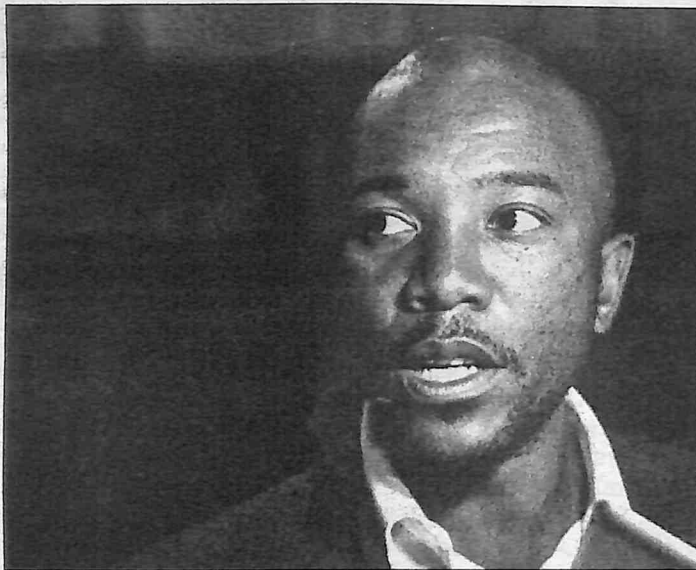
"The racism constructed during those centuries and passed down through them is still very much a part of our society today, along with the racist acts and speech it provokes.

Debate

The question we must now debate as a nation is: how do we navigate our way towards the non-racial society envisaged by our Constitution? "Unquestionably, we must deal with the structural conditions that allow race-based inequality to persist - unequal access to education, earning, and ownership opportunities.

The progress we make on this long-term project will steadily chip away at the racism that is so entrenched in our society.

But we cannot just wait for hate-fuelled incidents to slowly diminish over time while we



Democratic Alliance leader Mmusi Maimane.

claw our way to a more just society. Through effective legislation, we can decisively prevent and combat harmful acts and speech fuelled by racial and other forms of discrimination," he said.

Almost all South Africans agreed that in the interest of social solidarity, human dignity and nation building, a line had to be drawn

between freedom of expression and hate speech.

The ANC's Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill currently making its way through Parliament, supposedly endeavoured to do just that but drew the line in the wrong place.

African News Agency

'Give me half a chance to prove myself'

JOHANNESBURG - Busiswe Mkhwebane has admitted her term of office as public protector got off to a rocky start because of the criticism of her, but says she didn't expect the level of personal attacks she has had to fend off.

"It is natural with every transition that there be a bit of turbulence, especially with the changing of the guard.

"However, what I did not expect was the peddling of half-truths, fabrications, innuendos and vitriol about me and the office," she told the Saturday Star on Friday.

Since taking over from the much-revered Thuli Madonsela on October 17, Mkhwebane has attracted public scorn and criticism because of her alleged controversial decisions, includ-

ing opting not to oppose President Jacob Zuma's court bid to challenge the 'State of Capture' report, making staffers change TV channels to the Gupta-owned ANN7 and the alleged purging of senior staff.

Mkhwebane said she was being unfairly targeted.

"It's all unfair criticism because it is not based on fact. I never issued an instruction to have office TV sets tuned to ANN7.

"I merely enquired why the sets appeared to be tuned to eNCA all the time."

On her decision not to oppose Zuma's court bid, she said: "I was not in a position to do so because I had not had a chance to study the report."

iol.co.za

Madonsela believes it's about revenge for Zuma

JOHANNESBURG - Former public protector Thuli Madonsela confirmed to news channel eNCA yesterday morning by telephone that she believes President Jacob Zuma or those sympathetic to him may be the reason that about R470 000 was cut from her gratuity at the end of her term in office.

Madonsela had told The Citizen on Thursday that the press conference by her successor, Busiswe Mkhwebane, prompted her to break her silence and speak out against the "false news" and "lies" about her that "legitimise injustice".

She explained that: "I'm breaking my silence because I believe the lies are improper and legitimise injustices. I believe I'm being made to #PayBackForZuma and not #PayBackTheMoney as I never took any and never broke any rules regarding how to care for government cars."

Madonsela will no doubt be most remembered for her two sensational reports involving Zuma, the first for improper upgrades made to his private home, Nkandla, the second raising serious questions about his relationship with the controversial Gupta family.

Raise

Her allegations raise serious concerns about the possible bias of the new public protector, who indicated this week that she would oppose Zuma's application to review Madonsela's State of Capture report. "Yes, I have lodged a notice of intention to oppose the president's application," Mkhwebane said, who added she was still receiving legal counsel about the "complex matter". Madonsela, however, charged this week that Mkhwebane has not been truthful about their relationship.

Citizen



Former public protector Thuli Madonsela.

ANC stalwarts concerned about silence over consultative conference separation

JOHANNESBURG - While the African National Congress (ANC) leadership remains mum on whether it will allow for the party's consultative conference to be separated from the policy gathering, the veterans are worried about this silence and now want to meet with the party urgently.

The veterans expressed disappointment that the ANC made no mention of the consultative conference at the party's last post National Executive Committee (NEC) briefing, despite promising that the issue of de-linking the conference from the policy gathering will be discussed at the meeting.

The ANC previously agreed to hold the conference but on the first two days of the policy gathering, a proposal the stalwarts rejected. ANC stalwart Fazel Randera says they have requested an urgent meeting with the party's leadership to clarify a number of issues. "The timing of the conference, the content and structure of the conference and then the representation at the conference."

He says they still believe separating the consultative conference from the policy gathering would be in the interest of the party as it would ensure there is time to discuss and critically reflect on the outcomes of the conference at all levels of the movement.

Randera says this raises questions on the commitment to the process of introspection.

"One would've hoped that a reference would've been made to the NEC, seeing that was the agreement that came out of the December NEC meeting," EWN

'No assault case was opened against Mdluli'

JOHANNESBURG - Police Brigadier Woolaganathan Govender has told the High Court in Johannesburg that an assault case was never opened against suspended crime intelligence boss Richard Mdluli in 1997.

He was being cross examined in the trial of Mdluli and fellow police officer Mthembeni Mthunzi relating to the 1999 murder of Oupa Ramogibe.

They face charges of intimidation, kidnapping, assault and defeating the ends of justice.

Govender says it is impossible that a case was opened against General Mdluli in 1997 as there is no record on any police system.

This was heard after the state claimed that Alice Manana, who alleged she was assaulted by Mdluli, opened a case at the Dawn Park Police Station where Govender was based in 1997.

Witness

A previous state witness who testified in 2016 claimed that Govender, who was his superior at the time of the alleged offence, took the docket from him and told him he can't investigate the case as the suspect is a fellow officer.

In his defence, Govender told the court this is false information as there is no reference number relating to any such case.

Sabcnews

Gauteng ANCYL withdraws statements, 'blames media' for issuing them

JOHANNESBURG - The ANC called the Gauteng youth body's statement's 'atrocious and despicable' amid the 'squabble' for leadership positions.

In the wake of a public spat on Friday between the ANC and the Gauteng ANC Youth League (ANCYL), the ANCYL in the province has withdrawn its statements and criminal charges

against former health MEC Qedani Mahlangu. It has also reportedly withdrawn its call for Gauteng Premier David Makhura to resign.

Reporting

The provincial ANCYL also apologised, saying they had been motivated by the media's reporting of the tragedy.

The ANC had accused its Gauteng youth league in an official

statement on Friday of "atrocious grandstanding" by laying criminal charges against Mahlangu over the deaths of 94 mentally ill patients under her watch.

"No one should ever grandstand on anyone's pain," the ANC said. "It is for this reason that the ANC finds the statements of the ANCYL in Gauteng atrocious, despicable and unbefitting not only to

members of the ANC but humanity at large. "During this difficult period, all structures of our movement should be focusing their energies on supporting the bereaved families ... this is not the time for squabbling around leadership positions and unfortunate public displays of disunity."

Citizen

THE RED PEN

Phila Dlamini
Vilakati

BE A PENCIL

...the lessons we get from a pencil

In order for you to do great things, you must be prepared to do the work. A blunt pencil is of no use at all. Be ready. Be able. Whoever and wherever you are, whatever you do, whenever and however, be prepared to toil.

You have to let others utilise your ability by allowing them to hold you in their hands. That is the only way that people can see your flair as a pencil. Just lying there; you have no knack. Be eager and willing to be developed.

You will make mistakes, but they can be erased and amended. Even the worst of blunders can somehow be revised. Everybody makes mistakes, it's really okay. You must learn from your mistakes. Learn from your wrongs. Strive to do better in the future. You may have regrets in life, leave them in the past. Make sure each step you take is with caution. By so doing, you limit regrets. You will not ever fall into the same ditch at the same spot a second time. People will say the past cannot be changed, but the pencil knows better.

Always remember that the most important part is what is inside of you, not what is on the outside. What you can do is more significant than how people may perceive you. Perhaps you are not the famous HB pencil, but you may paint the finest drawings. There are fears that will hold you back from what you want. Fight those fears with the courage from within. Just remember what you're made of and never doubt yourself.

From time to time life will give you a painful sharpening. This is necessary so that you stay sharp to continue to do the work and be a better pencil. Those agonising and awful episodes are essential and very crucial.

There are people who will hurt you, sometimes by mistake, at times on purpose. Forgive. Forget. Grudges are a waste of time and energy, they will never ease the pain-forgiving will. The sharpened pencil equals immaculate work.

Lastly, no matter how short you become and how difficult the writing surface gets, you must stay true to your purpose and continue to write so that when you are gone, you leave behind legacies and wisdom that others can benefit from. You will certainly have challenges but never lose your drive. Be persistent, it pays off. Stay strong till the last bit of graphite is used up.

There is always a way out, there is always a way through, there is always hope. You will only prosper if you see the light ahead of you. The light is in your head.

I was sharing this system of reasoning to my students the other day, but it seemed that they could not quite identify. Perhaps it is because they are still young. I am quite sure the parent and the teacher can relate. I have just recently discovered that there is a very strong link between the three. Student, parent, teacher. You can imagine what the nation would look like if we could all be pencils.

The Red Pen was initially meant for the student but touching on the parent is inevitable. A vast population in Swaziland is made up of parents anyway. In fact you're either a parent, a son or daughter to your parents.

Look around you; there is a parent, therefore there is a child, obviously thereafter there is the most important link...the TEACHER. The significant other, the often neglected essential, the silent partner. I don't mean to be bias, I am a parent too (before I am a teacher).

During Tertiary Education, almost two decades ago, I came across many quotes by one of the world's greatest philosophers; Aristotle. I have not forgotten this one to this day- 'THOSE WHO EDUCATE CHILDREN WELL ARE MORE TO BE HONOURED THAN THOSE WHO PRODUCE THEM.'

A seed grows with no sound but a tree falls with huge noise. So ssshhhhh, and be a pencil.

Analysis & opinion

BY MBONGENI
MBINGOPOLITICAL
HYPOCRISY

around Their Majesties will not be a problem.

I write like this because I am struggling with what I witnessed with the State Funeral of the former Prime Minister on Sunday morning, where the State literally went missing. How shameful. How pathetic. Here is an opportunity to make a strong statement, and send of a good son of the soul, who is admired through the length and breathe of this country; who Their Majesties have blessed with the State Funeral. Yet, people who should make this happen, whose presence should be necessary, are scampering to attend the opening of Parliament!

Politicians

The pictures from this Funeral published in the past week tell a very sad story about our politicians, and their priorities. I know I have always moaned about the way we fail to prioritise things in this country, but at some point one thinks there will come a day when decisions are made for the right reasons, and not always for the politics of the stomach.

For government, and the Cabinet, there is no excuse about missing such an important National assignment.

The excuse that is making the rounds of politicians having to choose between the State funeral and the opening of Parliament goes to show that our politics is really not maturing. When in this day and age people are going to want to ensure they are seen rather than do good then we should know why this country is faced with so many challenges.

For a State Funeral, we expect that the State will be fully represented. We expect that Cabinet will be out in their numbers. Certainly, we expect that the majority of Cabinet Ministers will be present.

At the State Funeral of the former Prime Minister, only one minister was in attendance. Even then, this was only the Minister for Education. This is hardly a senior minister in the hierarchy of Cabinet. I will not want to mention the Deputy Prime Minister—for various reasons. Firstly, he will most likely personalise this, and I am not interested in that.

Expected

What I wish is to point out that with the Prime Minister away in Ethiopia, it is understood he could not be present. However, I do think he should take a chunk of the blame because he is expected to delegate, and here one would have delegated someone senior, the DPM most certainly.

But, why this did not happen is anyone's guess. Instead, all of Cabinet ministers would rather be in Parliament, as if there will be some role they will be playing directly. This mentality from our Cabinet is what stalls our development and growth, because we still have leaders who just want to be seen more than get their hands dirty.

I fail to appreciate how politicians fail to realise that even attending a State Funeral is too work for the State, and no doubt, the authorities will appreciate that too. I mean, if you have politicians behaving like this, what chance do we have?

This is, by the way, the same mentality that is causing Parliament to fail, and as we witnessed on Friday, the problem with the Senate President. From where I am sitting, the president is not in a good position to be forcing herself to work. What she is doing is dangerous and could end disastrously. Here she is having now had to experience such an unfortunate incident of losing her speech in front of the Head of State, while making her remarks—something she could have long decided could go on without her.

Country

But, if the Senate President forces herself to do this, because she can't bring herself to miss out on the opening of Parliament, then this country is in trouble.

Same old mentality that gets us nowhere. Politicians have embarrassed the King for a long time, we need to start telling them off. They need to realise that they are undermining the good efforts that the King is making in developing this country. They need to do their work and stop looking to curry favours.

So, if the Prime Ministers looks into the future, does he like what happened to Obed Dlamini's State Funeral? There was no head of government. There were no security services chiefs. The tent was average. Not even a marquee.

All we got was basic. Just the police band. Just the gun salute. Is that what a State Funeral should be? Well, for me, it is not acceptable. Government needs to do things in the interest of the State and stop this political hypocrisy.



OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO TRADE AND ACCESSING INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

Government regulations or industry standards for goods can impact trade in at least three ways:

They can facilitate exchange by clearly defining product characteristics and improving compatibility and usability; they also advance domestic social goals like public health by establishing minimum standards or prescribing safety requirements; finally, they can hide protectionist policies.

During the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), including Swaziland established the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures and the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) to address the emerging debate over the use of standards in international trade.

The SPS and TBT Agreements can be interpreted as an attempt to balance the first two uses of standards and to minimise the third. In other words, these Agreements balance the competing demands for domestic regulatory autonomy and the global harmonisation of product standards. At the same time, the agreements attempt to prevent standards from becoming a protectionist device.

What are the SPS and TBT Agreements?

The Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement (SPS) allows member states to take scientifically based measures to protect public health. The agreement commits member countries to base these measures on internationally established guidelines and risk assessment procedures. In the case of particularly stringent measures, countries must present scientific justification.

When existing scientific evidence is insufficient to determine risk, members may adopt measures on the basis of available information,

but must obtain additional information to objectively ground their assessment of risk within a reasonable period of time. Generally speaking, the SPS Agreement is a compromise that permits countries to take measures to protect public health within their borders so long as they do so in a manner that restricts trade as little as possible.

Likewise, the Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement (TBT) strikes a delicate balance between the policy goals of trade facilitation and national autonomy in technical regulations.

Agreement

The agreement attempts to remove the trade-facilitating aspects of standards from their trade-distorting potential by obligating countries to ensure that technical regulations and product standards do not unnecessarily restrict international trade.

The TBT Agreement works toward this end in three ways. Firstly, it encourages 'standard equivalence' between countries, that is, the formal acceptance of the standards of other countries through explicit agreements.

It also promotes the use of international standards. Lastly, it mandates that countries establish enquiry points and national notification authorities (the two may be the same body) in order to answer questions about SPS regulations and notify other nations of new regulations respectively.

Developing countries take issue with the agreements because they make intensive use of multilaterally established standards that are determined by a process that is both politically and economically skewed. Standard-setting has until recently been the exclusive domain of rich, technologically advanced nations who have dominated the terms of debate in bodies like the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) and the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Appropriate

Therefore, implementing the SPS and TBT Agreements often requires developing countries to observe standards more appropriate for their industrialised counterparts. The lack of developing country input in the formation of standards translates into what some observers have called techno-imperialism or the imposition of standards by the rich countries upon the poor ones.

SPS and TBT Authorities in Swaziland

The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for overall Agricultural Policy and the implementation of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures.

The Office of the Principal Secretary is the National Notification Authority for the purposes of the WTO Agreement on SPS. The Department of Veterinary and Livestock Services is responsible for Animal Health matters whilst plant health issues

are the responsibility of the Department of Agricultural Research and Specialist Services.

These two departments are responsible for ensuring adherence Sanitary and Phytosanitary requirements globally and as foreseen in EU-SADC Economic Partnership Agreement. The ministry of agriculture is a lead agency whose main task is to ensure the food security aspect of trade remedies and increased agricultural productivity through diversification and enhancement of commercial agricultural activities. For large scale agriculture, one of the main challenges is producing quality products that meet high SPS standards particularly for exports.

The impact of the SPS requirements on Swaziland depends on its public and private sector capacity including the capacity of all of its relevant producers to correctly interpret and comply with the pertinent requirements. The demonstration of equivalence for example or the SPS status of a region requires a high level of SPS regulatory capacity. The FSE&CC, being the voice of business in Swaziland, appreciates that the country fully understands the need for appropriate technical regulations.

The draft legislation "Technical regulations for Trade, Safety and Health Bill, 2015" provides for the establishment of a common technical regulation structure in the country that would support its

regional and international obligations, an Office of Technical Regulation Coordination and the development and administration of appropriate technical regulations including those required to support national, regional and international SPS/TBT requirements and obligations.

Development

The Bill requires that the Government appoint a control organisation as the Notification Authority (NA) with the duty to notify the WTO regarding the development and implementation of new technical regulations as required by the TBT Agreement.

The NA would also be responsible to similarly notify regional secretariats as required by the relevant regional trade agreement(s), protocol(s) or Memorandum of Understanding(s). The Bill also requires the Government to appoint a government organisation as the National TBT Enquiry Point, notify the same to the WTO, and make available the necessary resources to fulfil the country's obligations as provided for in the WTO TBT Agreement.

While this development and emphasis is welcome, similar emphasis and ongoing support is also required for the national SPS Notification and Enquiry Points given their important national role in facilitating agricultural based trade in the country.

— NEVER GIVE UP PART 2 —



NTFONJENI
DLAMINI

Turn On The light

It's a new month - February. One month is already gone, and quickly we will be in December. This calls for one to make good use of time.

The twenty four hours that God gives us daily should always be used wisely. Time is a very important resource and once wasted, it can never be recovered. Generally, some people use their time profitably and thus become successful. On the other hand, others waste their time and then fail to accomplish their goals.

For instance, students who will shine in exams at the end of the year have already started studying seriously. The least said about those who will start later in the year, the better.

Throughout this week, I spent a considerable amount of time studying the bible. I read the book of John where my attention was drawn to a compelling story in chapter 5. This is the story of the man who was healed by Jesus at the pool of Bethesda. Multitudes of sick people,

● *As long as you are alive, anything is still possible. Determine to keep on trying until you finally succeed.*

lame and paralysed gathered around this pool. An angel would normally come down to the pool and stir the water and whoever stepped in first, after the water had been stirred would be healed from whatever disease they suffered from.

Amongst these people was a certain man who suffered from an undisclosed sickness. He had stayed next to the pool for thirty eight years.

All this time he could not be healed because every time when the angel stirred up the water, he couldn't jump in first. Someone else always went in first before him. I believe that some only stayed there for a few days and were able to jump in first; get healed, and return home.

Eventually, Jesus came to the pool. Somehow he knew that this man had been there for a very long time. They had a brief conversation where this man explained his situation to Jesus.

After they had talked, Jesus told

him to pick up his belongings and go home. At that very moment, he was healed from the sickness that had tormented him for so long. What a beautiful reward for NOT GIVING UP!

There are a few things that I picked up from this story: First, there is something very special about this man. It is his persistence. He had all the reasons to give up, leave the pool and return home to die. He had seen many people coming there and getting healed in a matter of days. He may have been mocked by many for remaining there yet he was not getting healed. However, he remained focused. He knew that, just as many have been getting healed at the same place, his time will also come. The fact that he had been there for too long didn't seem to worry him.

Secondly, Jesus focused on this one man out of a big crowd of people who were all there for the same purpose. I believe that one of the

Our Greatest
WEAKNESS
lies in giving up.

Thomas A. Edison

reasons that made Jesus focus on him was his consistency and determination not to give up even though time was passing and his condition was not improving. What is evident in the story is that this man didn't even know who Jesus was. Therefore, his faith was not involved in the whole process. All he had was determination not to give up - not to leave the place until he was healed. He got just that. What he did resonates with what Albert Einstein once said: "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep on moving." He did just that. He did not quit because many were getting healed while his condition remained unchanged. Yes - you must never judge yourself based

on what is happening to the next person. You are unique. Run in your own lane, and never worry about the person running on the next lane.

The story really teaches us about the importance of being persistent. If this man had given up and returned home, he would have most likely died. In life we don't have to give up easily. As long as you are alive, anything is still possible. Determine to keep on trying until you finally succeed. Yes - you will come across negative people who will try to bring you down and tell you that what you want to achieve is not possible. Turn a deaf ear to such people. Do not let them destroy your dreams. Keep on trying and avoid being a quitter.

MIND THAT ERROR

ADIDI UYO



“This is the worst call by far: Trump badgered, bragged and abruptly ended phone call with Australian leader” This is the headline of the lead story in the Washington Post of Thursday, February 2, 2017.

Let's call it business unusual! For the first time on MIND THAT ERROR, we are going beyond our territory. For the very first time we are reviewing on this page a grammatical mistake from a newspaper that is outside the purview of this column, which is Swaziland and South Africa.

The Washington Post, as you must know, is a newspaper based in the capital of the United States of America, USA. It is one of the three foremost newspapers in America.

Well, to evoke the title of one popular Brazilian television soap opera, “The rich also cry.” When it comes to the business with which we are concerned on this page, there is no exception to the saying, “To err is human.” Indeed, only fools can claim that they do not make mistakes.

When we promised last Sunday that we shall review more errors of faulty parallelism, today, who could have imagined that we would find a timely example in a newspaper such as The Washington Post? But it wouldn't have mattered, really, if that headline did not leap at us.

Just take another look at the headline, a very unconventional one at that! The predicate of the sentence comprises a series of three elements. And the question of interest to us, here, is: Are the three elements equal? Are they balanced? In other words, are the three elements parallel?

The answer, of course, is no. To be sure, the three elements are equal in one very important sense: they are verbs or contain verbs. But the verbs are not parallel by their nature.

The first verb, “badgered,” is a transitive verb. In the way it is used in the headline, President Donald Trump of America is the subject and the object of the verb is the Australian leader, the person receiving the action of badgering.

The second verb in the series is “bragged.” Brag is a transitive and intransitive verb, but it is in its intransitive form that it is used most of the time. Whatever may be the case, “brag” is oftentimes, if not invariably, used as a verb phrase, in collocations such as, “brag to somebody,” “brag about,” or “brag of something.”

With regard to the headline under review, the question of interest to us is: “Which verb

COMBATING FAULTY PARALLELISM:

A WATCHWORD FEBRUARY 3, 2017

● It is true that headline writing has its language which grants the writer the literary licence to use words in a peculiar way.

phrase has the writer assumed?” In other words, did President Trump brag to the Australian leader, did he brag about something to the Australian leader, or did he brag of something to the Australian leader?

The third verb in the series is “ended,” as in “ended phone call with Australian leader.”

It is true that headline writing has its language which grants the writer the literary licence to use words in a peculiar way. But it would seem that the writer of this headline has stretched the literary licence to a breaking point and has given the grammatical principle of parallelism a short shrift.

To cut a long story short, compare the original headline with this revised version: “This is the worst call by far: Trump badgered the Australian leader, bragging and ending phone call abruptly.”

What is clear from the revised version is that the three elements that are expected to be parallel in the series are too different, and making them equal in nature or structure is a very difficult thing to do. Therefore, the most practical way to remove the fault in the construction is to separate them and let them work together in a different manner – the manner suggested by the revision.

From our unusual terrain to our customary domain! In the Times of Swaziland, July 19, 2016 was a news story with the headline, “Bill Gates to invest US\$5bn in Africa.”

The second paragraph of the story reads, thus: “Speaking at the 14th annual Nelson Mandela Foundation lecture in Mamelodi, Pretoria, Gates

said priority should be given on eradicating malnourishment, improve access to education and improve economic opportunity.”

The fulcrum that holds the series in that sentence has the error of faulty preposition, “on,” instead of “to,” to wit: “priority should be given to.” The series that follows this fulcrum are three phrases whose initial words are “eradicating,” “improve,” and “improve.”

When you look at the sentence that way, you can easily see the deficiency that is referred to as faulty parallelism, for the first element, “eradicating,” is a participle, unlike the second and the third. Liken the series to a basket that contains one orange and two apples.

Certainly, the elements are not equal; hence, they need to be balanced, since a sentence with a parallel structure is not a packet of assorted biscuits, so to say.

The sentence can be made parallel by balancing the verbs in the series in this manner: “Speaking at the 14th annual Nelson Mandela Foundation lecture in Mamelodi, Pretoria, Gates said priority should be given to eradicating malnourishment, improving access to education and improving economic opportunity.”

As you can see, the fulcrum now holds three equal items: “eradicating,” “improving” and “improving.” That's perhaps the easiest way we can combat faulty parallelism: frontally.

I mean, hold out the fulcrum, like a fork, and see what its prongs look like. Are they equal in length or thickness?

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS MUST

GO! This is the title of an opinion piece in the Observer On Saturday, November 26, 2016. Its first paragraph reads, thus: “There is nothing sinister with (sic) a country that wants to rid itself of illegal immigrants. This is not racism or nationalism or populists stunts.”

Let us examine the second sentence of that paragraph. Of interest to us are three elements which follow the coordinating conjunction, “or.” These are “racism,” “nationalism,” and “populists stunts.”

As you can see, the first two are single words, nouns, to be exact, whereas the third element is not a single word. If we can turn “populists stunts” to one word, such as “populism,” we would make the series a parallel structure. Accordingly, the sentence may be corrected, thus: “This is not racism or nationalism or populism.” All three elements are now the same. They are either oranges or apples, but not a mixture of the two fruits.

An opinion piece in the Swazi News of July 23, 2016 had this title: TURN YOUR SHAME INTO COURAGE! Its second paragraph reads: “This statement really became so true and a reality during one of many conversations that I have with a very friend who also happens to be a step daughter to Nelson Mandela, Josina Machel.”

Zoom in into those two elements, “true” and “a reality.” These are two things connected by the conjunction, “and.” But they are not equal. We need to make them equal for the sentence to be free of the error of faulty parallelism.

Accordingly, the sentence may be revised, thus: “This statement

really became so true and real during one of many conversations that I have with a very friend who also happens to be a step daughter to Nelson Mandela, Josina Machel.” However, I would not be surprised if you were to pop the question: “What is the difference between ‘true’ and ‘real’?” Me, too!

GENTS, BE ON THE LOOK-OUT was the title of a feature in the Sowetan of October 27, 2014. If you hold out its opening sentence like a fork, you would see that something is amiss with its third prong, for it reads: “They are beautiful, irresistible, and smartly dressed.” Can you see that? “Beautiful” and “irresistible” are words, adjectives, to be exact. But “smartly dressed” is different from the first two: the element has two words, the first an adverb, the second a verb. In the packet of things known as parallel construction, oranges and apples do not go together.

So how do we correct that sentence, now? I must confess that I cannot readily find one adjective that I can use to capture “smartly dressed.” Maybe your vocabulary can enable you to do that readily. Supply it and you would have combated the error of faulty parallelism by giving it a pin fall, to use the language of television wrestling!

And that brings us to the watchword for combating the error of faulty parallelism, something which we have compressed into the acronym, AMOWA: Avoid Mixing Oranges With Apples. The two or more elements in the series of a parallel construction must be either oranges or apples. Some cannot be oranges, others apples.

Give Life the Dignity it deserves



The beginning of the year is always taken to be the break of a new dawn and most people are all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed.

Some people actually note down their plans for the year regarding careers, relationships and other aspects of life to give themselves a sense of direction, while others just believe that since it's a new year, their fortunes may just change on their own accord.

If fortunes don't change or the plans don't come to fruition, as sometimes

happens in life to most people, then what? Do you bury your head in the sand, get hysterical, or pick yourself up, dust yourself off and start all over again? The media recently released suicide statistics for the last three months of 2016, and they were quite grim to say the least. Forty-one people are known to have taken their own lives for various reasons between October and December. There could be a few more that went unreported.

There were also quite a number of crimes of passion and other killings. All these were unnecessary loss of lives. These are people who could have been making a positive contribution to their families, workplaces and the country at large, if their lives had not been cut short either by themselves or others.

In light of such dreadful statistics, we

would like to add our voice to speak against preventable loss of life. Dups believes in giving covered individuals dignified funerals, but more importantly, we believe in dignity in life. We encourage fellow Swazis to value the sanctity of life, whether their own or of others. We encourage people to find amicable ways to solve disputes or other stressors. Help is also available in many centres in the country for those that need professionals to guide them out of negative thoughts.

New York Times bestselling author, Regina Brett is widely quoted for her advice to frame so-called disasters with the question, “Will it matter in five years?” So before one runs for that Rambo knife to use it on someone that broke up with them, one should ask him/herself, “Will it matter in five years that So-and-So

broke up with me?” It probably won't because people break up and move right along with their lives to greener pastures.

If thoughts of taking a life start to criss-cross your mind, ask yourself, “Will it matter in five years that I killed someone or myself because he/she did not love me anymore?” Of course, it will because you would have caused emotional trauma to loved ones, and in some cases deprived children of a parent and caused them to lead difficult lives or drop out of school.

If you killed someone, yes it would matter in five years because you would most likely have lost your freedom and would be sitting in jail, wishing if you had just walked away instead of reacting in anger. Let us all make an effort to desist from taking permanent action to what could be temporary problems.

We would like to remind all our customers to pay their premiums on time

to avoid distress should there be need to make a claim. We pride ourselves in processing payouts within two hours of receiving all necessary documentation. Please help us remain efficient by bringing all the right documents when you come to make your claim.

These are identity copies of the deceased and the beneficiary, death certificate, and a letter confirming the presence of body from the undertaker where the body remains of the deceased are kept. All copies of original documents must be certified.

Call us on 2505 2028 to find out about all our funeral covers, other products and all queries you might have.

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**Khetsile
Dlamini**

I don't know about you but I have had an interesting two weeks! In between getting back to work with schools opening, I've hardly had a minute to catch my breath...especially with everything that's been happening around us. Everything meaning locally and internationally but my interest is really on three things today. Firstly, can I just say... a son of the soil, in Obed Mfanasibili Dlamini, was laid to rest last Sunday. I guess I am particularly touched because he was the first prime minister I opened my eyes to or even knew and understood what it was to be the country's premier.

My Social Studies teacher at St Mark's Primary (Mrs Mkhonta) would make us whisper all the Cabinet ministers to her starting with the then prime minister Obed Mfanasibili Dlamini (and yes you said in that very order; with the going to school name {first}, staying at one {forename} and then the tribe name {surname}. You know, like Albert Heshane Shabangu), at the start of every lesson and if you messed it up... " * _woe unto you! " * And I kid you not, that's exactly how she said it which was all threatening she needed to do to get you to study. So the Obed Dlamini-led Cabinet practically lived with me, I mean, I knew them like the back of my hand. So I think it's proper to take this time to say, may his soul rest in eternal peace...he'll always have a special place in our History and Social Studies books.

Now, I know this happened last week and I wasn't going to say anything but my keyboard would never forgive me...I just would never hear the end of it.

So can we just talk about the Americans demonstrating at President (because that's what he is believe it or not) Donald Trump's Inauguration Ceremony! I mean, I didn't know whether to laugh, frown, change the channel or just switch off my TV and go to bed. I honestly was like, "is this a practical joke? I mean, are these people for real!" That move was {for lack of a better statement} plain stupid and the timing...my God the timing was just off! Seriously though, demonstrating at the officiation, LIKE?

What did the Americans think would happen...that President Trump would say "well it was all about winning and now that I've ticked that off my bucketlist, you can go on and elect THE REAL PRESIDENT!" Not likely I'm afraid. Or maybe the ones demonstrating were saying, "we didn't vote for him or even vote at all, so we don't want him!" Well tough!!! You didn't but clearly the majority did and that's the beauty of democracy, quite the liberty ain't it?

Not wanting "The Trump" to triumph can't be an overnight thing...right? I mean because

WELL, HE'S YOUR TRUMP!



● *So I think it's a little late for Americans to be protesting and screaming murder...I hate to break it to you but I'm afraid that ship has already sailed.*

if it is then you lot have bigger issues than I thought! You must have always known you didn't want him as your president from the moment you knew he was running and the more he spoke, the more convinced you must have been he wasn't the right man for the job,

whats with all his racist and homophobic jabs. So what do you do about it?

You get up and VOTE. Vote because you want change and not hope somebody else who wants the same result as you will vote. In democracy every vote counts...and enough votes can

change the course of history and not so much the demonstrating.

So I think it's a little late for Americans to be protesting and screaming murder...I hate to break it to you but I'm afraid that ship has already sailed.

Employee Wellness is everything

Last week we read about the different efforts that the National Maize Corporation has engaged in as a means of helping curb the spread of HIV/AIDS.

This article certainly generated a lot of positive feedback for the organisation with regards to efforts being made to create awareness of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. We have also been encouraged to employ the same efforts with other equally important health related matters;

hence this article that speaks to the National Maize Corporation's Employee Wellness Programme in its entirety.

Like all businesses, National Maize Corporation (NMC) is highly focussed on her organisational objectives and on achieving the bottom line, thereby improving the company. But through continuous guidance from our leadership, the organisation has not found itself in a position whereby the bottom

line is being pursued such that the most important resource in the company is forgotten (the human element). Time and again, our Human Resources Department, which oversees the company's Employee Wellness Programmes is given guidance, monitored and evaluated on progress with regards to employee health related matters, financial advice and other such services as well as issues of mental health. As a result of this, NMC has an organised, an employer-

sponsored programme that is designed to support employees as they adopt and sustain behaviours that reduce risks, improve their quality of life, enhance personal effectiveness and benefit the organisation as well.

International studies have shown that a large fraction of an organisation's profits are consumed by employee health care costs, and a 'high risk' employee can cost an organisation thousands of Emalangeni per year than their 'low risk' colleagues. In addition, these 'high risk' employees are shown to be 18 per cent less productive, which adds up to seven hours per week

**NOKWANDA
DLAMINI-
MASUKU**

ON THE
GRAIN

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Democracy is majority rule and the American majority says President Trump is their man and it doesn't matter how much you don't agree with this...you just have to live with it, well at least for the next four years before you can protest with your vote again. For now..._hardy!_ Otherwise silence (not voting) means consent and your party losing means go back to the drawing board and re-strategise. And that is the BEAUTY or MONSTER that is DEMOCRACY. What a freaking liberty!!!

I will not judge or guilt trip anyone. I will just voice my opinion and say...the sole and exclusive study of CHRISTIANITY in schools is not the brightest of ideas. From where I'm standing...it is not in the best interest of the learners and chokes the Constitution, which in fact allows every Swazi the freedom to practice any religion of their choice because all religions are equal. The cliché knowledge is power is key in picking the right religion by the way. To be a devoted believer you should know everything there is to know about that particular religion and Religious Education did help a great deal in that aspect because it shed light on the religions.

Teaching only about Christianity means learners who are not in town or have television sets will know nothing about religions such as Islam because they are not in any way exposed to these religions which will now not even be taught in schools. All they are taught and knowledgeable about is Christianity and Christianity ALONE.

I hate to be the bearer of bad news but there is a word for that and it is not something a country working towards first world status is trying to be associated with...and that word is INDOCTRINATION.

Doesn't quite have a nice ring to it with 2022 just around the corner huh? I'm afraid not.

Not that it'll change anything now but that might have been a big mistake...but if we're lucky nobody will notice until our kids finish school and actually discover they studied Religious Education but know nothing about any other religion but Christianity.



TOURISM & TRAVEL

BY BONGANI DLAMINI

STA Marketing Manager

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BUDGET SAFARIS IN SWAZILAND

● There are plenty of parks where you don't need a guide and you can explore at your own leisure.



Safaris have always been seen as chances for the glamorous and sophisticated to take a day off or mini-holiday, but thanks to revolution, perhaps, it is now a more accommodative activity.

Small, compact and affordable, in Swaziland you can safari like a king without the royal budget! As affordable as it is, it is accompanied by an assured royal experience, a definite 'must-do'.

Although it's the smallest country in the southern hemisphere, Swaziland is big on experiences. The committed accommodation points have made it their prime objective to up their game when it comes to service delivery. Landlocked on all sides by South Africa and Mozambique, its 17 364 square kilometres provide a level of intimacy with wildlife that is unparalleled; it's a real safari treasure and is far from the mass tourism of neighbouring safari destinations. The Swazi experience is garnished with discovery and serenity, and thus making it unarguably more authentic and intimate.

There are five main parks and a number of smaller reserves, but if it's the Big Five you're after Mkhaya Game Reserve (renowned for its Rhino Safaris) and Hlane Royal National Park are the destinations for you. With the rhino being endangered, you wouldn't want to pass the opportunity to see why this animal is almost extinct; it is simply amazing. But what makes Swaziland different from other safari destinations is the chance to explore beautiful parks and wild places at your own pace and on your own terms. In this case, you have the keys to your own happiness!

There are plenty of parks where you don't need a guide and you can explore at your own leisure. Swaziland always ensures safety and security of all visitors.

The best way to safari here is to self-drive and get to encounter the rugged terrain to get the much-needed adrenaline rush. If you prefer to be chauffeured, local transport is readily available and reliable. Moreover, Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary and Mbuluzi Wildlife Reserve are the destinations for the tourist who wants to explore the untamed wilderness and the bush on foot or bicycle.

Imagine the freedom coupled with the breeze of the southern African winds.

The other interesting feature of a safari in Swaziland is that there are lots of budget self-catering accommodations and camping options at most parks and reserves.

These places become a home away from home, as you still get to enjoy

your family's delights whilst in the wilderness. The cherry on top is that the conservation fees are affordable for everyone from families to students.

The emphasis in Swaziland is to provide visitors with a wildlife experience in areas of natural beauty, and to allow them a certain amount of freedom to explore on their own

terms and budgets.

This is no place for mass tourism and convoys of vehicles; instead you get personal view and gain a better understanding of the bush and experience the thrill of tracking some of Africa's biggest mammals.

It does not get any better than this! So, take the chance and you will have no regrets, you have nothing to lose.

or two months a year in lost productivity, per employee. NMC is cognisant of the fact that every employee has some sort of health risk to varying degrees, whether it is unhealthy eating, lack of exercise or sleep, drinking, smoking or even something genetic; so, by working closely with her employees and maintaining an open door policy, particularly in the Human Resources Department where NMC's Employee Wellness Programmes are executed, NMC hopes to continue promoting good health practices and general wellness with a view to not just ensure that the employee completes their day's work but also to have a happy, healthy and energetic employee on both a professional and social level.

Through our various wellness programmes, NMC hopes to help employees attain and maintain a generally healthy lifestyle, even if it is something as simple as



learning how to reduce stress and/or muscle strain whilst on the job. A change in behaviour and lifestyle is solely the responsibility of an individual, in this case, the employee, therefore, even though NMC is cognisant of the challenges that come with trying to change an individual's lifestyle, she is are

also geared for the challenge because she is aware of the tremendous opportunity that lies in these efforts to help employees see the value of adopting healthier behaviours so that they can lead healthier lives.

It is the organisation's desire that the culture and tone set by NMC's leadership for

her employees will help forge a path towards a more supportive work environment with zero discrimination; where managers will reinforce a sound wellness strategy and keep employees motivated and engaged. It is, therefore, for this reason that NMC engages in various types of health and wellness programmes such as marathons and walks, seminars and workshops; availing of counselling services to those who might need them, financial advice services and stress and change management workshops and discussion forums, amongst other initiatives.

The days where employee wellness programmes were viewed as an optional extra are no more for NMC.

These programmes are now a strategic imperative for the organisation and a complement to our business priorities because at NMC we care, and employee wellness is a real thing for us.



BY Comfort Mabuza

UNWELCOMED VIOLATION OF PEOPLE'S FREEDOMS BY USA

● *I thought US Embassies are such abled entities ensure those that travelling to the US are crossed-checked, and I do not doubt their internal control systems.*

Friday, 27th January, 2017 shall go down in history when all the gains for Freedom and Liberty in the US were curtailed by President Donald Trump.

Putting a four month ban on refugees and people from certain countries like Syria and six other predominately Muslim countries is an unwelcomed development. Whatever the reasons advanced, subjecting human beings to such undue discrimination by a Super Power like the US, is certainly setback to a country considered a leader and champion of upholding and respecting people's Human Rights and fundamental freedoms.

How can such a great democracy afford to drift back to racial discrimination tendencies which are reviving what was fought and defeated by the Civil Rights Movement? To say this is such an embarrassment episode is an understatement and is actually destroying the little confidence on Trump's Presidency. Destroying what were gains of the Obama legacy in the last eight years of herald progressive leadership of respecting human rights. Of course, there are growing concerns regarding Islamic fundamentalist's terrorist world over, but to counter such with a discrimination order in declaring even innocent people from the Islamic States as not welcomed in USA is totally unacceptable. To sign the order while people were already on board travelling to the land of the free, only to learn of such as they landed and subjecting them to such harsh treatment is a gross violation of people's rights. Such treatment is not consistent with the ideal of a free democratic order. It is morally wrong and it certainly does not justify placing people of a certain background or a certain faith under general suspicion.

NO COUNTRY IS AN ISLAND

USA is a host to an International Organisation, the UN I which is based in New York and monitors the very human rights violations all over the world. It is home to International Civil Servants who come from these countries. Imagine if you already have a green card to be told you are now a prohibited immigrant when you thought you had followed all due processes to be living in USA and not wanted overnight, something is seriously wrong here. There is absolutely no wisdom to single out Islamic States citizens as terrorists, and conclude that they are involved with undesirable terrorist activities and operations. To claim that in 90 Days Trump's administration would have developed a stringent screening process is indeed unacceptable for a country that is so well advanced in technologically. This uncalculated



ed drastic decision will indeed hurt so many lives including the very US Citizens living abroad as they will be targeted by extremists and religious fundamentalists. USA is not an island but part of the global family of nations.

TERRORISTS ARE SOPHISTICATED

Putting such stringent controls and banning people will affect even innocent travellers going to USA for other business interests from these countries. I guess this is where the UN should be petitioned for remaining silent on such a move, but then the US have powers to veto any UN resolution, a subject for another day. I thought US Embassies are such abled entities to ensure that those travelling to the US are crossed-checked, and I do not doubt their internal controls systems.

We respect them highly because of their professionalism, but certainly this uncalculated ban is going to trigger hatred as it subjects innocent people who have nothing to do with the war on terror against the US. The US should be showing sympathy to refugees in particular, and this is a human rights matter and it is totally morally unacceptable to paint everybody coming from these Islamic nations with a black brush. People being subjected to harsh and oppressive regimes and seeking asylum in a free country like the US cannot be avoided, why then should they be penalised for seeking a better life? One would have expected a robust debate on this order in their Parliament system. But for a leader of the Free World to act in this way, surely does not give confidence on the tenants of what America stands in as far as freedom and democracy are concerned. In short, whatever rationale advanced, we see this as a repressive order that will cause untold harm to what the US stands for in terms of promoting human rights and upholding people's fundamental freedoms. To this end, terrorist groups are more sophisticated

and such order is certainly not going to help resolve the challenges. Well you may wonder who are we to lecture to a Super Power, well it is about people's human rights that are being violated with such impunity and we have every reason to raise our concerns.

ERECTING THAT WALL

We still have not recovered from the shock that the US which is a shining light for a democratic order and cherished good neighbourliness is considering erecting a wall in its southern border with Mexico. We thought the Berlin Wall came crumbling down because a Free Europe saw no value in maintaining such a high divisive failed experiment. When evil hearted people resolved to carry out with their evil intentions, no wall can stop them, but instead only civilised methodologies of fighting terror should be devised. This is madness of the highest order and as such a huge waste of their resources which would be channelled elsewhere. This proposed undertaking smacks hatred and intolerance of the highest order and should not be part of a civilised world order. I hope a vote of no confidence is still there in the US politics. This move is not instilling confidence hope to the American electorate and might cost Trump his political ambition. One would really hope that the US with its strong government systems and checks will ensure that this does not see the light of the day. Instead of promoting peace and harmony between nations of the world, the US's moral high ground is found wanting.

Even if there were serious issues with Mexico, there must be a better way of resolving this and one hopes that we will not have another dividing wall between nations of the world. This is limiting people's freedom of movement and as such a violation of people's human rights. America should know better that we cannot be employing tactics that promotes division in a world that is yearning

for democracy and respect for human rights.

PROMOTE PEACE AND STABILITY

We have known the US as the champion of Civil liberties and respecting people's rights is ore and the greatest value in history. The entire world looks up to it as a leader and role model of what constitutes a good democratic order and promoter of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The US has fought worse battles before and the entire world looks up to it as having a herald system. The present regime is not only destroying the global respect we have of the US, but certainly raising doubt on what the founders of this great nation achieved. One would have thought the US Presidency will engage the nations it perceives as hosts to terrorists groups, and then deal with it in a civilised manner. When all people in a given country are then made to suffer for sins committed by its perceived underground groups, then surely the UN must be engaged and a better diplomatic solutions should be opted for instead. Refugees do not like to be displaced and subjected to harsh realities of this kind, hence our rallying call that they be afforded dignity and humane treatment they deserve. USA has an obligation to care for refugees who are seeking shelter, food and quality. One therefore is disturbed to see that refugees would now be treated so harshly and unkindly by the US. This nation should be seen upholding human rights provisions and ensuring compliance thereof. Refugees are not be subjected to so much agony as there are international treaties governing their status but to hear that they are not welcomed in the land of the free, surely there must be a better way of resolving this. It's about protecting people's human rights and fundamental freedoms and great nations like the US are to be seen supporting and promoting not this Trump's manipulation and perceived hatred.



JOY NDWANDWE'S ZONE LEADERSHIP

This continent is endowed with resources, human, mineral, environmental and cultural, yet it is still experiencing poverty, why? A question mark symbolising the quest for African leadership, that is, African renaissance leadership, towards peace and sustainable development.

African human resources are a global phenomenon, with African leaders, scholars, sports persons and technocrats succeeding and trail blazing internationally. Mineral resources, which are a critical component of international trade, whilst citizens of this continent cannot afford them. The environmental and cultural resources attracting international tourism and trade, yet the continents citizens cannot afford to enjoy and/or invest in them. Africa is still experiencing poverty, which could have been curbed in the 20th century, but we lacked African renaissance leadership. Hence I congratulate the SADC University initiative for subsequently adding African leadership as part of their programs, amongst others programs.

African Leadership?

Professor Segobye and Sall, my friends from Pretoria in Cry the Beloved Child: "The suffering of Africa's children is symptomatic of the collective crises of the African political economy and socio-cultural systems which have rendered children silenced, invisible, rejected and victimised." This speaks to the African leadership question mark, as leaders must ensure the future generation is not vulnerable, in conflict, abused domestically, within communities and nationally. During research when analysing how public policy silences, renders invisible, rejects and victimises children, applied cosmological principles. By critically engaging whether public policies negates or affirms or resist the negation of cosmic order, social order, harmonious human existence and coexistence.

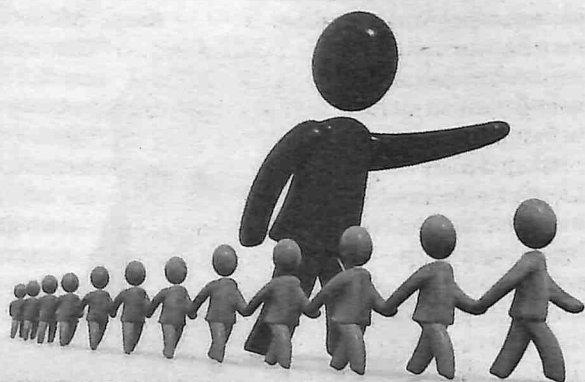
African leadership if it exists, should protect children through public policies that affirm cosmic order, social order, harmonious human existence and coexistence. The recent 'Epiphany Religious Policy' banning other religions within the curriculum, in a country with diverse religions. Renders the children silent, invisible, rejected and victimised, as they will be vulnerable to conflict due to fear of Islam, Hindu, Judaism, Buddhism and most significantly African Religion. Fear based education system, creates a conflict based society, as they will be unable to build trust based relationships with persons from other religions. This negates cosmic and social order as these children will fear their neighbours and businessmen whilst buying goods and services from them.

Hence the next question, does African leadership exists when its policies negates harmonious human existence between neighbours, goods and service delivery providers? Thus, reflecting African leadership double standards, when their trading policies allow businessmen from diverse religions into the country. Creating 'Epiphany Religious Policies' banning children from learning diverse religions. Thus, rendering these businessmen and their families to be aliens, as the indigenous citizens will buy from their shops, but continue to fear them. African leadership continuously negate harmonious human existence, and most significantly they negate coexistence, through public policies. The "Epiphany Religious Policies" is a case in point that negates coexistence, as this country has diplomatic and foreign relations with states rooted in Islam, Hindu, Judaism, Buddhism and African Religion. Thus, suggesting mature public policies affirming coexistence, not bigotry public policies negating international relations.

African Renaissance Leadership?

Segobye and Sall further states: "The maxim that history repeats itself will loom over the developmental trajectory of the continent as its broken citizens grow up in a broken world with untold nightmares and a paucity of dreams and hopes about a future beyond their childhood memories.

AFRICAN LEADERSHIP, QUESTION MARKS?



This is a future Africa cannot afford." When engaging in a critical analysis for knowledge creation of African renaissance leadership towards peace and sustainable development. As part of the African renaissance, thus ensuring that history does not repeat itself as the current developmental trajectory exemplifies. We can no longer afford to have broken citizens, rooted on linear education and religion.

When creating "Epiphany Religious Policies" the maxim history repeats itself, remains true as the broken citizens are recreating themselves within children. My pleasant encounter with a Muslim in Nigeria, when my mother had not received my telex, therefore was not at the Lagos airport to welcome me. As a 16 year old vulnerable girl, a Hausa Muslim man took me to his home, I cried the whole night and next day. Yet he was God sent, next day he drove me from Lagos to Ibadan, hence I am alive. Today there are many Muslims in a Swaziland with potential to assist children, I am aware of those making babies with Swazi girls, as there are good and bad people in every religion. Therefore we cannot afford to create nightmare in the minds of African children, as this creates a paucity of dreams.

African renaissance leadership must inspire children towards dreams and hope about a future beyond their childhood memories. Hence African renaissance leadership models must be developed to ensure that future leaders strive for peace and sustainable development.

The indigenous cosmologies and knowledge systems when applied to leadership in my research culminated into cosmological principles. That is, cosmic and social order, harmonious human existence and coexistence, were applied to religious, political, liberation struggle, colonial, apartheid and traditional leaders. It was amazing how within religious, political and liberation struggle leadership many negated cosmic and social order, harmonious human existence and coexistence. This same applied within colonial, apartheid and traditional leadership, there are no perfect persons, but future leaders must understand the implications of public policies and utterance.

In conclusion

Post-colonial African leaders thought the strongmen could bully citizens, indicative of good leadership exemplified by dictators and aristocrats.

Until the emergence of human rights, democracy and good governance concepts, which have tried to intervene within African leadership. The African renaissance project seeks to deepen this transformation towards an African renaissance leadership. Hence the transformative interventions rooted in indigenous cosmologies and knowledge system as these epistemologies of hope were side lined. Are the essence of who we are, therefore we need a transformative intervention from African leadership towards African Renaissance Leadership. As this will affirm how universally we believe in the Supreme Being, thus suggesting we are united in diverse religious doctrines. And the Supreme Being is at the core of cosmological principles required to guide African renaissance leadership.

The Supreme Being edifies us on how we are on earth to experience cosmic and social order, harmonious human existence and coexistence. This should be rooted within education systems, such that when we meet we can look each other in

the eyes and see God, the Supreme Being within in our souls. The African continent meets during African Union Summits, we come from diverse religions and we must be able to see the Supreme Being within our souls. The same applies during SADC Summits and meetings, otherwise these will continue to be photo moments and talk shops. As our level of engagement is arrested by the linear education systems that banned other religious, exemplifying we are not rooted in diverse religious thoughts.

So we negotiate from victim status, articulated by Sall and Segobye as the maxim that history repeats itself, as broken citizens living in a broken world. Still haunted by fear embedded in childhood memories of being silenced, invisible, rejected and victimised. Our worldview is clouded by untold memories and paucity of dreams, captured by the "Epiphany Religious Policy." This is the future Africa cannot afford indeed, hence we ask the pertinent question, African Leadership?

Really? Seriously? There is neither yes nor no answer but a critical discourse analysis on public policies such that through knowledge production, design African renaissance leadership models and theories. Towards peace and sustainable development, embedded within the dreams and hopes of African children.

As part of the African renaissance, thus ensuring that history does not repeat itself as the current developmental trajectory exemplifies. We can no longer afford to have broken citizens, rooted on linear education and religion.

IS YOUR LANGUAGE HEALING OR INFLAMMATORY?



Charlotte Chipangura

Disability Rights Advocate

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The National Centre on Disability and Journalism, headquartered at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University has a brilliant website with terms and words used in the world of people with disabilities.

Their website states that their goal is to provide support and guidance for journalists as they cover people with disabilities.

This resource is one that would help journalist worldwide to have a reference point when they are stuck or unsure of how to address issues to do with disability. They do recommend, however, that it is a good thing for a journalists or communications person to ask the person with a disability how they would like to be described. Despite our geographical distance with that institution, there is a lot to learn from the recommendations they make. It would be a good thing if everyone, not just journalists, visited such sites to learn the appropriate way to relate with people with disabilities.

People say many inappropriate things in society when they refer to people with disabilities. Before one can even go to discriminatory attitude, words are usually the first to show prejudice. This is particularly obtainable in respect of people with mental illnesses. A degree of sensitivity will go a long way in improving the quality of life of such people.

There are various disorders that constitute mental illness.

Without getting into detail, some of them are anxiety and panic disorders, bipolar disorder, depression, eating disorders, schizophrenia, and substance abuse and addiction. In a discussion unrelated to this article, though quite relevant to it, Dr Violet Mwanjali, a Psychiatrist and Mental Health Specialist, said many people went through life with untreated mental illness because of fear of stigma. She highlighted that many forms of mental illness were treatable and affected individuals could actually be contributing members of society if they stuck to their treatment plans. Language that is used in relation to mental illness, however, might serve to discourage people from embracing their disability and finding intervention.

This in turn causes a lot of turmoil in the lives of affected individuals, their families, and society at large. I remember a shocking local headline that referred to mentally ill people as "Stark raving lunatics". It is totally unacceptable to use abusive language like that towards fellow human beings. Other bad words journalists and ordinary people use on people with mental illness are crazy, loony, mad, maniac, psycho, insane, retarded, and deranged. Others call psychiatric hospitals "loony bins". In light of that, a person with a mental illness would not be motivated to openly declare his/her illness

for fear of being persecuted, yet it is a medical condition just like any other. The NCDJ recommends the use of mental illness or disorder, if you don't know the specific illness, as more acceptable than any other terms.

People should find time to research more on mental illnesses, particularly if they have affected loved ones around them. It is not enough to just see that someone is "acting weird" and not take action.

I believe much heartache and many suicides could be averted if people educated themselves on what sets their loved ones with signs of mental illness off, and tried to get them prompt medical attention. It is possible for someone to feel themselves sink into a dark place, but it is not easy to accept a mental illness diagnosis because of the stigma associated with it. People with diabetes do not have to hide in the shadows because theirs is not a victimised condition.

Dwarfism is a common genetic disability characterised by shortness of stature and disproportionately short limbs.

Any adult human below the height of 147 cm is considered to have dwarfism. Because of lack of empathy or sheer ignorance, there are many names thrown at people with dwarfism. I have heard many terrible names, targeted at poking fun at their height, given to them in many languages. Some just call them Shorty, Giant, or other names that still show they are finding humour in the person's disability. I know some people with dwarfism that laugh along at jokes made on them. This could just be a survival strategy and does not mean they are delighted to have jokes made at their expense. Some people feel it is more acceptable to call people with this condition "midgets", but that is also regarded as offensive and derogatory. Besides, the terms do not even describe the same thing.

The term midget was used to describe persons of small size but with regular proportions when compared to average people. That

term has since been struck off the polite language list, regardless of whether one is referring to dwarfism or just small size in people. It is also not considered appropriate to call them vertically challenged. It has become more acceptable to refer to people with dwarfism as little people, or describe them as having short stature. Dwarf is usually used in medical terms.

Although this piece was primarily targeted at media people, it is nonetheless relevant to everyday language we use in society.

The book of James 3 in the bible has verses that say, "So the tongue is a small organ and can speak big things."

Think how great a forest ever so small a spark sets on fire. The tongue is also a fire, a world of wickedness... Every kind of animal, of bird, of reptile and sea creature is tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being is able to tame the tongue, this restless evil so full of deadly poison. We praise the Lord and Father with it; with it we also curse men who have been made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth blessing and cursing proceed. This is not right, my brothers; it must not be this way.

Let it not be your tongue that is heard calling someone *sidalwa*, *sichwala* or *kukhubateka*. Speak love, speak healing, speak acceptance. Please get in touch with me on 7810 3501 or charlonyatanga@gmail.com if you have any feedback.



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Africa Cup of Nations Final

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18:30 Eintracht Frankfurt v Darmstadt 98

Italian Serie A

13:30 Milan v Sampdoria

16:00 Chievo v Udinese

16:00 Empoli v Torino

16:00 Genoa v Sassuolo

16:00 Pescara v Lazio

16:00 Atalanta v Cagliari

19:00 Palermo v Crotone

21:45 Juventus v Internazionale

Premier League

15:30 Manchester City v Swansea City

18:00 Leicester City v Manchester United

Spanish La Liga

13:00 Sevilla v Villarreal

17:15 Sporting Gijón v Deportivo Alavés

19:30 Real Sociedad v Osasuna

21:45 Celta de Vigo v Real Madrid

Payet unable to save Marseille

MARSEILLE - Dimitri Payet made his Ligue 1 debut for Marseille on Friday but the star West Ham recruit's appearance failed to pay off as his new employers lost 1-0 at Metz.

The 29-year-old midfielder had come on to a standing ovation in Tuesday's Cup tie against Lyon after 94 minutes with the game deadlocked 1-1 and heading into extra-time.

Marseille went on to win that 2-1, to book their ticket in the semifinals, but his presence failed to help Marseille's fortunes this time.

He was introduced by Marseille coach Rudia Garcia in the 55th minute for Bouna Sarr with Bafetimbi Gomis, who scored a hat-trick last time out, replacing Florian Thauvin.

Seconds later, Payet sent in a freekick headed in by Gomis, only for the effort to be ruled off-side.

Marseille, who trounced Montpellier 5-1 last week, looked to be heading for a point until Franck Joffre scored for the hosts five minutes after taking the place of Opa N'Guette.

This eighth defeat of the season left Marseille in sixth, with Metz climbing out of the relegation zone.

Payet rejoined the Ligue 1 side on a four-and-a-half-year deal last Sunday after Marseille paid €30 million to bring him back to the Stade Velodrome.

Marseille also signed veteran Patrice Evra, injured for this outing, on a free transfer from Juventus. **AFP**



Dimitri Payet.

MOURINHO WANTS UNITED GOAL RUSH

MANCHESTER - Jose Mourinho wants Manchester United's misfiring stars to put a smile back on his face by blitzing troubled Leicester today.

Mourinho has cut a frustrated figure in recent weeks as his side delivered one toothless display after another.

His anger boiled over following Wednesday's goalless draw with lowly Hull when he stormed out of a television interview, criticised the referee and claimed the authorities punish him more severely than his managerial rivals.

United are unbeaten in 14 league games, but seven of those have ended in draws, including the last three.

Their 33-goal haul in the league is 12 less than any other top six side and Swedish veteran Zlatan Ibrahimovic is the only one of United's forwards posing any threat to opposing defences.

With United trailing four points behind the top four, Mourinho knows it is essential for his sixth

placed team to find a significantly sharper cutting edge if they are to qualify for the Champions League.

"I have to agree with you that we don't score enough goals and some of our players from these attacking, creative positions they could - they should - score more goals," he said.

"We attack so much and with so many players, and so many players have the freedom in our dynamic to reach scoring positions.

"But when you see the number of goals we score, there is not a true relation between our attacking production and the number of players we put always in attacking positions and the number of goals we score."

Given United's recent problems and Leicester's current predicament, this weekend's clash at the King Power Stadium offers an opportunity for one team to get back on track while plunging the loser into deep despair.

Spluttering champions Leicester have made an even worse job of defending the title than Chelsea's pitiful effort under Mourinho's man-

agement last season.

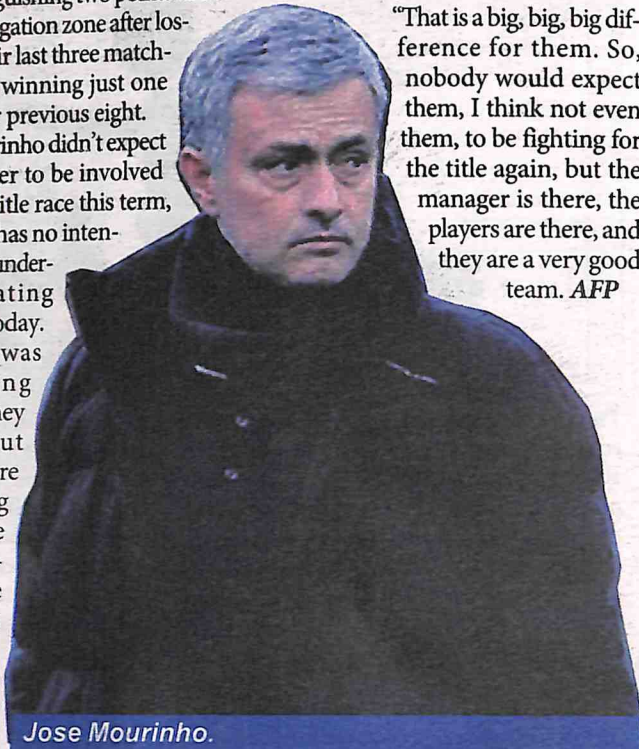
Just 10 months after their fairy-tale triumph, Claudio Ranieri's side are languishing two points above the relegation zone after losing their last three matches and winning just one of their previous eight.

Mourinho didn't expect Leicester to be involved in the title race this term, but he has no intention of underestimating them today.

"It was amazing what they did, but they were working on one complete season with one match per

week, competing against other teams domestically that were playing in the Champions League and not them," Mourinho said.

"That is a big, big, big difference for them. So, nobody would expect them, I think not even them, to be fighting for the title again, but the manager is there, the players are there, and they are a very good team. **AFP**



Jose Mourinho.

Swansea can't be taken lightly - Pep

MANCHESTER - Pep Guardiola has warned his Manchester City stars that Swansea City could provide them with one of their hardest games over the remainder of the Premier League season.

The relegation-threatened Welsh club have recorded back-to-back league wins under new Manager Paul Clement, including an eye-catching 3-2 victory against City's title rivals Liverpool at Anfield.

Guardiola believes Clement, the former Bayern Munich assistant coach, has made a huge impact and says his own team will have to be at their best to break their visitors down.

"I am really impressed. I saw

their game against Liverpool," the City Manager told reporters on Friday. "Today I started to watch the game against Southampton.

"I tried to discover the way to attack them and, wow, I couldn't find it. It's so complicated. When I see their games, I can see his hands on it.

"They are so well organised. There is no space in the middle. When you go and attack outside, they defend really well in the box.

"Then they have long balls to the striker with (Fernando) Llorente. They have quality players for the counter-attack.

"It will be a real tough game, one of the toughest until the end of the season.

"Now they are in a good moment, won three of the last four.

"They won at Anfield, Southampton - against big teams. It will be really tough, but hopefully we can be two games in a row winning and stay there."

City were the only team in the top six to win their mid-week fixture, which saw them move level on points with fourth-place Liverpool, 10 points below leaders Chelsea.

Guardiola faces two key selection decisions over whether to recall goalkeeper Claudio Bravo and striker Sergio Aguero after both were left out of Wednesday's 4-0 win at West Ham United. **AFP**

Papadopoulos stuns Leverkusen

HAMBURG - Hamburg SV defender Kyriakos Papadopoulos headed home in the second half to secure a 1-0 win over his parent club Bayer Leverkusen on Friday.

The victory was Hamburg's first in three matches and lifted them out of the bottom two and into the relegation play-off place.

Greece international Papadopoulos, who joined Hamburg in January on loan from Leverkusen after a hap-

less spell at RB Leipzig earlier this season, capped an outstanding performance with a 76th minute header at the far post. Leverkusen were without injured striker Javier Hernandez and midfielder Hakan Calhanoglu, who has begun a four-month FIFA ban after losing an appeal at the Court of Arbitration for Sport on Thursday over a contract dispute with former club Trabzonspor.

They rarely threatened but did hit the woodwork through

Stefan Kiessling in the 85th minute. Hamburg moved up to 16th in the Bundesliga on 16 points, one ahead of Ingolstadt and seven above bottom side Darmstadt 98.

Leverkusen, who take on Atletico Madrid in the Champions League's last 16 later this month, are in ninth place. Leaders Bayern Munich, on 45, hosted Schalke 04 yesterday while second-placed RB Leipzig, three points behind, travelled to Borussia Dortmund. **Reuters**

Ronaldinho expects Neymar to emulate Brazilian greats at Barca

BRASILIA - Ronaldinho has backed Neymar to keep making history at Barcelona and follow in the footsteps of his illustrious compatriots Romario, Ronaldo and Rivaldo.

Barcelona have perfect record with unmovable Umtiti

The 24-year-old has developed into a key figure at Camp Nou since his move from Santos in 2013, making nearly 200 appearances in all competitions for the club and winning two La Liga titles as well as a Champions League trophy.

And Ronaldinho revealed he has been impressed with his compatriot's performances alongside Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez, backing the 24-year-old to build on the lasting legacy of Brazilian players at the club.

"Neymar is a star and he is doing a fantastic job," the former star, who was twice crowned FIFA World Player of the Year at Camp Nou, said after being presented as Barcelona's newest ambassador.

"It is a pleasure to watch another Brazilian make history and he is one of the best players in the world." **Goal**



Neymar.

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Swire Bhembe
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I started going to the Homework Centre in the second term of grade 7. Before I started going to Homework Centre, my Maths marks ranged in the fifties and sixties. Now that I have subscribed to the Centre, my marks have really improved as I now get within the regions of seventies and eighties. I even passed grade 7 with a merit and I am going to one of the top schools for my Form one. The Homework Center really helped me a lot. I do not think I would

have got a merit had I not joined. I thank Homework Centre so much for helping me pass my Maths with flying colours.

Vuyiswa Masuku
Khamisile Primary
School
Grade 5

I started going to Homework Centre in the beginning of the year 2016, and I have noticed a huge difference in my Maths results; as have all my teachers too. Before I started attending classes at the Homework Centre, my exam marks had never been higher than eighty percent; and all my other subjects were

in the region of ninety percent and higher. After I joined the Homework Centre, from day one my results started to go higher and from that day I became top of my class. On last term's report I got a ninety nine percent, and I am now confident about my Mathematics. I thank the Centre very much for being a part of my Maths Literacy.

Ndumiso MKhaliphi
Form 3
Salesian High School

I enrolled at the Homework Centre for both Maths and Add Maths. They were very helpful because at school I did not

understand the concepts along with a number of other pupils, and as a result we hated Maths and Add Maths. The Homework Centre helped me a lot through the computer work and theory after understanding the basics. Usually in Maths I would score 35% as my highest (which is a fail) and Add Maths was dismal with 20-25%. Through the help of the tutors I got a "C", which was very good by my standards. Before enrolling at Homework Centre Add Maths was a nightmare to me, but on my JC I got symbol "B" which seemed to be magical!

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USAIN BOLT IN ELECTRIC FORM

KINGSTON - Back on the track for the first time since losing his 2008 Olympic relay gold, Usain Bolt thrilled fans as he helped his All-Stars team to victory in of all events, a relay.

In his only event of the night at the Nitro Athletics Series in Melbourne, Bolt took the baton from Asafa Powell and showed everyone what he can do by powering away down the back straight.

The Jamaican described the debut of the new event as a promising start.

The world's fastest man was impressed with the atmosphere the 7 000 strong crowd at Lakeside Stadium generated for the new team event.

"It was a lot of fun," Bolt said. "The crowd came out and supported and I'm urging more people to come out on Thursday and next Saturday because it's a great event. "It is the first time, we will find kinks and we'll make it better but it was a good start for me."

Bolt appeared in the final event of the evening, a mixed 4x100m relay where he ran the second leg opposed to a 16-year-old Australian schoolgirl.

Bolt lined up in the second leg of the mixed relay against three other men and two female sprinters - Mariko Nagano from Japan and 16-year-old Riley Day of Australia.

With fellow Jamaican and former world record holder Asafa Powell running the opening leg for the All-Stars,

● as he returns to the track at the Nitro Athletics event for his first race since losing the Olympic relay gold medal



Usain Bolt poses with fans after returning to the track at the Nitro Athletics event in Melbourne. (AP)

Bolt was always going to get the baton in first place.

The gap was much bigger by the time Bolt handed off to Jenna Prandini, although Day was also impressive. But Bolt and his team easily won the event.

Bolt, the eight-time Olympic champion, has committed to competing in all three Nitro events over an eight-day period in Melbourne. The meet continues on February 9 and February 11 at the same stadium.

Bolt showed that he is refusing to

dwell on the disappointment of losing his Beijing Olympics 4x100 metres gold medal. The Jamaican team saw their result wiped from the history books after Nesta Carter tested positive for a banned stimulant.

Bolt, who completed a remarkable 'treble treble' of 100m, 200m and 4x100m Olympic titles at the 2016 Rio Games, had his 2008 relay gold stripped last month after Carter's re-tested sample indicated he had taken methylhexanamine. *Daily Mail*

SA legend Joost van der Westhuizen admitted to hospital

JOHANNESBURG - Legendary South African rugby star Joost van der Westhuizen - stricken with motor neurone disease - is in a critical condition and has been admitted to hospital.

The J9 Foundation, set up by Van der Westhuizen to help those with MND, published a short statement on their Facebook page with an update on his condition.

"It said: 'The family and friends of Joost ask that you all pray for Joost. He was taken to hospital earlier today and is in a critical condition.'

"We ask that you all please respect the families time at the moment."

The 45-year-old - who lifted the Rugby World Cup in front of then South African president Nelson Mandela in 1995 - was diagnosed with the terminal illness in 2011.

The iconic scrum half's brother Pieter

told the Huisgenoot newspaper last month:

"It's incredibly tough. He's not doing well.

But he keeps on fighting."

He said that

Joost had been

using oxygen

to

aid his breathing for some time but his condition had worsened and that they had kept the news quiet for the sake of his children Jordan, 12, and Kylie, 10.

Van der Westhuizen - one of the most-capped South African rugby players of all time with 89 and who scored 38 tries for his country - has been receiving treatment at home in Johannesburg.

He has two children with singer wife Amor Vittone but the pair split in 2008 after he was caught up in a sex tape and cocaine scandal which cost him his marriage and career as a TV pundit.

In the same year he suffered a heart attack and complained of weaknesses in his arms but thought they were the after-effects of old rugby injuries.

In 2011, however, he was diagnosed with motor neurone disease and the world of rugby was devastated that arguably one of the best ever scrum halves had been given just five years to live at most.

In recent years the once powerful and super-fit star has been confined to a wheelchair, struggles with speech and lost almost all power in his arms, and was dependent on carers.

Van der Westhuizen lives with his best friend David Thorpe, who is thought to be at his bedside.

The rugby star captained the Springboks in the Rugby World Cup in 1999 and retired four years later in 2003.

Daily Mail

Legendary South African rugby star Joost van der Westhuizen.

'Beckham allegations inaccurate'

LONDON - A spokesperson for David Beckham labelled newspaper allegations as being drawn from "hacked and doctored private emails" in order to give a "deliberately inaccurate picture" of the former England captain.

A report on Friday in *The Sun*, who claimed the information was obtained by the European Investigative Collaborations network and then published across Europe, alleged Beckham carried out work for global children's charity UNICEF as a means to gain favour under the UK honours system and reacted angrily when he was not granted a knighthood.

But a representative of the 41-year-old ex-Manchester United and Real Madrid midfielder insists the information published should be treated with due scepticism in light of how it was obtained and presented. "This story is based on outdated material taken out of context from hacked and doctored private emails from a third party server and gives a deliberately inaccurate picture," read a statement released to Omnisport.

"David Beckham and UNICEF have had a powerful partnership in support of children for over 15 years. The David Beckham 7 Fund specifically has raised millions of pounds and helped millions of vulnerable children around the world. David Beckham has given significant time and energy and has made personal financial donations to the 7 Fund and this commitment will continue long term." *AFP*

Tiger Woods is unfit for purpose

DUBAI - As so often when it comes to a saga involving Tiger Woods, there were many more questions than answers following his withdrawal just an hour before his second round tee-time at the Omega Dubai Desert Classic.

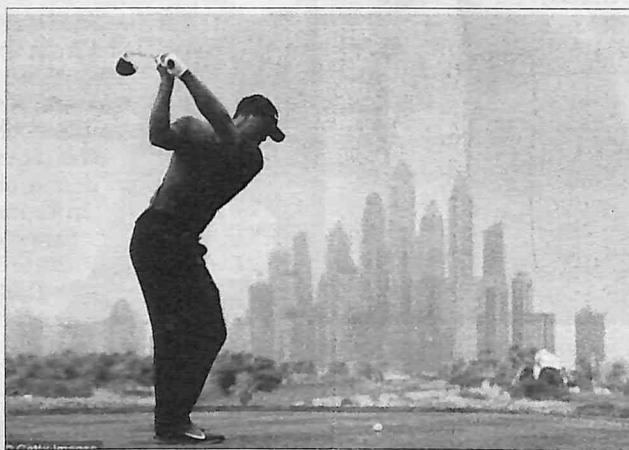
The official explanation from Manager Mark Steinberg was that a back spasm that began on Thursday evening had still not cleared sufficiently by Friday lunchtime to enable Woods to rotate properly and play golf.

Suggestion

Any suggestion the spasm lingered at the prospect of five hours competing in the hoolie that eventually caused a mid-afternoon suspension of play belongs in the realms of speculation.

What is beyond dispute is Woods's trip to the Emirates was a shambles from start to finish. Tiger can insist all he likes that he was in no pain during his horrific first round 77 but it looked as plain as day that he was unfit for the purpose of playing tournament golf. Certainly, few would argue with the striking headline on the Golf Channel website proclaiming he looked like the oldest 41-year-old golfer in the world.

Quite honestly, it was a blessing when the news came he was pulling out, for the Tiger we saw on Thursday would have strug-



Golf champion Tiger Woods.

gled to break 90 in the torrid conditions that prevailed.

Is it just a temporary setback or are these the sad, final death throes for perhaps the greatest golfer of all time?

Another question that right now is impossible to answer but all your gut instincts are grave. Three wholly unconvincing rounds into his comeback after three back operations and 15 months away, and already he is pulling up lame? You don't have to be a cynic to fear the worst.

Steinberg remains optimistic Woods will be able to play in the Genesis Open in Los Angeles in less than a fortnight, and certainly he will be pulling out all the stops for that one given the event benefits the Tiger Woods

Foundation.

Indeed, Tiger will probably have to be there whether he's playing or not, so get ready for another song and dance routine in La La land.

"Tiger says it's not the nerve pain that kept him out of the game for so long and based on that he's hoping he will be OK in the short term," said Steinberg. "It went into spasm fairly late on Thursday night and he tried to work it out. Treatment started pretty early this morning, for probably three and a half hours and he can't get the spasm to calm down."

'Look, he doesn't have the strongest back in the world and so it's probably easier to go into spasm. *AFP*

Icardi to impress Argentina coach

MILAN - Serie A sinner Mauro Icardi can impress Argentina coach Edgardo Bauza when he watches the Inter Milan striker at leaders Juventus today, according to coach Stefano Pioli.

Inter, in fourth nine points adrift, are targeting their first away league win over the 32-time Italian champions since November 2012.

But Pioli's men are on an eight-game winning streak, albeit one that has seen Icardi hit only three of the 15 goals that have given him a share of the league lead with Juventus and Argentina striker Gonzalo Higuain and Roma's Edin Dzeko.

By all accounts, Bauza should be turning his attention to on-form Juve striker Higuain, who has struck six times in his last five league outings, as well as compatriot and teammate Paulo Dybala.

Both have been decisive in helping Juve carve open a four-point lead on title rivals Roma, with a game in hand to boot.

But asked whether Icardi or Higuain was better, Pioli told Inter Channel: "Icardi." He added: "Bauza's visit will be a pleasant surprise for everybody, especially Icardi."

Yet controversy continues to surround Icardi, whose sole appearance for the Albiceleste was a second-half cameo appearance in a World Cup qualifying loss to Uruguay in 2013.

After an eventual return hit the skids last year, reports claimed that Barcelona star Lionel Messi was behind Icardi's exclusion over his treatment of Maxi Lopez. Icardi and Lopez were once friends when they played at Sampdoria, until Lopez's wife Wanda Nara left him for his younger teammate. *AFP*



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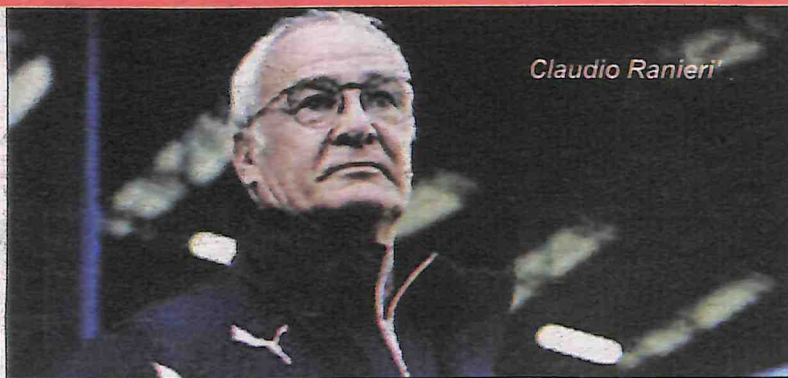


'I DOESN'T FEAR SACK'

LONDON - The possibility of getting sacked is far from Claudio Ranieri's thoughts as the Leicester City manager is intent on ensuring the struggling Premier League champions maintain their top-flight status.

Following their stunning title triumph last season, Leicester have continued producing the unexpected, only this time they are battling relegation as they sit 16th in the table, two points above the bottom three.

"It's not my philosophy to think about this. If my thoughts go there... I remember what was said by my chairman the "if we go down will you stay with us?" And I said 'yes'," Ranieri told British media. "Now why do I have to think about this? I am thinking of fighting to survive. That's it. I don't speak about my position with the owner. Never do I speak with the chairman about my



Claudio Ranieri

position," the Italian added. "We know that is football. When everything is right, everyone is fantastic. When you start to lose, the manager is bad." Ranieri said he has no problem playing striker Leonardo Ulloa, who tried to force a move away from Leicester in January and accused the manager of betraying him. "Yes, he will play, don't worry.

He is a professional 100 per cent. I don't know if Leo could give more because he always gives 120 per cent," Ranieri added. "Sooner or later, when he is ready, he will have the chance to play. There is no issue. He tried to say everything to push hard but it is okay. He will fight, not for me, for Leicester. Everybody is fighting." *Reuters*

Giggs wanted Man United to sign Kante last summer

MANCHESTER - Ryan Giggs wanted Manchester United to sign N'Golo Kante last summer after his tireless performances helped Leicester City to their incredible Premier League title triumph.

The Old Trafford legend, who was assistant manager to Louis van Gaal last season, has expressed his admiration for the France midfielder, calling him a 'nightmare' for opponents.

But United didn't make a move for Kante, who joined Chelsea for £29million and looks set to win back-to-back titles with Antonio Conte's side surging clear at the top.

Writing in his Daily Telegraph column, Giggs said: "All I can say is that last season I hoped United would sign Kante and in the end his buy-out clause looked very good value at £29million.

"Kante hunts the ball down. He is so quick to cover space, get to the ball and make the tackle. I have played against that kind of opponent over the years.

They are a nightmare - you cannot shake them off."

It comes as Arsenal Manager Arsene Wenger revealed on Friday that he twice tried to bring Kante to the Emirates Stadium - once when he was still at French club Caen and again last summer.

Wenger suggested that Chelsea's financial muscle was behind Kante's decision to



Ryan Giggs.

choose the Blues over the Gunners.

He said: "I cannot explain everything but it is quite obvious when you look at where he has gone.

"Was it the money? I do not want to talk about that. Transfers are transfers - you cannot explain absolutely everything." Kante, 25, was again outstanding as Chelsea earned a 1-1 draw at Liverpool to edge closer to their fifth Premier League title.

He made a season-best 14 tackles during the game at Anfield and if the tackle stats are collated from the beginning of the 2014-15 season, Kante has made more than any other player with 253 despite only being in the English top-flight since August 2015.

Daily Mail

I LOVE IT HERE - KANE

LONDON - Harry Kane reiterated his desire to stay and fight for trophies at Tottenham, hailing the north Londoners as "one of the best young teams in the world".

The 23-year-old's 13 league goals so far this season have kept Spurs in the title race, having finished third last season after a late stumble saw Leicester City race clear.

With a contract until 2022, Kane's ambition is to start picking up silverware - which has thus far eluded him - but he insists he will not leave White Hart Lane in search of it. "If you want to be a big club then you have to keep your big players and I love it here," he told the Daily Mail. "I work for one of the best managers in the world and have one of the best young teams in the world, so why leave?"

"Some players want to earn as much as possible, but for me it is

about being happy. Money is a plus to what I do, but it doesn't make you happy on its own.

"We have responded well to what happened last season. Now it's time to turn that into winning something. We have talked about it but really need to do it."

Kane has also revealed that Jermain Defoe was an inspiration for him when the former West Ham striker moved to Tottenham.

Defoe had already proven his Premier League class when he first sealed a switch to White Hart Lane in 2004, with Kane then on the books of Spurs' youth set-up.

Kane took the opportunity to study Defoe in training and became determined to emulate him, and more than a decade on the 23-year-old has 62 top-flight goals and 17 England caps to his name. *Goal*



Harry Kane.

Mancini open to Premier League return

LONDON - Roberto Mancini has talked up the possibility of a return to the Premier League having watched from the stands as his former club Manchester City breezed past West Ham midweek.

Mancini has been out of work since he was sacked as Inter Milan boss in pre-season following a disastrous International Champions Cup in which the Serie A club were beaten 6-1 by Tottenham.

But the Italian remains a well-respected figure within the game, and his presence at the London Stadium on Wednesday increased speculation over him renewing his affiliation with the English top flight.

Speaking to Italian daily newspaper La Stampa this week, Mancini admitted he would find the opportunity to coach at the highest level in England difficult to turn down.

He said: "When will I go back to coaching? I can wait a little longer! But the theory is true that after so many years of work then you become tired and want to do nothing. As soon as I left Inter I had three offers from China, I thanked them but I postponed the matter, now I'm more attract-

ed to other leagues, especially the Premier League. Mancini's presence in east London could not have come at a less convenient time for Slaven Bilic, whose side were thumped at home by City for the second time in less than a month. The Croatian's popularity has waned as a result of 11 defeats already this season - three more than in the entire of last campaign when the side finished four points off a Champions League place. Bilic has endured an indifferent second season with the Hammers, their first in new surroundings, but has gained sympathy for the manner in which he publicly handled the Dimitri Payet saga. Mancini believes the Hammers are being affected by a poor atmosphere, in the same way Juventus struggled at the Stadio Delle Alpi before moving to their current, more compact ground. He added: "I believe in the Juventus Stadium effect - the stadium gives Juventus seven or eight points more a season. You want to know what happened at West Ham? The new Olympic Stadium does not have the same atmosphere as Upton Park." *Daily Mail*



'LIVERPOOL MUST BE MORE CLEVER, LIKE CHELSEA'

LIVERPOOL - Jurgen Klopp told Liverpool to get more streetwise and feels they have catching up to do on Chelsea when it comes to acting "clever" on the pitch.

The Anfield side had to settle for a 1-1 draw with Antonio Conte's men midweek, despite dominating play in most parts of the game, as Chelsea used every trick in the book to get a point. Klopp has now admitted he would like to see his side use the same strategies if need be, but he realises his relatively inexperienced players will not toughen up overnight.

"Yes, we have to be more streetwise," the German told reporters.

"I am not sure if you can force something like this but it is a good thing to have in football. Being clever is part of football. Chelsea are more experienced and sometimes more clever



Jurgen Klopp

or smart, however you want to describe it. "We can improve on this. But we cannot improve every day on everything." The Reds have seen their title

challenge fall away after a torrid month of January, sitting 10 points behind runaway leaders Chelsea in fourth. *Goal*

2017 AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS

CAMEROON, EGYPT SET FOR FINAL SHOWDOWN

LIBREVILLE - Cameroon and Egypt are both aiming to cap remarkable revivals by winning the Africa Cup of Nations when they meet in a final that few thought possible in Libreville this evening.

These are two of the most successful nations in the 60-year history of the competition, with Egypt unrivalled on seven titles and Cameroon, four-time winners, just behind alongside Ghana.

But at the outset of the tournament in Gabon it was the likes of Algeria, Senegal and defending champions the Ivory Coast who were considered the favourites, with Egypt no more than dark horses in their first appearance since 2010.

Cameroon, meanwhile, came with what looked like their weakest ever squad, handicapped by the refusal of several leading players to accept call-ups from Belgian coach Hugo Broos. Yet the Indomitable Lions qualified from their group at the expense of the hosts and have since knocked out both Senegal and Ghana to make their first final since 2008.

Then, with a side containing the likes of Rigobert Song and Samuel Eto'o, they lost 1-0 to the Egyptians in Ghana's capital Accra.

This current Cameroon side has no



such big name stars but Broos has transformed their fortunes over the last 12 months and is now looking for them to make history rather than be content with their unexpected run.

"We want to

go into this final and win it. For these

HEAD-TO-HEAD - EGYPT vs CAMEROON

Egypt FIFA ranking: 35
Cameroon FIFA ranking: 62
Matches played: 24
Egypt wins: 12
Cameroon wins: 5
Draws: 7
Egypt goals scored: 30
Cameroon goals scored: 17
Last match: 20 May 2012 in Omdurman - Egypt 2-1 Cameroon

young players - 14 of the 23 are playing at their first Cup of Nations - it is possibly a unique opportunity in their careers to win the trophy," he said.

"There will be enough motivation and inspiration there to make sure we are ready for Sunday."

AFP

El Hadary targets fifth Afcon

LIBREVILLE - When Essam El Hadary, the Egypt goalkeeper who will start in today's Africa Cup of Nations final, made his international debut, his current teammate Ramadan Sobhi had not yet been born.

First capped in 1996, El Hadary was the man whose saves in a penalty shootout against Burkina Faso on Wednesday took the Pharaohs through to a date with Cameroon in Libreville.

The combined age of the two Burkina players he thwarted - Bertrand Traore and goalkeeper Herve Koffi are 21 and 20 respectively - still does not match that of El Hadary, who is unique in still going strong at 44. "All I have done all my life is train. I can't do anything without football," he said after playing in Egypt's 0-0 draw with Mali that began their campaign in Gabon. He had turned 44 just two days before that game. His teammates made him a cake, although he insists that he hates celebrating birthdays and preferred to mark the occasion by becoming the oldest ever player at the Cup of Nations.

Named on the bench at kick-off, he soon came on for the injured Ahmed El Shennawy to break the previous record set by

fellow Egyptian Hossam Hassan, who was barely 39 and a half when he played at the 2006 tournament. "I am the happiest person in Egypt at playing at the Cup of Nations again," he said later. "I had a feeling before the match I would play. I dreamt of breaking the record."

He has remained the last line of defence in Hector Cuper's solid and hard-working side and had gone 653 minutes without conceding in the Cup of Nations until Aristide Bance's strike for Burkina Faso in the semifinal.

Yet he must have thought his last Cup of Nations had long since passed him by as Egypt failed to qualify for any of the last three tournaments.

A regular for Cairo giants Al Ahly for over a decade, he had been in goal for each of Egypt's three consecutive Cup triumphs, in 2006, 2008 and 2010.

El Hadary was also in the squad when the Pharaohs lifted the trophy in Burkina Faso in 1998, so alone he has won the Cup of Nations as many times as Cameroon.

But his international career was seemingly well and truly over until Cuper surprisingly recalled him for the final Cup of Nations qualifier against Tanzania last June. AFP

South African SOCCER

Graham relishing reunion with Scott

CAPE TOWN - Ajax Cape Town captain Travis Graham is mindful that he could meet his former teammate Granwald Scott when they visit Bidvest Wits on Tuesday.

"It will be my first time playing against Granwald Scott, obviously having played alongside him for a very long time. I am happy for him and what he has achieved, but knowing Bidvest Wits-it is going to be difficult because they are title contenders, especially this season," Graham told his club's website. The Urban Warriors have been revived since the appointment of Stanley Menzo. They have since moved off the drop zone into ninth place. "Bidvest Wits have a good squad, knowing coach Gavin (Hunt) and the team he has at his disposal it is going to be a difficult game, they are going to go all in-we will have to match that. For us playing away, it is important that we try and at least get a draw, if we get a chance to win it, we must make sure we don't let it slip, three points would be the best outcome," Graham said. Goal

PITSO MOSIMANE A WORKAHOLIC - SONO

PRETORIA - Jomo Cosmos owner and South African soccer legend Dr Jomo Sono described Mamelodi Sundowns head coach Pitso Mosimane as a workaholic.

Mosimane, who began his professional soccer career as a striker under the tutelage of Sono at Jomo Cosmos back in 1982, has been gradually building his reputation as one of the country's most successful coaches since cutting his teeth in

coaching at Supersport United in 2000/01 season.

"Look, Pitso has always shown potential in coaching back from 2001 where he took over as a head coach from assistant role at Supersport," Sono told Vodacom soccer.

"Pitso has done very well so far as a young coach. He is a workaholic and very arrogant, but he has unfortunately inherited arrogance from me (laughing), because he is one of my products (as a player).

"He has got his own head, when he has decided he has decided, and he believes in the decisions he takes.

"He has done well despite enduring some difficult times where some of Sundowns' supporters were calling for his sacking. His stay (at Downs) shows that the supporters nearly got rid of a good coach, which tells you about the importance of supporters being patient towards the team's coach under difficult circumstances." Sport24

Vilakazi warns downs against complacency in Nedbank Cup opener

PRETORIA - Mamelodi Sundowns forward Sibusiso Vilakazi expects a good test against Mariveni United in the Nedbank Cup opening round, and warns against complacency.

The reigning African Champions will host the Limpopo-based SAB League outfit, with every intention to avoid embarrassment, in their

Last 32 clash next month. 'Sbu' admits it will be an intriguing match, and is also well aware that complacency could cost them a shot at a second title so far this season.

"It's quite an interesting one. But it's a cup game, and in a cup game you have one shot to either win or you are out," Vilakazi was quoted as saying by his club's site.

"But we will gather as much information as possible about them. We want to win."

The 27-year-old Soweto-born attacker also played down Downs' 24-0 drubbing of lower league outfit Powerlines FC in the 2012 edition of this tournament, but reiterates their level of seriousness to advance to the next round.

Kickoff

'New signings bring competition to Pirates'

JOHANNESBURG - Orlando Pirates interim coach Augusto Palacios said they prepared well for the second half of the season and he is happy with how the players have responded since their last PSL game against Bloemfontein Celtic.

"The preparations went well. The players know what to expect and they have responded well to instructions," Palacios told Goal.

"We managed to play six friendly games and the response of the players was very good. We finished our last game against Black Leopards," he said.

"I think the players have received the message and they took it very well when we finished our last game against Bloemfontein Celtic. I am very happy with

the response of the players," Palacios added.

The club unveiled three new signings in Chippa United duo James Okwuosa, Marc Van Heerden, Dove

Wome from SuperSport United and recalled Thembinkosi Lorch from the Chilli Boys.

But it's the signing of Nigerian goalkeeper Emmanuel Daniel, whom they snatched from the clutches of Mamelodi Sundowns that has Palacios captivated.

Goal



LONDON - Eden Hazard struck a stunning solo goal as Chelsea boosted their Premier League title hopes and left Arsenal's in tatters with a 3-0 win at Stamford Bridge.

Arsenal may have complaints about Marcos Alonso's opener, which came when he clattered Hector Bellerin. But the visitors could do nothing about the second in Chelsea's 3-1 win at Stamford Bridge.

Hazard picked the ball up in the centre circle, evaded Laurent Koscielny and brushed off Francis Coquelin before fooling Koscielny, again, and drilling in by Petr Cech.

Cech gifted the ball to Cesc Fabregas, who casually lobbed the goalkeeper, for a third, as Chelsea ruthlessly punished Arsenal, who gained scant consolation with a late Olivier Giroud header.

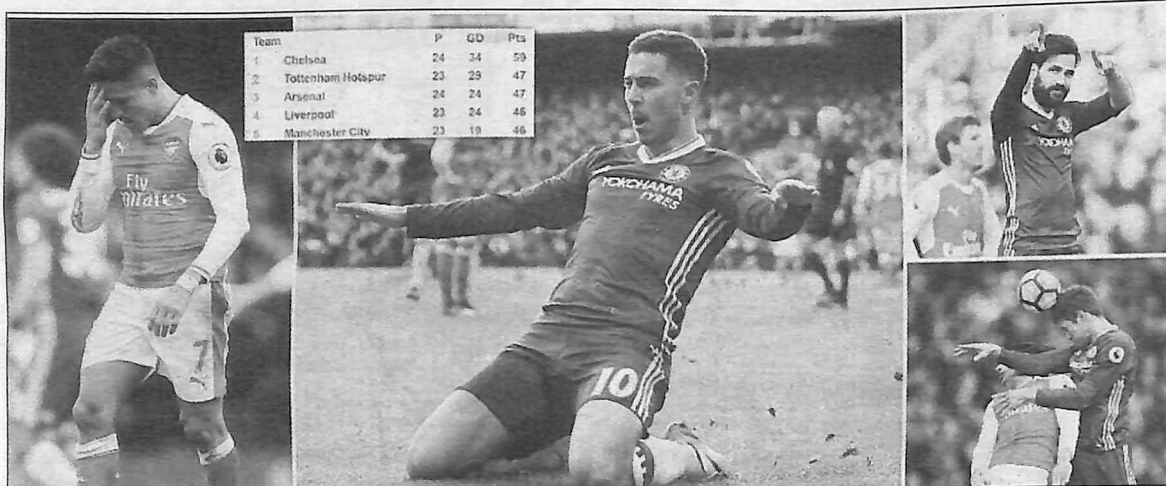
Home Boss Antonio Conte celebrated as Chelsea won for the 11th straight home game to move 12 points clear of the Gunners with 14 games to play.

With Arsenal Manager Arsene Wenger banished to the East Stand, serving the third match of his four-game touchline ban, Conte was unopposed in his technical area.

At times it seemed as if his team were similarly privileged on the pitch, too, as Chelsea supporters pleaded for Wenger to stay.

As N'Golo Kante, Pedro and Hazard excelled in an imposing team performance from Chelsea, Arsenal's Mesut Ozil and Theo Walcott again disap-

CHELSEA SHOW CLASS OF CHAMPS TO BRUSH ASIDE ARSENAL



CHELSEA 3-1 ARSENAL: It is only four months from sunny September to the chill of February, when Arsenal humiliated Chelsea and even made Antonio Conte's long-term tenure seem doubtful. Yet, as late summer passes on to autumn and on to winter, so much can change. (Daily Mail)

pointed on the big stage.

The shock of September's 3-0 loss at Arsenal prompted Conte to change formation and was the catalyst for a

13-game winning run. The Blues have now won 16 of 18 Premier League games since. Arsenal, more through lack of options than choice, switched

to 4-3-3 at Stamford Bridge and initially the pressing of Alexis Sanchez, in particular, prompted errors.

Thibaut Courtois and David Luiz

exchanged casual passes and the goalkeeper missed his intended target, allowing Alex Iwobi to nip in ahead of the defender. His shot deflected narrowly wide.

Gary Cahill headed a Pedro free-kick into the floor and over before Chelsea went in front. Another Pedro cross was met by Diego Costa, whose header struck Cech's bar and looped up.

Bellerin had a standing jump, but Alonso beat him to the ball with a run and leap to score.

Those of a Chelsea persuasion argued it was a fair challenge as Bellerin toppled to the ground, banging his head. The Gunners argued it was a foul, with Alonso leading with his arms.

Gabriel replaced Bellerin, depriving Arsenal of a key defensive and attacking figure. Costa shot into the side-netting and Chelsea's desire to build on their advantage was demonstrated when Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain was swamped by three opposition players in midfield. *Teamtalk*

Allegri pays tribute to Evra

MILAN - Massimiliano Allegri thanked Patrice Evra for his off-field influence after the Frenchman's move to Marseille saw Juventus suffer "an important loss".

The 35-year-old left-back enjoyed two-and-a-half years in Turin after joining from Manchester United in July 2014 and played a role in successive Serie A titles triumphs.

But Evra's appearances got significantly more sporadic this season, with just three starts and three more outings from the bench to his name in league action.

Juve and Allegri ultimately allowed Evra to depart and, although he was strongly linked with a return to Old Trafford, he headed back to France and joined Marseille towards the end of the January transfer window.

Speaking to reporters, Allegri said: "I thank Patrice for all he brought to the side, including his experience in the locker room which helped some young players to grow."

"It's an important loss, but we both made this choice and he showed great responsibility and honesty to admit he didn't feel prepared to play every now and then."

"I realise it was hard to accept that role when he started at Manchester United and Juventus for 10 years." *Goal*



Patrice Evra.

Buffon may keep playing after 2018 World Cup, reveals agent

MILAN - Veteran and iconic Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon could keep playing on after the 2018 World Cup, according to his agent.

Buffon celebrated his 39th birthday last month and the Italy international - out of contract at the end of next season - has shown no signs of slowing down.

A seven-time Serie A winner in Turin, Buffon will be 40 when the World Cup takes place in Russia next year but Silvano Martina believes his client is still good enough to continue beyond that.

"He wants to reach 2018 and the tournament in Russia," Martina told Rai Sport.

"Considering his spirit, his cur-

rent form and the love he has for this sport, it's very possible he could continue playing after the World Cup."

When Buffon does eventually call time on his career, AC Milan's teenage sensation Gianluigi Donnarumma is seen as the heir to his throne.

Donnarumma was Milan's undisputed number one at the age of 17 and has already earned two caps for Italy, but Martina doubts Juve will be able to

lure him from San Siro.

"It's not easy to take players away from a big club like Milan," Martina added.

"Everyone keeps saying he could leave, but Donnarumma's intentions count for a lot here and he seems to be showing great love for Milan."

"Anything could happen, I don't know, but quite frankly the impression I get is that Donnarumma will remain at Milan."

Goal



Gianluigi Buffon.

'Pepe can decide his own future at Real Madrid'

MADRID - Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane hopes veteran defender Pepe extends his stay with the European champions although he believes the Portuguese has earned the right to decide his own future.

Pepe is in his 10th season with Real but is reportedly stalling on talks about a new contract beyond his current deal which expires at the end of June, because of an offer to move to Chinese Super League outfit Hebei China Fortune.

The 33-year-old defender is set to make his comeback after six weeks out due to injury when the La Liga leaders visit Celta Vigo

today seeking revenge for their King's Cup elimination at the hands of the Galicians last month.

"Of course, I want him to stay, he can stay at the club for as long as he wants. He's been a huge player to this squad, we'll see what happens in June but obviously I want him to stay," Zidane told a news conference yesterday.

"He's back and he's better, he's been injured a lot this season but now he's recovered and happy. Pepe is only thinking about what he can do Real Madrid now."

"We'll see what happens in June but given what he has done for us over the years, we have to respect whatever he decides."

Pepe joined Real from Porto in 2007 and is the club's third most senior player behind Sergio Ramos and Marcelo, although his considerable achievements have on occasion been overshadowed by disciplinary lapses.

He earned the longest ever suspension in the history of Spanish soccer when he was banned for 10 games for kicking Getafe player Javier Casquero in the head in 2009, and was sent off in a Champions League semifinal first leg with Barcelona in 2011, which the Catalans ended up winning 2-0.

Reuters

Leaders Bayern frustrated by Schalke

MUNICH - Bundesliga leaders, Bayern Munich were left frustrated, after they were held to a 1-1 draw by Schalke at the Allianz Arena.

Robert Lewandowski opened the scoring as early as the ninth minute for Bayern Munich. Arturo Vidal teed up the striker lifted the ball over the goalkeeper to make it 1-0 to Bayern.

Schalke restored parity soon two minutes later as Naldo bent in a fantastic free-kick beating Neuer at the near post, 1-1.

The free-kick was touched short for Naldo to hammer and he connected brilliantly with the ball to bring Schalke back into the game.

The match went into the half-time break at 1-1. Schalke recovered quickly after going a goal down early and grew from strength to strength since. Both the teams had chances to go ahead but it was not to be.

In the 53rd minute Caligiuri had the ball in the back of the net but unfortunately he was quickly ruled out to be offside, marginally.

The game was evening out with both teams going at each other with the intentions to score. Schalke were in most occasions looking to capitalise on the counter-attacks.

Following the disallowed goal, Schalke had a good spell inter-changing passes in the final third.

However the intensity of the game was slowing down as both teams started to become cautious in the attacks and not committing many bodies forward.

In the last ten minutes Bayern were applying the pressure looking for a winner and they nearly snatched a goal five minutes from time when Xabi Alonso struck the crossbar.

However, Schalke managed to see off a late surge from the Bundesliga leaders to claim an impressive point on the road.

AFP





Hull City's Oumar Niasse, left, scores against Liverpool during the English Premier League soccer match at the KCOM Stadium, Hull, England yesterday. (AP)

DREADFUL LIVERPOOL RUN CONTINUES AS HULL CLAIM SHOCK WIN

HULL CITY - Liverpool's shocking run of form continued as Marco Silva's Hull City claimed a shock 2-0 win at The KC Stadium.

Jürgen Klopp's Liverpool lurched to another painful and potentially costly defeat as Italian defender Andrea Ranocchia inspired a famous win for relegation-threatened Hull.

Klopp's sorry recent record now shows just one win from Liverpool's last 10 games in all competitions after goals from Alfred N'Diaye and substitute Oumar Niasse gave Marco Silva's men a mighty boost.

Signed on loan from Inter Milan last month, Ranocchia produced an immense display on his full debut to repeatedly shut down the visitors' sporadic attacks before threading the stunning late

through-ball from which Niasse put the game beyond doubt.

Ranocchia had only been elevated to the starting line-up after Michael Dawson was injured in the warm-up and both his performance and those of fellow debutants N'Diaye and Kamil Grosicki suggest Silva's men have survival in their sights.

Boss

The new Tigers boss has imbued his side with belief and confidence and it was evident at both ends of the pitch, in contrast to Klopp's men who failed abjectly to make their portions of pressure tell.

Two glaring misses from Philippe Coutinho summed up another abject day for the visitors, who only had themselves to blame as their top-four credentials took another major pound-

ing.

The return of Sadio Mané from African Nations Cup duty promised to help the Reds get back on track but the Senegal man was rendered a bit-part player for long periods and had only one fine second-half chance to make an impression.

The visitors might have expected an easier afternoon when Coutinho was afforded far too much space in the Hull box in the second minute but failed to take advantage.

N'Diaye hit a weak shot straight at Simon Mignolet and Ranocchia cut out a dangerous James Milner cross before the visitors spurned their best early chance, Coutinho bouncing a shot over the bar after home keeper Eldin Jakupovic flapped a Roberto Firmino cross into his path. *Teamtalk*

Messi on target as Barca cruise past Bilbao

BARCELONA - Lionel Messi scored his 17th La Liga goal of the season as FC Barcelona cruised to a 3-0 win over Athletic Bilbao at the Camp Nou.

Luis Enrique opted to give Luis Suarez a rest and dropped him to the bench, handing Paco Alcacer a start.

Bilbao nearly broke the deadlock after three minutes but Raul Garcia saw his close range effort crash against the upright.

However, Barcelona broke the deadlock in the 18th minute as Neymar skipped past a defender before firing a low cross into the box, where Alcacer was on hand to tap home.

The hosts pushed for a second goal and were rewarded in the 40th minute, as Lionel Messi's free-kick from a wide position managed to sneak past Iraizoz, 2-0. The Catalan giants suffered a blow 10 minutes into the second half as Rafinha Alcantara was replaced by Ivan Rakitic after taking a blow to the face. Messi was substituted after 64 minutes, but Barcelona went on to grab a third goal in the 67th minute as Aleix Vidal slotted home with a scuffed left-footed effort. Bilbao could have pulled a goal back in the 81st minute when Eraso broke into the box, however the forward dragged his effort wide of the mark. *Teamtalk*

Sunderland hammer Big Sam's Palace at Selhurst Park

LONDON - Sunderland began their latest attempt to secure another great escape from relegation with a convincing 4-0 victory at troubled Crystal Palace.

Strengthened by their recruitment throughout January and the returns of those playing at the African Nations Cup, they left their hosts at their greatest risk of relegation since they returned to the Premier League in 2013.

Even after Jermain Defoe's two goals doubled the advantage built by earlier finishes from Lamine Kone and Didier N'Dong, Sunderland's latest three points only brought their total to 19 - level with 19th-placed Palace - and did not lift them from the bottom of the Premier League standings. Crucially, however, now Manager

David Moyes has a competent squad and overseen such a positive performance after their resilience earned a 0-0 draw with Tottenham on Tuesday, the bigger picture has vastly improved.



Sunderland's Jermain Defoe celebrates scoring his side's third goal of the game against Crystal Palace during their English Premier League soccer match at Selhurst Park in London. (AP)

manager who so impressively inspired their visitors to survival less than 12 months ago. It regardless took only 10 minutes for that illusion to be shattered. From a right-wing free-kick, Sebastian Larsson crossed to Kone. *Teamtalk*

Happy Hammers into top half after crushing Saints

LONDON - West Ham got back to winning ways as Southampton's dismal run in the Premier League continued with a 3-1 defeat at St Mary's.

Deadline-day signing Manolo Gabbiadini fired Saints ahead just 12 minutes into his debut, but that was as good as it got for the hosts.

Andy Carroll equalised within two minutes, Pedro Obiang added the second before half-time and a Steven Davis own-goal left EFL Cup finalists Southampton with just three points from the last 21 available.

It also meant a winning return to the south coast for former Saints captain Jose Fonte, who left to join West Ham a fortnight ago.

The Portugal defender endured a torrid debut in the 4-0 midweek defeat by Manchester City - and he was conspicuous by his absence when Southampton took the lead.

Jay Rodriguez's speculative ball somehow caught out the West Ham defence, looping over Fonte and Cheikhou Kouyate into the path of Gabbiadini.

The £17million new boy still had plenty to do as he cut in from the left but his powerful angled drive rocketed past Darren Randolph and in off the underside of the crossbar.

Yet within two minutes Southampton's defence, minus the injured Virgil van Dijk as well as Fonte, went missing themselves.

Obiang's pass forward did not look particularly menacing but it dissected centre-halves Maya Yoshida and Jack Stephens, allowing Carroll to slot in his sixth goal in 12 games.

Saints keeper Fraser Forster did well to beat out Aaron Cresswell's shot before the left-back's cross found Sofiane Feghouli, who could not convert at the far post.

At the other end, Gabbiadini glanced a Cedric Soares cross wide, but when the crucial second goal did arrive it came from an unlikely source. A minute before half-time, Robert Snodgrass' corner was headed out to Obiang, who was loitering some 30 yards out. The Spanish midfielder, by no means known for his shooting, sent a low drive through a crowd of players which seemed to deceive Forster as it crept inside the far post for his first Hammers goal. Saints came out after the break determined to claw themselves level, with James Ward-Prowse forcing a sharp near-post save from Randolph and Cresswell denying Gabbiadini a second with a vital block. *Teamtalk*

Lukaku hits four to condemn out-of-form Bournemouth

LONDON - Romelu Lukaku scored Everton's fastest Premier League goal after just 31 seconds, on his way to grabbing four in a 6-3 win over Bournemouth.

The 23-year-old struck almost straight from kick-off and was gifted another - after a fortuitous second for James McCarthy - as the hosts raced into a 3-0 half-time lead. However, a Josh King double set up a tenser-than-expected finish before Lukaku added two more late on, becoming Everton's second-highest Premier League goalscorer just one behind Duncan Ferguson (60). There was time for Harry Arter to tap in the visitors' third ahead of Ross Barkley scoring Everton's sixth.

Manager Ronald Koeman had hailed the "different spirit" within the squad following a January clear-out of Darron Gibson, Bryan Oviedo, Tom Cleverley, Oumar Niasse and Gerard Deulofeu but

new arrivals Morgan Schneiderlin and 19-year-old Ademola Lookman, handed his full Premier League debut, have brought a much-needed dynamism.

The side is gradually morphing into one which Koeman believes should be targeting sixth-placed Manchester United, two points ahead albeit with a match in hand, in the quest for European honours this season.

However, while they are still capable of second-half switch-offs like this one cracking the top six monopoly may prove difficult. If they are to do it, Lukaku's goals are going to be pivotal.

Soporific starts have so often affected matches at Goodison but not this one with Lukaku and McCarthy exchanging rapid passes before the latter curled home left-footed to beat David Unsworth's 32-second effort against Fulham in David Moyes' first game at the club in March 2002. *Teamtalk*



Everton's Romelu Lukaku celebrates scoring his side's fifth and his fourth goal of the game during their English Premier League soccer match against Bournemouth at Goodison Park, Liverpool, England, yesterday. (AP)

PMT GRAND OPENING AT MSUNDUZA SPORTS GROUND



The match official leading the teams into the play ground during the PMT Grand opening at Msunduzi Sports Ground yesterday. (Courtesy pics)



Inter Stars FC Captain Malinga Mathemba introducing his teammates to the sponsor.



HRFA Assistant Secretary Nkosingiphile Shongwe also attended the grand opening which was at Msunduzi Sports Ground.



PMT LTD representative Hero greeting the teams. This was before the match between Interstars FC and Real Tec.



Supporters watching the games.

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205/65 R15 - E1000.00 for 4

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195/85 R16, 195/70 R16

225/70 R17, 205/80 R17, 225/80 R17,5

215/70 R17,5

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InterStars FC pose for a group photo ahead of the game.



Fans who had come to support the event opted to sit on the rock for a best view.



Real Tec FC pose for a group photo. The team lost 0-2 during the game.

SHVAF INGWENYAMA CUP 2016/17



WILL 'BUFFS' MAKE HISTORY?

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

Somhlolo National Stadium, 3:40pm

Today, the whole country will cascade the country's Mecca, the Somhlolo National Stadium to witness the Ingwenyama Cup final, a sport and cultural extravaganza.

Come 15:40pm, the most anticipated moment of the day will come when Mbabane Swallows and army side Young Buffaloes lock horns in the gripping battle for the E1.2 million first prize.

The two have arguably been the best teams this season, something that will make the game even more interesting.

The Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati led charges have been nothing but excellent this season, recording victories in all of their 24 encounters.

They have demolished everything that has come their way and their wrath has been felt by every team in the elite league.

Proficient, effective, classy and deadly are just some of the words that can be used to describe the 'Beautiful Birds' style of play. The quality they have in their squad allows them to reach a level of unmatched 'tactical superiority' and their fitness is something no one can doubt.

They are a team consisting of both experienced and gifted youngsters.

They can score goals from every direction. One never knows who to watch out for because mercurial forward Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa can net anytime, lanky Sandile Hlatjwayo can cause havoc too, and how can you forget captain fantastic, the ever green speedy winger - Tony 'TT' Tsabedze.

Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko can also be a handful to deal with. Then there's also the skilful Banele 'Pupu' Sikhondze who has matured like the finest Rosé wine, and the workaholic DRC born playmaker Papy Tshitshimbi to deal with as well.

The Buffaloes back-four, will have to be at their best on the day, and make sure to give no room for the red and white glamour giants to string passes and roam with the ball, because if they do, getting the ball back will be a challenge. 'Umkhonto ka Shaka' has had to dig deep to win their games against the army side in their two league clashes, and it will be interesting to see if the 24 match winning streak will be extended.

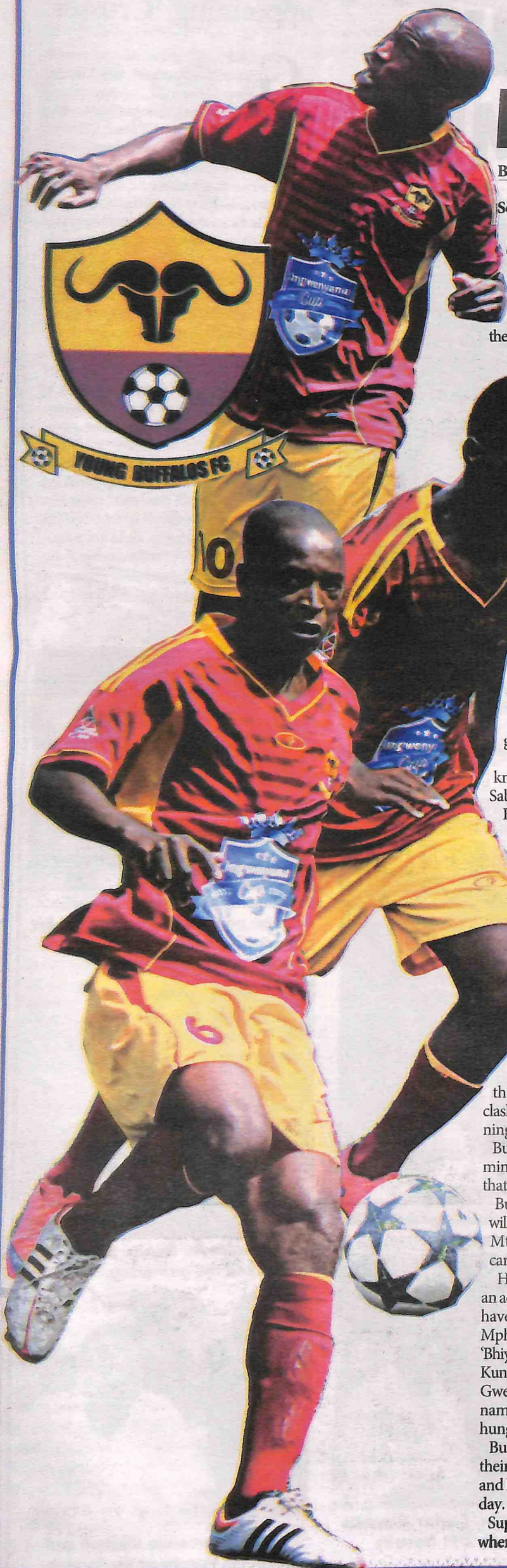
Buffaloes on the other hand have been playing a determined and disciplined style of football. They are the team that keeps shape and execute tactics without fail.

Buffaloes however go into this game wounded as they will be without the service of trusted striker Ndoda 'Stomach' Mtsetfwa who is out after being nabbed by the yellow card rule.

His experience in these types of games would have been an advantage for the team. But talking of experience 'Buffs' have it in abundance. Their captain, the tough as nails Mphile 'Nyandoro' Tsabedze, enterprising forward Sifiso 'Bhiya' Mazibuko, former top goal scorer Nhlanhla 'Mshengu' Kunene, Wandile 'Skoshi' Shabangu and their goalie Nhlanhla Gwebu who has kept a clean sheet throughout the tournament all have what it takes to win it the side which is hungry for silverware.

Buffaloes are one team that will give Swallows' a run for their money in this anticipated clash. Domini Kunene and his charges will just have to be at their best on the day.

Supporters can surely expect their money's worth when the two sides face in this final.



SRIC PUMPS IN E85 000 TOWARDS THIS YEAR'S MONTHLY MUG

STORIES BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

GOLF - The Swaziland Royal Insurance Corporation (SRIC) has pumped in E85 000 towards the 2017 instalment of the SRIC Monthly Mug.

This shows an increment of E15 000 from the previous package which stood at E70 000. Presenting the sponsorship was SRIC General Manager Zama Ngcobo during the launch held at the Mbabane Golf Club yesterday.

The MD revealed during the event graced by Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David Cruiser Ngcamphalala, that the corporation has pumped in a total of E285 000 towards the development of the sport in the past four years.

He said they were very happy with their partnership with the Mbabane Golf Club.

"We are quite pleased with the progress of the sport over the past three years and have seen a lot of dedication and commitment from the organisers in making the sport huge success. We are confident that the sport will continue growing even this year," he said.



Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala and SRIC General Manager Zama Ngcobo, presenting the sponsorship cheque to Mbabane Golf Club captain Kenneth Nkhambule. This was during the sponsorship of the E80 000 worth tournament. (Pics: Sibusiso Masilela)

Ngcobo further congratulated the winner of the monthly competition Senzo Baartjies who outclassed over 60 golfers.

"Congratulations are in order for

all the winners of the day and we were quite impressed with the high level of competitiveness. We are hoping to see new winners in the upcoming competitions," he said.

The list of the packages

2014:	E60 000
2015:	E70 000
2016:	E70 000
2017:	E85 000

Senzo Baartjies wins SRIC monthly mug

GOLF - Golfer Senzo Baartjies outclassed over 56 other golfers to become the champion of the SRIC monthly mug competition held at the Mbabane Golf Club yesterday.

Baartjies scored 68 points gross to win this edition of the SRIC sponsored tournament.

Coming second on was seasoned golfer Leon 'Dancing Shoes' Bashasha on a gross of 69 points while Melusi Dlamini was third with 69 points on a countback. Soccer star Mfanafuthi 'Taribo' Bhembe also received a

podium finish after winning nearest to the pin on hole 2/11 whilst the longest drive went to Teddy Vilakati. Speaking after the event, Baartjies attributed his success to hard work and proper training sessions.

"I am happy to have won after working so hard in preparation for the tournament. I would also like to thank my caddy 'Hongo' for encouraging me throughout the tournament and I am looking forward to the next competition," he said.

THE LIST OF THE WINNERS

1. Senzo Baartjies gross	68 points
2. Leon Bashasha	69 points
3. Melusi Dlamini	69 points on countback
4. Mervyn Lubbe	70 points
5. Andrew Mkhonta	70 points
6. Mncedisi Ntomibini	71 points
7. Kenneth Nkhambule	72 points
8. Mfanafuthi 'Taribo' Bhembe	73 points
9. Phil Mnisi	73 points on count backs
10. Zwelisha Dlamini	73 points on count back

Novelties

2/11:	Mfanafuthi 'Taribo' Bhembe
8/17:	Vusi Dlamini
9/18:	Senzo Baartjies
Longest Drive:	Teddy Vilakati
Best gross:	Willard Mkhwanazi
Best Lady:	Nokuthula Dlamini



A golfer receiving her prize from Nkhambule whilst SRIC Marketing Manager Sizwe Shongwe looks on.



Manzini Wanderers striker Mfanafuthi 'Taribo' Bhembe after winning the nearest to the pin on 2/11 Novelty prize.

Mbabane Mayor thanks King for appointing 'Cruiser'

GOLF - Mbabane Mayor Benito Jones has thanked His Majesty King Mswati III for appointing Sigwe member of Parliament as the Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs.

Jones said Ngcamphalala has committed himself in developing all sports in the country including golf.

"We are grateful to the King for bringing such a dedicated man in Ngcamphalala who has shown his commitment in seeing local sports growing. We are also thankful to the Swaziland Royal Insurance Corporation for their immense contribution towards the success of golf in the country," he said.

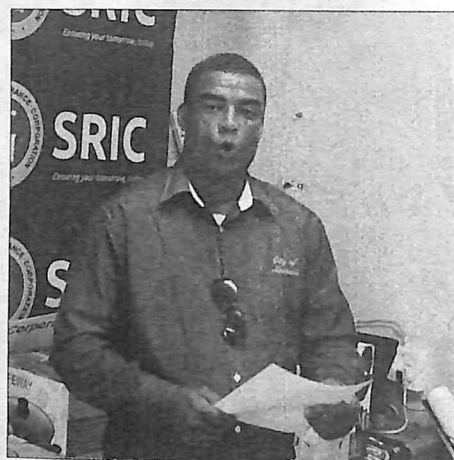
Jones highlighted that Sports are in line with the country's vision 2022 initiative "Sports are very important to the society as they play a role in building a healthy nation. We are therefore committed to seeing the sport growing," he said.

Meanwhile Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala said he was happy with the progress of golf in the country.

"I am happy with the progress of golf in the country. I am happy to see ladies actively involved in the sport as this shows there is gender equality. The sport was pioneered by the king many years ago and it is good to see that it is growing," he said.



SRIC General Manager Zama Ngcobo gestures while making his remarks during the event.



Mbabane Mayor Benito Jones also addressed the gathering.



Golfers Mpumelelo Vilakati and Raymond Mamba at the launch.

PREMIER LEAGUE PLAYERS GIVE IT TO BIRDS

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCKER – Top premier League players have tipped Mbabane Swallows as favourites to lift the Ingwenyama Cup trophy this afternoon. Swallows will take on army side Young Buffaloes in the second edition final of the Sincempetelo Motor Vehicle Accident Fund sponsored tournament at the Somhlolo National Stadium.

Interviewed yesterday, most of the players said the cup final was for Swallows to lose. The players highlighted that the Mbabane giants were on another form, something they said would win them the game.

Three of the players in Mbabane Highlanders skipper Xolani 'Chocco' Sibandze, Manzini Sundowns winger Darren 'Dazza' Christie and Royal Leopard midfielder Zweli 'Mlilo' Nxumalo placed their money on the red and white glamour side.

Manzini Wanderers veteran defender Menzi Gamedze however took another twist and gave the country's richest knock-out competition to Buffaloes.

The two sides will compete for the E1.2million first prize at stake on the day.

This is what they said:

● **Xolani 'Chocco' Sibandze (Mbabane Highlanders)**

"Looking at their cup pedigree, Mbabane Swallows will win the trophy. This pedigree and their current form gives them an edge over Buffaloes. I see them winning the game by 2-0 through goals scored by Tony 'TT' Tsabedze and Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa."



● **Darren 'Dazza' Christie (Manzini Sundowns)**

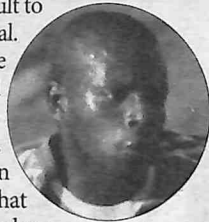
"Swallows are in a tremendous form and are certainly going to win the trophy. But it won't be a stroll in the park as Buffaloes will also



be a hard nut to crack. They need to make sure not to understand Buffaloes," he said.

● **Zweli 'Mlilo' Nxumalo (Royal Leopard)**

"It is very difficult to predict a cup final. I believe it will be the best prepared that will lift the trophy after the game. But Swallows are on a good form and that will give them an advantage going to the match," he said.



● **Menzi Gamedze (Manzini Wanderers)**

"The best prepared team will win this one but I give it to Buffaloes who are enjoying a good form recently. Most have ruled them out but believe they will stop Swallows' winning streak tomorrow (today)."



Ex Wanderers defender Makarati joins Witbank Spurs

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCKER – Former Manzini Wanderers Zimbabwean defender Frank Makarati has found new home at South African National First Division side Witbank Spurs.

Information gathered was that Makarati who was offloaded by the Weslans three weeks ago joined Spurs on an undisclosed fee.

The player will team up with former Green Mamba goalkeeper Bhuti Khoza who is plying his trade at the Emalahleni based side.

Makarati's move will come as a relieve



to the maroon and white ensemble as they were unable to register foreigners due to the FIFA transfer rule, which does not allow teams to register foreigners within the same transfer window unless they find them with another team.

Makarati joined Wanderers at the

beginning of the season together with his two fellow countrymen Tafandwa Javarani and Tawana Chikore who were all sent packing by the hub giants alongside Ivorian striker Danny Zabo. Meanwhile Spurs Director Themba Mafu could not be drawn for comment on the matter as his mobile phone rang unanswered before going to the voice-mail when contacted yesterday.

Manzini Wanderers General Manager Patrick Gamedze wished the player the best of luck at his new side when asked to comment yesterday.

"We are very happy for him and wish him all the best at his in his football career," he briefly said.

Sibandze in E4 000 Pick n Pay Marathon

BY SABELO MAJOLA

ATHLETICS – Imbube Marathon conqueror Sifiso Sibandze will be in South Africa next week Sunday to participate in the Pick n Pay half marathon, hosted by Momentum.

The race is slated for Johannesburg. The Correctional Services athlete will be running under the Golden Foot Club umbrella as per the norm when he partakes in international events. Sibandze stands to win E4 000 if he crosses the finish line first in the 21km race. The runner up will take home E2 500 while the third prize stands at E1 250. His Manager Sifiso Mdluli confirmed the athlete's participation in the race, citing that forms part of his training leading to the Imbube marathon second edition.

"Our intention is to build on speed and ensure that he remains active during the course of the year. He will also

participate in the Tuff One race slated for February 26 as part of his training programme.

Our target in all the half marathons is for him to attain the top ten position as he is a 42km and ultra-marathon specialist. It will be a mission for him to run against runners who mainly specialise in the half marathon," he said.

He added that Sibandze is currently at 70 per cent in terms of fitness and he is expected to slowly build on as the year unfolds.

Attracting a field of 6 000 athletes, the Pick n Pay Marathon is a regular go-to for Ultra runners.

This year's event will once again be an opportunity for athletes, especially in Gauteng to qualify for the Old Mutual Two Oceans Ultra in March, or to get a solid qualifier for Comrades.

Half Marathon		
Men	Women	
1st R 4000	R 4 000	
2nd R 2 500	R 2 500	
3rd R 1 250	R 1 250	

Marathon incentives

1st Man under 2hrs 20min	R2 000
1st Woman under 2hrs 45min	R2 000

Half Marathon incentives

1st Man under 63.06min	R2 000
1st Woman under 75.00min	R2 000

Chakupewa takes over at Ivan Hoe

BY SABELO MAJOLA

SOCCKER-FORMER Manzini Wanderers' Technical Director Julius Chakupewa has taken over the reins at ZIFA Central Soccer League (CSL) outfit Ivan Hoe on a one-year contract.

Chakupewa who was initially approached to lead Wanderers as a coach, parted ways with the hub giants at the end of last season after failing to produce a CAF B Licence, which is the requirement for playing in the premier league.

As a result, Manzini Wanderers appointed him as Technical Director, a post he quit to join the CSL outfit.

Information sourced from Zimbabwe sports is that Chakupewa

beat former Hardbody coach Tavaka Gumbo to the job.

Ivan Hoe's Secretary Itai Munyanyi confirmed the appointment of Chakupewa and said they wanted to challenge for the league title.

"We are pleased to announce the appointment of Chakupewa as our head coach for the 2016/17 seasons.

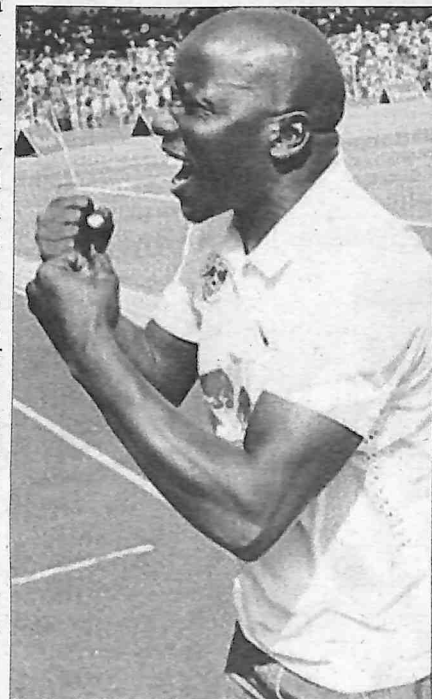
We hope he will help us fight for the championship this season," said Munyanyi.

Ivan Hoe made a late onslaught for the championship last season, but eventually finished third on 65 points, four points adrift of eventual winners Shabanie Mine.

Chakupewa possesses a German PRO

Certificate as his highest coaching qualification.

However, the National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) turned down his qualification.



Former Manzini Wanderers' technical director Julius Chakupewa.

Matsapha Utd hand Tycoons' 5-1 thrashing

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

Matsapha United..... (2)5
H.Tycoons..... (1)1

SOCCKER – High flying Matsapha United continued with their rich scoring form after handing Hlathikhulu Tycoons a 5-1 drubbing at the Mavuso Sports Centre on Friday night.

The Saul Chaminuka led charges have scored nine goals in two matches to consolidate their position at the top of the National First Division table with 38 points in 16 matches as they look to the on course to gain promotion to the premier league.

The home side was off to a bright start as they took the lead with only five minutes into action through impressive South African midfielder Peter Mabaso who has returned from his loan stint from Moneni Pirates.

Mabaso unleashed a 25 yards volley that left Tycoons goalkeeper Sibusiso Simelane bemused.

The United fans' joy was short-lived as Tycoons striker Sifiso Maziya equalised for the visitors two minutes later with a low shot after dispossessing United's skipper Jimoh Moses.

Striker Msimisi Ncanya restored United's lead in the 16th minute after tapping home, a John Neguyani low cross, giving the home fans a 2-1 advantage going to recess.

The big spending outfit refused to give the opposition space to breathe as John Neguyani made it 3-1 three minutes into a second stanza.

The South African winger combined well with fullback Sibonelo Dlamini before unleashing a shot past the goalkeeper.

Completed

Neguyani completed his brace of the night in the 52nd minute after tapping home a Sifiso 'Tjovitjo' Maseko well floated cross.

Winger Nkosimandla Nkambule put the final nail in the Tycoons coffin two minutes before time when he landed into the net, a second half substitute Wandile 'Zinyo' Dlamini pass.

Meanwhile the first match also played at the same venue saw Ludzeludze Brothers moving from the bottom of the table after a hard-fought 2-1 victory against Hub Sundowns. Brothers came from a goal down to record their third win of the campaign through goals from Sandile Dlamini and Siboniso Gamedze to cancel out Hub Sundowns' Sanele Mdluli first half strike.

RESULTS

NPCOM

Yesterday

Burkina Faso 1-0

Premier League

Tottenham 1-0

Southampton 1-3

Hull City 2-0

Everton 6-3

West Brom 1-0

Crystal Palace 0-4

Watford 2-1

Chelsea 3-1

Ghana

Middlesbrough

West Ham

Liverpool

Bournemouth

Stoke

Sunderland

Burnley

Arsenal

Fixtures

Today

Africa Cup of Nations Final

21:00 Egypt v

Cameroon

Premier League

15:30 Manchester City v

Swansea City

18:00 Leicester City v

Manchester United

SundayObserver SPORTING

FEBRUARY 5, 2017



9

BUCKLE UP, IT'S GAME ON

IT'S FOR 'BIRDS' TO LOSE

....PREMIER LEAGUE PLAYERS TIP
SWALLOWS TO LIFT THE TROPHY



VS



Tottenham take bite into Chelsea's lead after narrow victory

LONDON - Harry Kane kept Tottenham in touch at the top of the Premier League table by scoring a second-half penalty to seal a 1-0 victory over Middlesbrough.

Spurs were dominant throughout at White Hart Lane but they struggled to break down a resilient Boro side until Kane converted his spot-kick after the excellent Son Heung-min was fouled by Espinosa Bernardo.

Victor Valdes was also fortunate not to be sent off early on after he

pushed Dele Alli in the face.

Tottenham's win means they reduce the gap behind Chelsea back to nine points while Middlesbrough stay 15th, one point above the relegation zone.

Mauricio Pochettino's side started the game buoyed in the race for second place, given defeats earlier in the day to both Arsenal and Liverpool, but again playing catch-up on Chelsea, who had stretched their advantage to a daunting 12 points with another statement victory over Arsene Wenger's men.

It left little room for error but Spurs got the job done and now appear the most likely candidates, albeit amongst an unlikely bunch, to rein in the run-away leaders.

Boro, meanwhile, have scored only eight goals in 11 away games all season and for all their defensive organisation, they rarely looked like adding to that tally here.

A crucial period now follows for Aitor Karanka's men who will surely need some sort of cushion before beginning a run-in that

includes Arsenal, Manchester City, Chelsea and Liverpool in their final six games of the season.

Tottenham enjoyed 71 per cent possession during a one-sided first half but found themselves frustrated by the visitors' disciplined rear-guard action.

Son was his team's most potent threat down the left and he should have broken the deadlock early on when set free by Alli, but his driven finish was palmed away by Valdes.

Valdes' moment of indiscretion came soon after. Alli had just fired into the side-netting when the pair locked foreheads, with Valdes

continuing the argument by pushing the midfielder in the face and poking him in the cheek.

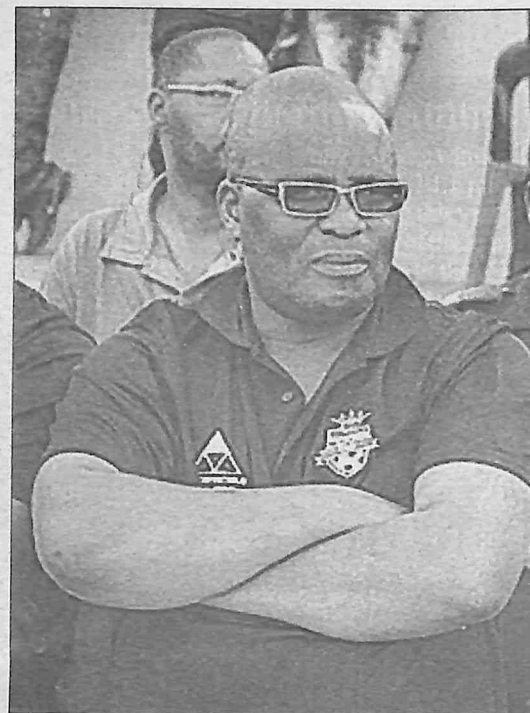
Neither referee Mark Clattenburg nor his assistant, however, appeared to see it as the goalkeeper escaped unpunished.

For a 20-minute period, Tottenham were all flair and finesse, Alli Cruyff-flicking the ball out to Kyle Walker, Mousa Dembele dancing past Marten De Roon and Son cushioning a cross-field ball and then darting in behind all in one movement.

But Middlesbrough were stubborn.

Teamtalk

SMVAF INGWENYAMA CUP 2016/17



Other than sport, SMVAF's Corporate Social Initiative program will continue to intervene and make meaningful contributions to other sectors, particularly health, education, sanitation, food security, and arts & culture.

This was said by SMVAF Board Chairman Zweli Jele, who reveals, in an interview, a future post-tournament outlook of 'legacy projects'.

Below is the full interview with Jele.

Sincephetelo (S): Clearly, His Majesty's patronage of this tournament demonstrates political will. How does it feel that your organisation has had the privilege of implementing this initiative?

Jele (J): As an organisation, Sincephetelo MVA Fund is humbled to be associated with any initiative patronised by His Majesty King Mswati III at any level. The Ingwenyama Cup is by far the most prestigious initiative we have been called upon to implement, both in magnitude and scope. While we are humbled that we have been tasked with its implementation, we realise that His Majesty could have assigned any other organisation, and we would have to support the initiative like we do with numerous national events driven by other organisations.

S: From a policy perspective, what role does your organisation play in the promotion of social initiatives in the country; e.g. sport and youth development, education, health, and arts and culture?

J: As a corporate citizen of the Kingdom of Swaziland, we have a responsibility to contribute meaningfully towards the country's social courses through supporting initiatives such as the ones you mention. As you would expect with any corporate citizen, we have had to adopt a Corporate Social Investment policy that provides guidelines how we can make meaningful interventions whose impact can be measured. This Corporate Social Investment policy itself aims to assist the organization achieve its strategic objectives. Naturally, the CSI Policy focuses funding on those stakeholders and communities primarily involved

INGWENYAMA CUP, THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA

● *The Ingwenyama Cup is by far the most prestigious initiative we have been called upon to implement, both in magnitude and scope. While we are humbled that we have been tasked with its implementation, we realise that His Majesty could have assigned any other organisation, and we would have to support the initiative like we do with numerous national events driven by other organisations.*

with Sincephetelo MVA Fund's strategies. It is worth noting though that some investments may be made on a wider level towards national, social and economic programmes including the above.

S: What motivated SMVAF to contribute so significantly towards sport development, soccer in particular, through the SMVAF Ingwenyama Cup?

J: We considered a number of things. But, first and foremost, we were motivated by a desire to contribute in delivering common good at a national level while supporting culture and sport. We were also motivated by the prospects of reaching the thousands of Swazis who patronise the game through this vehicle. Undoubtedly, football is Swaziland's most popular sport that is played by about 40 000 (plus/minus) and watched and followed by hundreds of thousands countrywide. It has been proven to have a 'positive addictive' effect among the youth that, at its best, it can suppress other negative addictions.

We figured that using the sport as a vehicle for communicating our message could well prove the panacea to

the problem of drugs, crime and early sexual activity, all of which have fatal consequences, and have been found to be one of the many variable factors that lead to traffic accidents.

S: The tournament has succeeded to integrate culture with sport; something which is unprecedented in the history of both in this country. What lessons could be drawn from this in as far as the upholding of our cultural identity in the modern day is concerned?

J: One must say we were pleasantly surprised to see how well this new approach has been received. It must be pointed out though that in our planning, we were never in doubt that, as a corporate Swazi citizen that is supported by His Majesty's Government, we had an equal responsibility to both sports and culture.

We might not have been able to state with any level of conviction and certainty if at all these would work together; however, there was never a doubt in our minds that we, together with other stakeholders, would have to make it work.

We are humbled, once again, that we have been associated with what is now

seen as a first. We know, however, that without the custodians of our culture, it would not have been possible to achieve our objectives. The lessons we can draw from this experience is that no nation can achieve any form of modernity without its cultural identity. Our culture defines who we are - without it much of our aspirations are meaningless.

S: From staging the inaugural tournament, are you convinced that partnering with football can help your organisation meet its core mandate faster and cost-effectively?

J: Whatever doubt may have been there as pertains football being the right vehicle to meeting our objectives prior to staging the tournament has been off-set by the roaring success that the inaugural Ingwenyama Cup has been.

When His Majesty's wishes were pronounced to us, we quickly had to put on our thinking caps in an attempt to figure out how best we could use this tournament as a vehicle to convey the Fund's mandate: specifically that of compensation of accident victims and supporting other stakeholders in the prevention of traffic accidents. All

things being equal, we were convinced that the tournament would help us achieve the following objectives:

- Create a positive image of Sincephetelo MVA Fund on the minds of the populace.
- Get more young people to play the game and stay away from drugs.
- Promote road safety to the thousands of captive audience who patronize the game (in their language).
- Improve the standard of the game; thus improve its attractiveness.
- Create role models who live positive values and have a clean profile; and inspire the youth.
- Make the sport of football attractive and meaningful to traditional structures.

Having considered the above, we were convinced that it was in our best interest to stage a football tournament that would impact and change Swazi football for the better and make the sport attractive to as many young people as possible to keep them away from drugs and other social ills.

This way the tournament will instil a sense of community pride and good sportsmanship. We are convinced that if you take drugs out of the equation, the battle to reduce road traffic deaths will have begun in earnest. After all, drugs, particularly alcohol, are among the leading causes of road traffic accidents.

Further, we believe that this vehicle will enable SMVAF to build strong brand loyalties in the mind of the general populace and acceptance of what contemporary SMVAF stands for.

S: It was announced earlier that SMVAF would implement legacy projects emanating from this tournament. When can we expect to see their implementation, and in what form would they be in?

J: The guiding light for the implementation of the legacy projects is our Corporate Social Investment Policy. As a matter of policy, we plan to make interventions in the following areas: health, food security, education, arts and culture. As to when these would be implemented is a matter of logistics, suffice to say the Fund will announce the way forward in due course.

INGWENYAMA CUP



Culture Meets Football