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PM CONQUERS 'IMMOVABLE FORCE...'



Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini embracing his wife Gugu Simelane whom he wedded at Matsapha Evangelical Church yesterday. Hundreds came through to witness the colourful ceremony which continues today with the presentation of bridal gifts to the Dlamini family at Ndzingeni. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

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CLARIFICATION

SEC WORKERS TO DOWN TOOLS TOMORROW IF...

STORIES BY FORTUNE
NDLANGAMANDLA

The Swaziland Electricity Company (SEC) workers have voted to down tools and march to deliver a petition to the company's executive management tomorrow if today's meeting does not yield any positive results.

This resolution was taken yesterday at the Bosco Skills Centre where about 300 workers voted that the best and effective way to get their bonuses was to down tools. The irate workers gave their management until today to tell them when they can expect to get their bonuses. Their union, the Swaziland Electricity Supply Maintenance and Allied Workers Union (SESMAWU), was ordered to meet with the management today where they have to inquire the date when the workers can expect to get their bonuses. Failure by the company's management to set a date of when the workers would start getting bonuses



Swaziland Electricity Company workers chatting after the meeting at the Bosco Skills Centre where they voted to down tools tomorrow if management does not give them their bonuses. (Pics: Fortune Ndlangamandla)

would result in a mass protest tomorrow. The workers voted to down tools and march to the company's headquarters in Mbabane. The protest would then run up to Wednesday. Whether the strike would continue after Wednesday would be determined by what the company would offer. The workers want last year and this year's bonuses. Despite last year's bonus-

es issue being a court case, the workers now want their money as soon as yesterday.

"If by Wednesday, nothing tangible would be offered by the management we would continue with the strike until we are informed on when we can expect to get our bonuses," a unionist said. The outcome of today's meeting between SESMAWU and SEC executive man-

agement would be communicated via the workers' WhatsApp group. The same platform would be used to communicate the message whether to march tomorrow or not.

Initially, some of the workers, during the extra-ordinary meeting which lasted more than two hours, were for the idea that the workers should down tools just after the meeting. However, after long debating and suggestions, they finally agreed to wait for tomorrow.

The workers strongly refused options raised by the executive of SESMAWU that they can start with a go-slow and eventually embark on the mass protest. Raising the point was the union's Secretary General Mluleki Sibandze.

The workers are said to be irked by the fact that the agreement of workers to get their annual bonuses was being overlooked by management while the same management is claiming to be following rules by not giving them their bonuses.

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CISHA LOGESI – SEC WORKERS

More than half of the workers who attended yesterday's meeting were for the idea that in order for management to give them their bonuses as soon as possible they have to switch of power supply countrywide—*cisha logesi!*

"Kunendlela lesentjetiswako nawngamuva umuntfu, uvele ucishe logesi," one speaker said in vernacular, when emphasising that there should be an electricity blackout countrywide.

The male speaker said this worked during the people's parliament when the late Indvuna Velabo 'TV' Mtetwa would order that some people's submissions be cut short. The SEC employee suggested that similarly in their case, they should not hesitate to create a countrywide electricity blackout so management can give them their bonuses. This was met with a thunderous applause from the unionists.

Another speaker added that going to a mass protest without creating a national electricity blackout would water down their efforts of trying to create a discomfort to the nation.

"Let's target when there is a power blackout, it is then when we can down tools and surely we would have an effective protest. Let us wait for heavy rainfall which causes power outages where we will refuse to go to work," the speaker suggested.

However, the suggestion was not considered, based on the argument that heavy rainfalls may not come anytime soon.

"Let's down tools just after the



meeting. We are called essential service providers so they would be quick to attend to our issue," another speaker suggested. The speaker went on to say that the good turn-out by the workers was a clear indication that all of them in the about 10 depots around the country want their money. He said there was no need for hesitation from their leaders. "Let's take a decision and stand by it no matter what, come rain or shine," he urged his colleagues. Another speaker also urged the workers not to go back to work without getting their bonuses. He said they were not at the meeting to waste time. He directed this to the SESMAWU executive which was reluctant to the idea of the blackout before meeting SEC's management.

The Vice President of SES-

MAWU Bongani Kunene raised two important points. Kunene asked the workers what would happen if SEC's management sought a court order stopping the strike. He also said before engaging on a strike, the workers should consider some of their colleagues who have written final warnings as engaging in the strike might cost them their jobs.

However, speakers said they were ready for such moves by their management but that should not prevent union members from participating in the strike. He then recalled back in 1996 when some of their members were arrested and put behind bars. The speaker told members that as unionists they went all out to make sure that the arrested union leaders were freed from jail.

'Wayaya waya', Nedbank, SCU, public transport workers' strikes an inspiration

The month long strike by Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT) called *wayaya waya*; the recent protest action by Swaziland Christian University students, Nedbank staff and public transport workers strikes are inspiration to SEC workers.

During the meeting, the employees would now and then give examples of these past protests. They would state that the resistance shown by the protesters to not back down from any pressure paid good results.

While another speaker cited the teachers' resistance noting that it had a big impact and eventually their worries were addressed. Another speaker said SEC workers should not hesitate to switch off power as they are the ones who know how to manipulate things to their favour as regards electricity.

Engage

The speaker also gave them an example of public transport workers who whenever they engage in a strike, the traffic flow nationwide comes to a standstill. He said the same should apply with power supply.

Whereas, another speaker said the Nedbank strike should motivate members because if their refusal to bow down to pressure yielded positive outcome, SEC workers should be motivated and copy from those to fight and win their battle.

However, some of the workers felt that the whole bonuses issue should be addressed professionally, meaning by involving attorneys.

The workers would boo speakers with such mentality, claiming that following the law would not get them bonuses.

Since they finally agreed that following laid down rules would not help sorting out their issue, some speakers suggested that members in their respective departments should deliberately disrupt work.

One speaker made an example of breaking gadgets which are essential for power distribution.

They then urged the workers to stay united during this period. The '*amandla ngewethu*' and *Phansi ngaMeshack phansi* slogan could be heard 100 metres away from Bosco Skills Centre.

KING OFF TO ZAMBIA

BY SIMON SHABANGU

His Majesty King Mswati III left the country on a state visit to Zambia on invitation by that country's President Edgar Lungu who was in the country recently.

The King left through the Matsapha Airport accompanied by Inkhosikati LaFogiyane, Emazinyane, members of Cabinet and chiefs as part of the delegation.

The King and his delegation jetted out yesterday afternoon on-board the Siyinqaba Private Jet.

Sigodlo, chiefs, Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini, Cabinet ministers, Members of *Emabandla*, *Lacwebetelako* and the general public came through to see the King off.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations Chief Mgwagwa Gamedze and Ka-Luhleko Chief Zulwelihle Maseko were also part of the King's delegation.

Emazinyane Sicalo, Majaha and Lindani also accompanied the King on his working trip where he has gone to strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries who are both members of the Southern African



His Majesty King Mswati III bidding farewell to Lacwebetelako before jetting off to Zambia on a state visit. His Majesty, accompanied by Inkhosikati LaFogiyane, left the country through the Matsapha Airport yesterday afternoon. (Pic: Simon Shabangu)

Development Community (SADC).

In his last visit to the country, President Edgar Lungu extended the invitation to the King after witnessing this year's Swaziland International Trade Fair among other many projects he visited. He expressed keen interest to

improve bilateral and trade relations among the two nations.

President Edgar Chagwa Lungu, who leads the Republic of Zambia, has been the President of Zambia since January 2015. Under his predecessor President Michael Sata, Lungu served

as Minister of Justice and Minister of Defence. He was also the guest to the King during this year's annual Reed Dance ceremony where he also joined the King in appreciating the Imbali where he was clad in full Swazi regalia. Just like Swaziland, Zambia, locat-

ed in Southern Africa, is a landlocked country of rugged terrain and diverse wildlife, with many parks and safari areas. On its border with Zimbabwe is the famed Victoria Falls indigenously called *Mosi-oa-Tunya*, or 'Smoke That Thunders'.

PM CONQUERS 'IRRESISTIBLE FORCE, IMMOVABLE OBJECT'

STORIES BY GUGU SIMELANE

The Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini has revealed that he encountered resistance during his courtship days to his now newly wedded wife Gugu Primrose Simelane. He described his courtship to Simelane as being met by an "irresistible force and the immovable object".

Speaking soon after their holy matrimony at the Matsapha Evangelical Church yesterday, Dlamini said he had worked hard to secure Simelane's hand in marriage.

The wedding was attended by royalty, including Inkhosikati LaMatebula, Balondoloz, princes, chiefs, Cabinet ministers, corporate gurus, diplomatic corps and other dignitaries in the country.

"The celebration might not be complete today without a word on how I came to the very good fortune of securing the hand of my beautiful bride. The hoped for courtship on my side initially encountered what might best be described in that long standing expression, 'the irresistible force and the immovable object,' he said

"Resisting the anonymous but polite and determined enquiries from her suitor, myself, Simelane remained wedded solely to God and her career. When taking his commitment to the next level and quietly shedding anonymity, the suitor brought his interest to the lady's



Commissioner General of HMCS Isaiah Mzuthini Ntshangase speaking on behalf of the Simelane family.

attention, ultimately achieving the much sought-after breakthrough, and you see the outcome today," said the prime minister to rapturous laughter.

Dlamini revealed that caring and sharing, within a relationship of mutual trust and respect for each other, forms the essence of a loving and sustainable marriage.

He said as he and his bride make these vows they trust that they can serve as an example for all in the society to make, and continually renew, the commitment to peace and harmony in the partnership that is marriage.

"This is a day that I will treasure for the rest of my life. This is a very happy

day for me. I feel greatly blessed that I should be so fortunate as to meet the former Miss Gugu Primrose Simelane, a special lady. I am immensely grateful that, for, however, many years God has left for me in this earthly life, I will be sharing them with my new wife and partner," said the prime minister.

Dlamini said when he referred to his bride as a jewel at the *lobola* ceremony held last weekend, he was referring to the diamond, that most precious of stones. He said his wife is worth more than a jewel. "Furthermore, the diamond is also one of the least destructible of all stones. Such will also be our love and friendship," he said.

like Simelane to come home to, after the long working hours will be good for him," he said.

He further said maintaining love in a marriage requires the couple to be both matured because marriage faces a lot of challenges from all sides. He urged them to be tolerant of each other, stating that real life is witnessed when faced by an indecisive situation.

"Sibusisiwe moved in, when I was alone"

The Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Barnabas Dlamini said when he was alone, his youngest daughter Sibusisiwe was very supportive such that she moved in with him. "Such expression of love and support is priceless and of enduring impact," he said.

Dlamini said he can never forget the kind gesture made by his youngest daughter, Sibusisiwe, who stayed with him during the time that he

was alone. He revealed that Sibusisiwe will be returning back home now that he is married again. Sibusisiwe rendered a song during the wedding.

He further appreciated the understanding and encouragement shown by his family as he announced and then prepared for his new marriage. He also expressed appreciation to Their Majesties for blessing his marriage.

Bride has a closed gap in PM's life – Sister

The Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Barnabas Dlamini's sister Lomagugu Magagula said the arrival of his new bride, Gugu Simelane has closed a gap in the prime minister's life.

She described Simelane as having fitted-in perfectly in Dlamini's life. She said the new bride's love for her brother will heal his past pains. She said the prime minister has been through a lot and now that he has found the perfect bride, she hopes they will build their home in warmth and love. "Her love will

heal him from all that he has been through. She is perfect for him," she said. She then advised the couple to behave proper and not bring shame to one another but to always honour one another. "To the bride, do not let the Bible out of your sight. It must be your reference to everything in your life," she said.

Magagula sent everyone into stitches when she complained that the few minutes she was given to make her remarks was actually very short as she required three hours to speak.

PM values family – Minister Owen

The Minister of Public Service Owen Nxumalo has described the Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Barnabas Dlamini as someone who values family. Nxumalo was speaking on behalf of Dlamini's friends at the wedding.

Nxumalo said during the time he has known the prime minister, he has learnt that he is a man who values family. He also described him as a perfectionist who always wants things to be in order.

"He is a firm leader and has taught us what true leadership is all about. He does not condone corruption. He works tirelessly in all that he does and he respects Their Majesties," he said. He also described Dlamini a

God-fearing man who always put God in everything he does. He said Dlamini always makes sure that Cabinet sessions start with the Word of God, and he invites a pastor to minister to them once a month. Meanwhile, Maggie Khanyile, who was speaking on behalf of the bride's friends, described Simelane as a woman who has always been of good conduct even from her youthful days. She urged her to continue in the same spirit as it will be pleasing to her husband. "To you, honourable prime minister, you have found a good woman and wife in Simelane. Her character is that of a true wife. As the Bible says, a true wife is worth more than any precious stone, so is Simelane."

Their Majesties spoil newly weds

Their Majesties yesterday spoiled the Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini and his new wife Gugu Primrose Simelane with a state-of-the-art lounge suit at their wedding.

Prince Hlangusemphi was representing Their Majesties and he presented the magnificent gift to the couple. The majestic brown floral lounge suit with gold trimmings drew the attention of

the well-wishers as they marvelled at its classiness. Prince Hlangusemphi said Their Majesties had sent their well wishes to the prime minister and his new bride. "Their Majesties are very happy for the couple. The nature of the job of the prime ministers dictates that he works for prolonged hours and sometimes returns home in the early hours of the next morning, so having a woman

OH HAPPY DAY | OH HAPPY DAY | OH HAPPY DAY | OH HAPPY DAY | OH HAPPY DAY | OH HAPPY DAY

THIRD TIME'S A CHARM

STORIES BY THEMBEKA
DLAMINI



The PM sealing the deal with a ring.



Bishop Steven Masilela leading 35 pastors as they prayed for the couple.

35 pastors pray for PM

The podium became too small when it was time to bless the new couple as 35 pastors took to the front and milled around the kneeling PM and his wife.

From traditional churches to the charismatic, pastors of all ages and both sexes prayed in earnest for the prime minister's marriage to

Gugu Simelane.

These included two Cabinet ministers, Dr Phineas Magagula and Lindiwe Dlamini.

Supplication

After the seven minutes of earnest supplication, pastors all took time to wish the couple well as they shook hands before returning to their seats.



Cabinet ministers and captains of industry and were also among the many guests present on the day.

PM's family supportive

As it has happened in the past, Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini's whole family showed a united front as they attended and actively took part in making the wedding a success.

From his sister and her children, daughters-in-law serving as drivers, grandchildren and great grandchildren joining the groom's party, it was a truly family affair.

When he entered the chapel, the PM was met by his youngest,

Sibusisiwe Dlamini-Johnson who hugged him as he stood in wait for his bride.

The grooms party comprised nine of his grand and great children as well as his son while other close family members served as ushers.

Gugu Precious Simelane's family was equally supportive as several members of her family formed the bridal party and some of her relatives and neighbours, as well as colleagues were present.

It was a joyous occasion as Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini's wedding to Gugu Primrose Simelane was celebrated by about 1 500 people yesterday at the Evangelical Church in Matsapha.

From the ordinary man on the street to members of the diplomatic corps as well as the royal household in Balondoloz, Queen laMatsebula and His Majesty King Mswati III's representative, His Royal Highness Prince Hlangusempi, the nation rallied and witnessed the worshipful affair punctuated by gospel songs as well as appreciative gestures and noises.

"I have come to watch the PM get married," 10-year-old Sanele Mavimbela from Logoba said.

He said he had been watching the live broadcast on Swazi TV and decided to rush to the church after hearing that people without invitations were also being allowed in.

"I have never seen such a big person getting married and I wanted to be here to tell my friends at school," he said as he tried to squeeze in through the crowd milling outside the door after the church



Minister Prince Hlangusempi delivering the King's message to the couple. This was during Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini and Gugu's wedding ceremony at Matsapha Evangelical Church yesterday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

was declared filled to capacity.

Some of the guests included Republic of China on Taiwan Ambassador Thomas Chen and his wife, South African High Commissioner Happy Mahlangu, Indian Consular Mona Ashraf, all Cabinet ministers excluding those who were out of the country on official business, judges, senators, members of Parliament as well as curious well-wishers.

"I wanted to see his new bride live,"

an excited Nontobeko Simelane said adding that she was not really related to the PM's new wife but felt a strong kinship to her due to surname. She said she was curious to be there to witness the beginnings of the PM's marital life.

"I watched the last wedding on TV and it was very glitzy. I hope the church wedding cements a lifetime of marriage for him now," she said.



Dr Nicholas Nyawo passing words of wisdom to the newlyweds and their guests.

Sibusiso and Gugu encouraged to embrace in-laws

Well-wishers were encouraged to speak well of the PM's marriage to ensure its longevity.

Zakhele Church of the Nazarene Reverend Nkosinathi Nkambule said family and friends of any couple should always question their own contributions to marriages that fail and ask how they could have assisted them overcome their problems.

"Help the two through prayer and speak good words into their lives," he urged. He called for all Christians to intercede on their behalf and ask God to come into their relationship.

Prior to this, Nkambule urged the two to embrace their corresponding in-laws to have a successful marriage, "Know that if your marriage is successful, yet you have not considered your in-laws, know that they will celebrate when you have problems."

Advised

He advised the couple to have a cordial relationship with corresponding in-laws so that they embrace them to the extent that when there are problems, each couple will seek a way of solving them while considering that the family would be affected in the event there is a split. He said the two had opened

their hands and heart for assistance from those who have their family at heart.

"Today, the two are getting married because of their love for each other and they need your assistance," he said.

He warned that marriage was not about the couple looking at each other's eyes adoringly but about their communities assisting them. "There are times when disagreements intensify to a situation where one's anger feels as though bones are breaking. If I get so angered by my wife and I get to the extent of regretting why I married her; it helps if and when my family remains neutral and reminds me why I married her," he said.

JUST SIBUSISO AND GUGU, MINIMAL PROTOCOL

The names of the marrying couple had several guests recognise their meaning and wish for them to live up to their promises.

Whereas there was expectation that the wedding ceremony would be rife with observation of the groom's office, that of being leader of government, some of the speakers who took to the pulpit were able to refer to the prime minister as an ordinary person.

The first four speakers did not defer

to his position with only Programme Director Alec Mzileni pausing each time he was about to say his name as though steeling himself against not recognising his office.

Officiation

It was only at the end of the officiation that Reverend Nkosinathi Nkambule said the PM's whole title while pronouncing them married.

The programmes, which were flighted on a projector, were inscribed with

their first names only, Sibusiso and Gugu, without any mention of their rank in society.

Blessing

"Their names are nearly similar in meaning," Thandolwethu said while stating that she hoped they would bestow to each other the meanings of their names.

"I hope he will be a blessing to her and she will be his treasure," she said, to the agreement of those within earshot.

OH HAPPY DAY | OH HAPPY DAY | OH HAPPY DAY | OH HAPPY DAY | OH HAPPY DAY | OH HAPPY DAY

AS PM WEDS GUGU



The newly weds with their bridal party after the first session of the ceremony.

"Today the Simelane's are the most important guests," said Minister Sibongile Ndlela-Simelane as she greeted some of the guests by prioritising on those from the Simelane clan while jokingly bundling the rest by stating, "Greetings to the rest of you."

"I hope this will be the last PM's wedding I attend," a government official said cheekily while wishing him the best. "I want to hear her voice, then I can

say whether she is genuinely a Christian," yet another guest.

The PM's demure convoy of four cars was noted along the highway just after Mfabantfu at 10:20am and the only give away to this being his procession were the blinking hazard lights as well as the gold ribbons fashioned into bows on the hood.

It was led by a Swazi TV camera crew. The PM's arrival at the church was

equally quiet as his vehicles made their way to the side entrance and he got out of the vehicle to greet well-wishers before returning to the car for last minute grooming. The arrival of the bride was more eventful as hooting and ululating from well-wishers who milled around while flower girls and page boys looked out from sunroofs. By the time the two made their way down the aisle, there was no seat left empty.

CHURCH TEACHINGS KEPT GUGU PURE

Adhering to the principals taught at her church was the guiding factor that enabled Gugu Primrose Simelane to keep her virginity for so many years.

This was said by Zakhele Church of the Nazarene Reverend Nkosinathi Nkambule who said it was commendable that the PM succeeded where others had failed as Gugu had resisted love proposals from other possible suitors for so long.

This he said after pronouncing the two married before directing the PM to unveil his bride.

Nkambule wished the two a glorious marriage while stating that the signatures on the wedding registry cemented their marriage and all was left was for the PM to unveil his bride.

"It is not good to go around unveiling that which is not yours," he advised, further commending Gugu for keeping chaste in line with church teachings

Simelane advised, don't call him daddy

The prime minister's new wife has a tall task ahead of her as she has been advised to find her own pet name to call him.

"Don't call him daddy, it removes him from his point of elevation and makes him common," Programme Director Glorious Mkhwanazi said. She said the only thing she accepted from the late Khamdumbadumbane host Jim Gama was the aversion he attached to the name daddy.

"I am happy that I heard you calling him Hlubi during your vows and he lit up, I hope you find a name that will get this reaction as names such as darling, love have been overused over the years," Mkhwanazi said.



Gugu's Uncle Hezekiel Simelane handing over the bride to the groom to officially get married.

and waiting for the God ordained time. "Unveil her and do that which you will never do to another again as it is

now reserved for her," Nkambule said, adding, "Do as a child would when accepting a beloved gift and kiss her."

I went to the delivery room with my wife – Reverend Nyawo

Reverend Dr Nicholas revealed that he went to the delivery room for his four children's birth as he felt he had to as a way of

showing love to his wife.

This he said while encouraging ways of showing love and affection between the couple.

Songs played at PM's wedding

• Liligugu lelo gama instrumental as PM entered the church

• Ebenezer Nkosi yami, ungihole kwaze kwala as PM went to meet his bride

• Imphilo yami ngiyiletsa kuwe as bride made her way to waiting PM

• 'No other name but Jesus' - as they walked down the aisle in a two-step fashion

• Emthimbeni wase Cana - the congregation sang

• Joyous Celebration song as well as several performances by local groups.

Four hugs seal the deal

The expectation was a kiss, instead, four hugs sealed the beginning of married life between Gugu Primrose Simelane to Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini.

Holding the veil with the tip of his fingers, Dlamini feigned to lift it all up in one go and then thought better as he slowly rolled it back with a glint in his eye and a smile on his lips.

Noting that his fingers were not as nifty, he then used his hands and rolled back the veil by folding it.

As he was about to reveal her whole face, the PM quickly ducked

into the veil with a smile of achievement on his face and hugged his wife who rested on his right shoulder, like a well-fitting glove.

As guests slightly rose in expectation, he changed the position of the hug, as she rested on his left shoulder.

Veil

He then removed the veil to roaring applause and he went in for another set of two hugs.

After this the two lovebirds returned to their seats where they reclined, hand-in-hand with an occasional word here and there while they smiled, at times looking into each other's eyes.



Cabinet ministers dancing in jubilation as their boss got married.

GUGU ADVISED TO SATISFY PM'S SEXUAL APPETITE

Whereas women desire constant affection, a man's sexual desires should always be satisfied by his wife.

The Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini was advised to always ensure that he was affectionate towards his new bride as she was neurologically inclined to need it.

"I was not there at the lobola ceremony, but I got reports that she was on cloud ten on that day, please ensure that she remains on that cloud," said Reverend Dr Nicholas Nyawo while giving the two words of wisdom.

He called for the PM to never stop touching her with affection as reassurance that he still felt the same way as a woman's physical features were purposely made supple and soft to encourage touching which is what makes her feel secure.

He said it was also imperative to ensure that he never does anything that could make her doubt her position in his heart as affection was something that should be done practically; "She should feel love and money can come thereafter. If she feels cared for, she will never leave that family," the reverend said adding that the PM should commend her all the time so that she feels appreciated and loved.

"Praise your wife, recognise the good in her. Send her a card, know your special days like her birthday as she will always remember the day she accepted this proposal," Nyawo said as he called for the PM to always praise her beauty and not compare her with any other woman for her to stay on cloud 10.

On the other hand, Gugu Precious Simelane was advised to always respect her husband and show loyalty to him. Over and above that, she was advised to ensure that she willingly submitted to his sexual needs as this was what was expected of her as a Christian, to always satisfy her husband.

Nyawo said he was once shocked by a married woman who complained and asked that he pray for her husband as she was worried about his high sex drive which she blamed on demon possession.

"A man who wants sex all the time is not sick, God made us that way," Nyawo said.

He also advised Simelane to be cognisant of the way Dlamini communicated as she should not misunderstand him. She was also advised to ensure that he always felt important and that he was winning through her eyes as she should praise him all the time.

SHARON, GONE FRANCIS, GONE AMON... GOING

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Two of the three Swaziland Posts and Telecommunications Corporation managers who are out of contract are not returning to the company as their contracts are not subject for renewal.

This was confirmed by a source this past week who stated that the three executives, namely, General Manager Projects Amon Dlamini, General Manager SwaziTelecom Francis Dlamini and General Manager Transformation Sharon Maziya were not going to get renewals for their contracts which expired over two months ago; save for one who has been given a few months to wind up his duties.

"The board has met twice since they left the company and their issue was not discussed during any of those sittings," the highly placed source said, adding that the exclusion of their matter from board discussions should spell out that they were not being considered.

"Work is continuing with those who are currently employed and as such, there are people acting in those positions," the source said.

Calls to the Managing Director Petros Dlamini remained unanswered this week as did those to Corporate Communications Manager Nqobile Dlamini.

When the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology Principal Secretary, Bheki Gama, was queried about whether the three managers would get renewed contracts, he referred questions to the Chairman of the Board Dr Thambo Gina who said he was not able to respond to questions by the press concerning the managers when called yesterday.

Comment

The Minister, Dumisani Ndlangamandla, said he was not in a position to comment as Dr Gina was the only competent source which should be used.

It would seem as though this decision was made a long time ago as, in the normal scope of things, as explained by Minister Dumisani Ndlangamandla, managers usually apply up to six months before the expiry of their contracts for renewal.

"The managers would have written their requests for contract extension and the decision would have been



General Manager Transformation Sharon Maziya, General Manager SwaziTelecom Francis Dlamini and General Manager Projects Amon Dlamini.

Trio still listed as managers on SPTC website

They have been home for over two months; however, their names appear within the Swaziland Posts and Telecommunication Corporation website as managers.

When called about his current position in the company, erstwhile General Manager SwaziTelecom Francis Dlamini said he could not comment about his contract with the media

and referred questions to management, who he said was better positioned to respond. Calls to Sharon Maziya were not responded to whereas attempts to get comments from Amon Dlamini proved futile.

made before expiry of their contracts," he said on Friday while emphasising that he did not feature in management's contracts.

"I am only privy to that of the MD," he said, further referring questions to the board chairman.

The failure by the board to renew

the three managers' contracts has been largely blamed on the inability by SPTC to compete within the mobile telephony despite having been granted a licence which allowed them to venture into any business within the industry.

The existence of the Joint Venture

Agreement (JVA) which sees SPTC owning a stake at MTN Swaziland, despite the liberalisation of the industry, has been cited as one of the impediments which disabled the transformation of the company into three sectors, one for infrastructure, SwaziPost as well as the mobile telephony.

Made a pledge during the Job Summit-King not happy with that empty promise

BY MANQOBA MAKHUBU

The King has now, for the third time, publicly condemned the empty promises made during the Job Summit held in 2005.

Pledges were made totalling to E1.6 billion and 50 000 jobs were promised to be rolled out within one year during the Job Summit, but to date that has remained an empty promise.

The King first condemned this act after the University of Swaziland's (UNISWA) 2017 graduation ceremony during a thanksgiving ceremony for Inkhosikati LaMatsebula.

He raised the same concern during the Swaziland Institute of Accountants (SIA) annual gala dinner held recently.

Speaking during the Entrepreneur of the Year Awards (EYA) held at the Mavuso Trade Centre on Friday, the King publicly nailed on the subject for the third time.

"We are still waiting to see that E1.6 billion investment materialise," he said.

He said while some might hide behind fears of 'boloslina' (corruption), the fact is not all Swazis are corrupt. "There are honourable Swazis that look up to that fund.

So we need to raise that money and use it to advance their businesses," he said.

Asked about what they would do to address His Majesty's concern, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Jabulani Mabuza said it was high time they address the issue, especially now that the King has spoken about it.

"We need to go back, sit down and resume discussions of how we can resuscitate the idea. We will look into it and find ways and means on how to bring it back to life and ensure that it eventually comes into fruition," he said.

Earlier, the King said empty promises were worrying, because they derail progress of the economy. He said what worried him the most, was that when the follow up was done to the many promises made at the summit, none of the people who made pledges came forward.

He said this was terrible, especially at a time when statistics indicate that the rate of unemployment remains high and jobs are very much needed.

He said if the pledges were anything to go by, the rate of unemployment would have surely declined.

WHAT ASIAN INFLUX REPORT LEFT OUT ON CORRUPTION AT HOME AFFAIRS

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

The corruption and nepotism reported by the Asian Influx Report (AIR) may have been a tip of an iceberg.

On the 18th of October, the Select Committee investigating the Asian influx of illegal immigrants in the country led by Zombodze MP Titus Thwala, tabled its report which exposed the corruption and nepotism happening in the ministry of home affairs where allegations of bribery and other corrupt practices were made.

The report did not mention some of the findings of the auditor general report; Parliament is yet to learn about further corrupt practices discovered at the ministry upon adoption of the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) led by MP Thuli Dladla.

Apart from what was reported in the AIR, the PAC reported that

the Citizenship Board claimed over E115 000 for meetings that were never held while unaccounted for E24 700 for emergency passport disappears with no trace among other findings.

In the year ended 31 March 2015, the AG found that the ministry incurred expenditure to E115 477.122 for sitting and car allowances paid to members of the Citizenship Board yet there had been no meetings held. The AG also found out that at times the members were paid for days or dates on which they had not attended any meetings.

The Ministry of Home Affairs Principal Secretary Anthony Masilela submitted that some members of the board have started paying back the money while others have still not done so. He stated that should they fail to pay it back, the money will be recovered from their gratuities when their term of office elapses. The

PAC then recommended that Masilela should submit a progress report on the recovery of the owed monies to the PAC chairman and the AG within 30 days of adoption of the report. The auditor general noted that in the financial year ended on 31 March 2010 revenue amounting to E24 700 in respect of emergency passports went missing at the point of collection and was unaccounted for.

The principal secretary, responding to the Public Accounts Committee this year, revealed that the police are having trouble locating the people whose names are written in the receipts, which make it hard for the Director of Public Prosecutions to pursue the matter.

He further requested that the matter should be referred to the Losses Committee which the PAC approved and advised that such should be done within 30 days after adoption of the report.

TV was not eligible for a state funeral - Government

BY FORTUNE NDLANGAMANDLA

The government spokesperson has revealed that former Police Commissioner and Acting Ludzidzini Governor Timothy Velabo Mtetwa was not eligible for a state funeral.

Percy Simelane revealed this when responding to questions why the late

"TV" was not given a state funeral despite serving the country as the traditional prime minister, and on the basis of him being a former police commissioner.

"The late 'TV' Mtetwa was not in the bracket of the cadre that is eligible for a state funeral," Simelane responded in a text message. The late Governor after retiring from the police service

became the CEO of Tisuka TakaNgwane and he died whilst serving as a board member of the above mentioned institution. Last week, during 'TV's' burial, some members of the public who came out to say their final goodbyes to Mtetwa wondered if he was given a state funeral but none could give an answer. This publication asked the Mtetwa family if the late was given a

state funeral and they also were in the dark. Two former Prime Ministers, Sotsha Dlamini and Obed Dlamini were accorded state funerals as well as the late Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) Albert Shabangu who died while still in office.

**Government Spokesperson
Percy Simelane.**



LAWYERS' IRRESPONSIBLE CONDUCT MAY ERODE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN JUSTICE SYSTEM - AG

STORIES BY SANDILE NKAMBULE

The Attorney General Sifiso Khumalo says public confidence in the justice system may be eroded by lawyers' irresponsible conduct and warned lawyers to avoid being on the wrong side of the law in as far as client's monies are concerned.

Khumalo said accordingly, lawyers' conduct should reflect favourably on the legal profession, inspire the confidence, respect and trust of clients and of the community and avoid the appearance of impropriety.

Speaking during the fifth Law Society of Swaziland Dinner and Dance, held at the Royal Swazi Spa, the AG said the best way a lawyer can uphold the integrity and dignity of the legal profession is not to engage in any conduct or perform any act that adversely reflects on his fitness to practice law nor to behave in his public or private life in a scandalous manner to the discredit of the legal profession.

Speaking at the dinner that was attended by the chief justice's representative, judges of the

● AG Sifiso Khumalo says lawyers' conduct should reflect favourably on the legal profession, implores lawyers to inspire the confidence, respect and trust of clients

● Warns lawyers against defeating ends of justice by lying in court to advance a client's case

High Court and lawyers, Khumalo said it is the duty of lawyers to maintain the honour and integrity of the profession and to expose without fear or favour before the Law Society Disciplinary Tribunal unprofessional or dishonest conduct by any member of the profession.

Appreciated

Khumalo said it appreciated that the lawyer has divided loyalties owing to the duty of the court while at the same time owing a duty to the client noting that at some point in time these duties will be in conflict as some lawyers perform the duty of the client too far and engage in practices that are unethical going as far as defeating the ends of justice.

"You will agree with me colleagues that there are some lawyers who end up being co-charged

with their clients after colluding with them in plain criminal conduct in a desperate bid to conceal evidence against their clients," Khumalo said.

He said acts of defeating the ends of justice are unethical, other cases involve lawyers deliberately delaying court proceedings perhaps in order to force a settlement from the opposing client or to increase costs or issue writs without any proper legal or factual foundation.

He concluded by stating that lawyers cannot be effective instruments in the proper administration of the justice system if respect for the legal profession is diminished by public ridicule and condemnation of all lawyers for indeed the bar can only be as reputable as its members.

Representing the Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala at the function was High Court Judge Doris

Attorney General Sifiso Khumalo.

Tshabalala and the function was also attended by Judges of the High Court Ticheme Dlamini, Nkosinathi Maseko and Titus Mlangeni while Industrial Court Judge Thulani Abande Dlamini was also in attendance.

Manning the programme of the night was Master of Ceremonies Themba 'Mthimbawawa' Xaba and spicing the event with music was local upcoming artist Juda.



Fully fledged Supreme Court with own structure to be established – CJ

● Supreme Court to have ten permanent Judges, His Majesty has already blessed construction of court, land identified

In line with His Majesty's 2022 vision, a fully fledged Supreme Court with ten permanent Judges will soon be established.

This was revealed by the Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala when addressing lawyers during the fifth Law Society of Swaziland Dinner and Dance function held at the Royal Swazi Sun hotel on Friday night.

Speaking through his representative Judge Doris Tshabalala, the chief justice said already His Majesty the King has blessed the construction of the Supreme Court and land has already been identified where it will be constructed.

The chief justice said through the Private Public Partnership (PPP) model which has been approved, the Judiciary seeks to partner with private partners which will finance, construction and maintain the infrastructure to be constructed.

Structure

The proposed structure according to the chief justice shall comprise the Supreme Court, Industrial Court of Appeal, Industrial Court and Buhleni Magistrate court.

"It is our vision that by 2022, the High Court will have a complement of 15 permanent judges and the sharing of courtrooms which has been a thorn in the flesh of lawyers will be a thing of the past," the chief justice said. He further stated that a permanent bench of the Industrial Court of Appeal comprising five judges and the appointment of more Judges of the Industrial Court is part of the judiciary's vision adding that judges with specialised skills in industrial relations will be appointed to enhance the jurisprudence in this area of law.



Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala.

Law Society has not been politicised - President

Law Society of Swaziland President Ben J Simelane has expressed concern over media reports to the effect that the Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala was of the view that the society has been politicised.

Simelane said the society has not in any way been politicised adding and appealed to the CJ to engage them if there is any matter that needs to be discussed as opposed to have such matters discussed in the media.

Simelane who was addressing

● LSS President Ben J Simelane tells CJ that they were disturbed by media reports to the effect that the CJ felt the society has been politicised

the chief justice and lawyers at the fifth Dinner and Dance ceremony at the Royal Swazi Spa, said as a society, they believe in an open door policy where issues touching upon them should be discussed at the right forum.

Stating that it was not the night to deal with such issues but was a happy night, Simelane lauded the chief justice for adhering to


concerns of the society is as far as appointment of permanent Judges of the Supreme Court is concerned and the appointment of more Judges of the High Court.

Simelane congratulated and wished the recently appointed judges well as they perform their duties, the new Judges who were appointed by His Majesty the King.

He noted that as the Judiciary, there is a need to appoint more magistrates and support staff which is key adding that the decentralisation of the Judiciary services allows for easy access to justice for all and continues to be a key element of the Judiciary's mandate.

ment of the Judiciary's mandate.

This then has necessitated the need to construct more Magistrate's courts at Buhleni, Big Bend, Lavumisa, Siteki, Hlathikhulu, Mankayane as well as the Master's offices in every region.



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PROVISION OF POTABLE WATER TANKER SERVICE TO RESETTLED HOMESTEADS AT LUSIP II EXTENSION
TENDER NO.: SWADE / 0358

TENDER NOTICE AND INVITATION TO TENDER

Tenders are invited from suitably qualified and licensed service providers wishing to tender for the **PROVISION OF POTABLE WATER TANKER SERVICE TO RESETTLED HOMESTEADS AT LUSIP II EXTENSION** including the collection and distribution of same to various listed homesteads in the LUSIP II Extension Project Area in the Lubombo Region. Service providers must have specially adapted and appropriately licensed vehicles restricted to carry CLEAN WATER ONLY.

Tenders will only be accepted from a company which is registered in Swaziland and of which at least 60% of the controlling shares are owned by Swazi Citizens.

A E350.00 non-refundable deposit is required for each tender document, from the prospective tenderer on issue of the tender document. **Only cash or bank guaranteed cheques made out to "SWADE" will be accepted.**

Queries relating to the issue of these documents, administrative and technical matters may be addressed to Mr. Patrick Shongwe, Tel No. 2363 6648/7/8/9, Fax No. 2363 6641, e-mail patrick@swade.co.sz


Documents will be on sale from LUSIP II Extension offices, Big Bend, between 0830hrs and 1100hrs from Monday 06th November 2017 up to Friday, 10th November 2017. No documents will be sold after this date.

Completed Tenders must be submitted on the closing date at the SWADE Head Office, 3rd Floor MVA Building, Mbabane. **All tenders shall be opened at SWADE Head Office.**

The closing date for submission of tenders is **Tuesday 15th November, 2017 at 11:00 hrs.** Tenders must be sealed and addressed to the Chairman of the Tender Committee. A tender must remain valid for a period of 90 days from closing date for the submission of tenders, during which period the tender may not be amended or withdrawn and may be accepted at any time by SWADE.

Telegraphic, telephonic, telex, facsimile, e-mail and late tenders will not be accepted. SWADE will accept no responsibility for the late delivery of tenders by courier services or any other means.

SWADE does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.



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People came from all corners of the country and packed the auditorium during the Divine Healing Ministries Annual Gala dinner held at the church's headquarters in Manzini on Friday night. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



Divine Healing Ministries founder Bishop Nash Shongwe and his wife Zanele joined by the guest preacher Bishop ND Nhlapho, founder and leader of God Never Fails Ministries in South Africa which now has a branch in Swaziland.

DIVINE HEALING MINISTRIES RAISES



The bishop shares a light moment with gospel artist Sipo Makhabane and Pastor Sikhumbuzo.

STORIES BY SAMUKELISIWE GININDZA

The Divine Healing Ministries made over E300 000 in a space of four hours.

This was during their annual Gala Dinner that was held at the mega church's headquarters in Manzini.

The exact amount is three hundred and fifty-four thousand six hundred

Emalangen (E354 600).

First to set up the offering pace for the rest of the attendees was God Never Fails leader Bishop ND Nhlapho, who gave the church E100 000 cash, which he presented to the jubilant Bishop Nash Shongwe.

He was soon followed by throngs of congregants who began the offering at E 1 000, as requested by the visiting Bishop Nhlapho, followed by E500 and the rest of the attendants, who had dif-

ferent amounts to give.

The donations reached this figure after the tickets amounting to over E200 000 were sold out plus E51 100 that was raised by Tee and Jay Furnishers and E3 500, which was also donated by Bishop Nhlapho.

However, this amount may increase as during the time the paper went to print, the church was yet to put together the pledges and total cash received.

"We will only start counting the money

...having a vision is problematic - Nash

The outspoken and funny man of God revealed that he has always been a dreamer, who always achieves his visions.

"Having a vision is problematic as you see things other people don't, in 1994 when I first started the church, I saw it bigger church and international, I even said it on TV and other pastors told me to stop my pride, but look where we are now," he said.

He then promised his congregants that it would be the last time they feel so much heat inside the church, as they will

soon install air conditioners.

Shongwe further revealed that since he has always been for spreading the gospel and expanding the church, when he was building his 11th branch, his own house had a leaking roof, thus his children even asked him to ask his congregants for assistance.

Mansion

"My children would say but daddy why are you not asking your church to fix the leaking roof? I told them to wait on the Lord as He will provide, today we have a mansion," Bishop Nash told the church.

The Chairman of the Project Committee Phillip Vilakati further attested to the bishop's words, stating that his main vision is to build churches and help the destitute, but always lacks the funds.

"We have a very visionary leader, who always strives to win congregants for the Lord but the lack of permanent structures stands in the way, plus he also enjoys assisting the less privileged. In September, we opened another branch in Nkambeni and soon we will be opening another branch in Schoemansdal," Vilakati said.

TENDER NOTICE

SINCEPHETELO MVA FUND

NAME OF PROJECT

CLOSING DATE

DEVELOPMENT OF A CORPORATE STRATEGY PLAN

10 NOVEMBER 2017

Tenders are hereby invited from suitably qualified business entities for the development of a corporate strategy for Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accidents Fund.

The Scope of Work of the Consultant will include but not limited to:

- Review SMVA Fund's Vision and Mission based on its mandate;
- Conduct stakeholder mapping and analysis;
- Undertake a situational analysis of SMVA Fund's operations to date;
- Identify focus areas, develop Strategic Objectives and Key Results Areas (KRAs) for SMVA Fund, together with a relevant performance monitoring tool/framework;
- Propose a Strategy for achieving the strategic objectives and key results;
- Conduct stakeholder meeting(s) to validate the Draft Strategic Plan;
- Develop Enterprise Change Management Plan to support strategy implementation;
- Present the Draft Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022 to SMVA Fund
- Finalize Strategic Plan and submit to SMVA Fund.

The full scope of works can be found in the tender document which may be obtained as from 8:00 am on the 23rd October 2017, at Sincephetelo MVA Fund Head office, Reception located at Sincephetelo MVA Fund Office Park, Mbulibhi Street, Mbabane, on payment of E300 (cash payments only) non-refundable.

Completed Tender Documents should be submitted with the following documents:

- Original receipt confirming payment of the tender documents
- Completed set of tender documents
- Company profile with CV's of key personnel
- Certified copy of Valid Trading Licence
- Certified Copy of Valid Tax Compliance Certificate
- Company audited annual financial statements for the past 3 years or since company inception if newer than stipulated period
- Names and contact details of at least three (3) recent reference customers
- Statement of joint ventures / partnership (if tendering as a JV or partnership)

Completed Tenders are to be returned **NOT LATER than 12 noon, on 10th November 2017**, at the SMVA Fund Offices Reception, enclosed in a sealed envelope with the project name and contact details, addressed to the Chief Executive Officer.

No late submissions, no facsimiles, emails or other forms of submission will be accepted other than the prescribed. There shall be a public opening immediately after tender submissions closing time.

The Sincephetelo MVA Fund (SMVAF) does not bind itself to accept the lowest tender or any tender nor give any reason for the acceptance or rejection of a tender.

All tender queries are to be sent direct to the client, by EMAIL ONLY, procurement@mva.org.sz

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Pastor Nandipha Shabangu of Divine Healing Ministries Malkerns branch, walked away with a pulpit as her prize after the raffle draw.



Bishop Nash Shongwe appreciates the support from Tee & Jay which was represented by the Marketing Manager Thabile Mdluli. The furniture sponsored by the company was won by a lucky customer during a raffle draw.



A section of the guests and church members who attended the dinner.

OVER E300 000 IN 4 HOURS

on Monday, which is when we will have the exact figure; right now you can publish the amounts you noted down, as they are the figures we all are aware of," Pastor Sikhumbuzo Shongwe said.

This money will go towards Divine Healing Ministries' upkeep and social responsibility, as confirmed by its leader Bishop Nash Shongwe.

"This structure needs about eight air conditioners, which will cost the church E24 000, we also rent our instruments, so we want to buy our own, it will cost us E150 000 and one of our branches in Block C had its roof blown over by a storm and needs E100 000," the bishop said.

Shongwe then added that the church is also constructing another church branch at Othandweni in Siphofaneni.

I will grow old in Swaziland - Bishop Nhlapho

"Nzizogugela laeSwatini" these were the exact words from the world renowned Bishop ND Nhlapho of God Never Fails Revival Church.

He said this during the Divine Healing Ministries gala dinner on Friday. Bishop Nhlapho is said to have been blessed by His Majesty King Mswati III with a piece of land, when he was introduced formally to him by Bishop Nash. "His Majesty gave him a piece of land, where he will build a mega church to show that he is here to stay," Shongwe confirmed.

Pastor wins pulpit, cries

A female pastor by the name of Nandipha Shabangu won herself and the Malkerns Divine Healing Ministries branch a pulpit from Tee and Jay Furnitures.

According to Tee and Jay's Marketing Manager Thabile Mdluli, the pulpit is usually worth E7 000 but the pastor went home with it for only E1 000 after a raffle draw. Another winner was Mbuso Mavuso, who won himself a chest of drawers worth E4 000 for only pledging E500 and Vusi Dlamini who walked away with a bedroom suit worth E12 100 for pledging E1 000.

The pledges for the chest of drawers made the sum of E 8 500, while for the pulpit were E15 000 and E27 000 for the bedroom suit, thus accumulating the amount to E51 100.

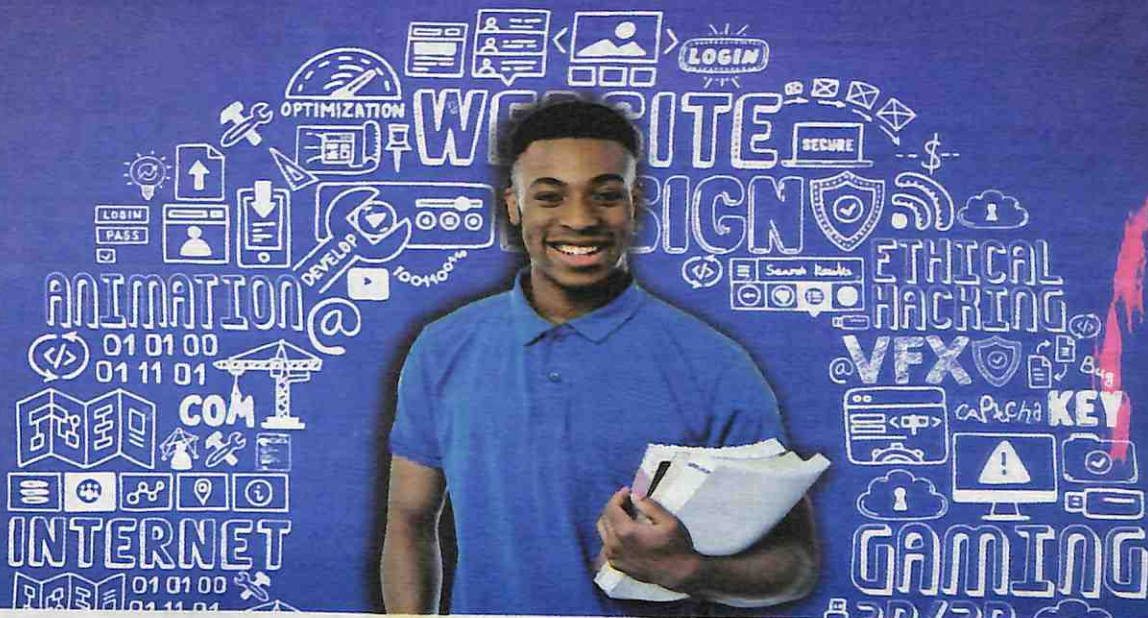


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HAVING MORALS LET US DOWN - ASPIRING FEMALE COUNCILLORS

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

...acknowledges that women support each other, condemn flawed elections

Aspiring female councillors have nothing good to say about the competitiveness of their male counterparts who won municipal elections.

They revealed how following voter education rules and doing things the right way failed to pay dividends.

"Doing the right thing did not pay," Eunice Sikhosana said. She lamented how they, in their naivety, banked their hopes on their neighbours who were keen to have them elected into office whereas their votes could never be enough in light of strangers registered within their wards.

"When I went to register for elections, I went to ask about the rules and how an aspiring councillor is supposed to conduct herself," she said during a telephonic interview on

Friday. After hearing intentions of her prayer group members that they wanted to nominate her, she said she encouraged everyone she knew to register.

She said members of her cell group, church members and several of her neighbours showed support for her.

Sikhosana was however shocked when, instead of finding the people she had encouraged to vote in her ward's voters' roll, they were all incorporated into another ward.

"I raised this to no avail as I did not understand how my immediate neighbours, those from right next to me and across the street were said to be of a totally different ward," she said adding how despite several enquiries, nothing was done to fix the anomaly. She said this was the first instance

of departure which she believed was corruption orchestrated at council level; "They removed the very people I banked my hopes on and this de-campaigned me."

Entering the race with this misfortune, she said she then enquired about rules about campaigning and she said she was made to believe that giving voters gifts was wrong and hence she campaigned concentrating on issues that affect urban residents.

"I talked policy and listened to what residents wanted for their areas," adding that she was trying to speak to the vision of the country as this is what needs to be articulated.

On the other hand, Joyce Lusenga said there were too many things which went wrong and decided their fate even before the actual day of voting.

"We were seriously let down by our willingness to do things the right way. They fetched voters using trucks and public service vehicles and we could not do anything about that as they ferried people who were not known within the community,"

"Men used illegal ways which I couldn't use as it defeated the purpose of being nominated," she said adding how she would rather forfeit the position of councillor.

She alleged that there was a lot of transactions which saw the electorate selling their votes to the highest bidder; "We were too gullible and thought being astute counted. Instead we saw people who have never lifted a finger within the community getting votes on the strength of the loaves of bread they gave out."

"I was disappointed to see our children drunk on the days leading to the elections as they were fed alcohol to influence their vote," she alleged adding how as a mother and Christian, she couldn't bring herself to deviating from that which she had been taught was the way of campaigning the right way.

She said witnessing such made her realise why the country was prone to head towards waywardness as opposed to decisiveness.

"I don't know what to call what I witnessed because I was really shocked," she said adding how her vision for the country called for sober reflective youth who could participate fully in its development and economy.

She alleged that she noted how campaign managers crossed floors and started campaigning for women's competitors without declaring that they were no longer pushing the agreed mandate.

The lack of money for campaigning was one of the biggest drawbacks as Lusenga said adding that if things carried on this way, the country was doomed; "We are heading for disaster."

WE RECEIVED NO ASSISTANCE

Contrary to assertions by participants of the Women in Politics and Decision-Making Positions in Swaziland Dialogue held at Sibane Hotel at the end of March this year, none of the women spoken to supported an organisation with such an intent.

During the highly charged meeting which was attended by women from different organisations, the consensus was that they would strategise and come up with plans of ensuring that their own win the elections.

The dialogue was held in commemoration of International Women's Day which is internationally observed on March 8 and was hosted by the Deputy Prime Minister's Office together with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

In attendance were women leaders from different sectors as there were representatives from the informal sectors such as vendors, Imbita Women's Finance Trust, Swaziland Women Economic Empowerment Trust (SWEET), Swaziland Fair Trade (SWIFT), Lutsango LwakaNgwane, Coalition of African Lesbians-Swaziland, Federation of National Associations of Women in Business in Eastern and Southern Africa (FEMCOM) and others. Prior to the meeting, His Majesty King Mswati III had, dur-



Former Coates Valley councillor Ayanda Sigudla.

ing the Baganu Festival held at Buhleni Royal Residence, called on women to strategise in order to win elections and it was on this premise that the meeting at Sibane was called.

Whereas the focus had been the national elections, former Coates Valley councillor Ayanda Sigudla had called for the municipal elections to be their starting point as this would enable them to hone their skills in preparation for the big stage.

"Nobody from any organisation called me to offer any assistance," Maria Dlamini said on Friday. The Manzini resident said

was not even aware that there were attempts by women to strategise and find ways to win the elections.

She said she would be willing to work with any organisation for the forthcoming elections as she was not deterred and hoped to serve her community in Parliament. Busisiwe Manana said she was only offered support and encouragement by different individuals within her ward as well as the business community, "There was no assistance forthcoming about strategising," Joyce Lusenga also said she was

'It shouldn't be easy just because we are women'

An aspiring councillor said in the event there were attempts to strategise and enable women to get into politics, it should be based on merit and not just gender. "I don't believe in the vote for women campaign.

Women should deserve those votes and not feel entitled to them just because of their gender," Busisiwe Manana said adding that aspiring politicians should take note that every vote counts, no matter their gender.

not aware of any assistance that was supposed to come from any organisation; as did Eunice Sikhosana.

"No one came to me," Joyce Lusenga said. She said she was only supported by individuals from her ward who first approached her with a nomination form which they requested her to sign.

On the other hand, Busisiwe Manana also revealed that she was supported by people from within her ward as well as business people.

When asked about this anomaly stated by several aspiring councillors, that they were not assisted in any way, Deputy Prime Minister's Office Director

Gender and Family Issues Jane Mkhonta-Simelane said their efforts were confined to encouraging women votes within other meetings as they had been unable to fruitfully strategise.

"We have tried to hold meetings as the committee but have failed over and again due to the different projects we have," she said.

Adding, she admitted that they were a disorganised lot which she had no control over despite being the leader.

When pressed further to articulate the exact efforts they had made, she then referred all questions to the Principal Secretary Khangeziwe Mabuza.



Ambassadors for Christ Ministries under Bishop Mpendulo Nkambule.

Bishop Mpendulo hosts healing, deliverance services

BY NJABULO DLAMINI

Ambassadors for Christ Ministries under Bishop Mpendulo Nkambule will be hosting four days power packed special deliverance services starting today.

The services are being held at the Sidvashini branch of Ambassadors for Christ Ministries located along old Makholokholo Road in Mbabane at the big white tent pitched there.

Guest Speaker is Apostle Ebenezer Ndlovu from South Africa.

Confirming the services was Bishop Nkambule yesterday.

"Apostle Ebenezer is gifted in miracles, healing and deliverance thus

we invite all the afflicted and challenged to attend so they experience the mighty move of God upon their lives," the Bishop said.

Starting time for today's service is 10.30am to 1pm while the other days until Wednesday it will be from 6pm until late.

Being

The services are being held under the banner 'Restoration Word 2017' and admission is free.

Bishop Nkambule said as Ambassadors for Christ Ministries, they were keen in taking the Gospel of Christ to people from all walks of life whenever they were, hence the services which he deemed timely in their quest to spread the Word.

He promised that especially with today's service, there will be a one-on-one session where the sick and afflicted from all walks of life will be prayed for by the visiting pastor.

Grace

With the special grace of the visiting apostle, he said people were bound to be helped at their point of need.

In closing, he invited residents of Mbabane and surrounding areas to the special services reiterating that 'they will never be the same after experiencing the mighty hand of God upon their lives'.

To be blessing the saints with music will be the Ambassadors for Christ Ministries praise and worship team throughout the four day event.

EYA 2017 winners under the different categories

EYA WINNER — 2017

Waterman Swaziland

People living with disability

1. Maphindis Investment- Phindile Myeni blind

Techno savvy

1. Datamatics- Sibusiso Baartjies

Handicraft

1. Interactive- Mxolisi Shabangu

Street vendor

1. Reginah Mlilo Siphofaneni

Green award

1. Waterman Swaziland- Thabiso Kunene

Youth

1. MJC Grocery- Mpendulo Zwane Jericho

Most innovative

1. Pragmatic- Nkululeko Simelane

Most indigenous

1. Feedlot Operations- Phumzile Shongwe

Agribusiness

1. Ms Investments- Mirt Fort Dlamini

Judges Excellence Award

1. The Gare Investment - Bhekithemba Zwane

Regional Winners

Shiselweni - Ras Investments- Gcina Shabangu

Luhombo - Mangwe Investment- Mavis Zwane

Hhohho - Waterman Swaziland- Thabiso Kunene

Manzini - Acerro Steel Frame- Thamsanqa Mdluli

WATERMAN NAMED ENTREPRENEUR

STORIES BY MANQOBA MAKHUBU
AND MAJAH NKONYANE

Waterman Swaziland has been named Entrepreneur of the Year 2017 at the 15th annual awards held at the Mavuso Trade Centre on Friday evening which were graced by His Majesty King Mswati III.

The business owned by Thabiso Kunene provides branded and alkaline water, purifiers and filters and also offer grey water recycling services.

According to His Majesty King Mswati III who is the patron of the awards, Kunene received prizes worth over E550 000 which includes an Isuzu van worth E250 000.

In addition to being selected overall winner of the EYA 2017, the company also took home two awards; the Green Category award and the Hhohho Regional award.

Kunene also got a rare chance to shake hands His Majesty King Mswati III.

When he was announced the overall winner, he couldn't hold his excitement and clapped his hands excitedly from his seat until he reached the podium to accept the award.

He said he was at a loss for words to articulate his excitement after

... Patron of the awards, His Majesty King Mswati III announced that the company received prizes worth over E550 000 which includes an Isuzu van worth E250 000.



SEDCO staff members posing for a photo with His Majesty King Mswati III during the EYA dinner which was held at Mavuso Trade Centre.

working hard for the past five years to create a strong brand for the company.

"It was not easy. But if you are passionate about what you do, you end

up being successful. It has been five years of hard work and we have created a strong brand, it is now time to start making money," said the visibly elated Kunene during an

interview.

He thanked the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade, his bank FNB and the Small Enterprise Development Company (SEDCO)

BANKS ISSUE LOANS IN EXCESS OF E13 BILLION TO SWAZIS

Banks have issued loans in excess of E13 billion to Swazis against deposits of around E17 billion.

This was disclosed by FNB Chief Executive Officer Dennis Mbingo during the Entrepreneur of the Year Awards (EYA) held on Friday at the Mavuso Trade Centre. He said this proves that banks are not enemies and they could be a powerful force for good though they were often viewed in a negative light. Mbingo said strong banks are important as weak banks could consequently lead to a weak economy. "We support all regulator efforts to modernise the financial sector, but would like to encourage ongoing sincere engagement on difficult issues. Laws and regulations should not be simply controlling and containing—they should also focus on enablement and opportunity creation," he said. Mbingo is also the Chairman of the Swaziland Bankers Association



Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini presenting an award to FNB CEO Dennis Mbingo at the Mavuso Trade Centre.

(SBA). The banking sector has been engaging with the regulator, the Central Bank of Swaziland (CBS) after the CBS scrapped off cash deposit fees effective from July 1, 2016.

After the enactment of this regulation, banks reported that they lost over E100 million in just one year. Though he did not mention this state of affairs exactly, this information reflects

one of the regulation challenges that the banking sector had not been happy with. "What is the point of regulating and legislating ourselves to poor growth and higher unemployment? There is a healthy medium somewhere and we can better collaborate and partner to find that balance. More often than not, the answer lies in the middle," he said.

'SADC single currency can increase opportunities for SMEs'

Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini says the country looks forward to the proposed roll out of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) single currency.

He said the roll out of the currency has potential to increase trade opportunities for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The final step in the process of deepening regional economic integration in SADC is the implementation of the single currency, which will establish the region as an economic union.

The Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan Implementation Framework targets 2018 for the attainment of this milestone.

"The currency can increase trade opportunities for our businesses and help them to generate money that is why we long for its roll out," said Dlamini.

Dlamini further applauded the role played by the Entrepreneur of the Year Awards (EYA) to strengthen SMEs.

"Since the awards started, there has been a huge difference in terms of the contribution of SMEs to development. This is important because we have been told that SMEs control economies worldwide," he said.

Swazi Mobile glass building contractor wins Judges Excellence Award

Swazi Mobile glass building contractor, 'The Gare' owned by Bhekithemba Zwane took home the Judges Excellence Award during the 15th edition of the Entrepreneur of the Year Awards (EYA).

The business manufactures aluminium glass windows. They also do buildings finishing's and manufacture shower doors.

Zwane said he was very excited

for the recognition by the EYA 2017 panel of judges.

He also took home cash worth E15 000.

"We would like to thank SEDCO and the judges for the award and we would like to request the nation to continue supporting the business and help us grow as a local company. We are looking forward to growing the business even more and hiring more Swazis to con-

tribute towards the country's growth," he said.

"Our plan for the next year is to penetrate the European market, not leaving out the Asian market and we are working on opening a shop in Botswana before the end of next year," he added.

Zwane said he had done work in South Africa and Sweden where the company was contracted by FB Bostard.

He said the business has created a footprint in the country with numerous projects and of note was the Swazi Mobile glass building.

"We are grateful to Swazi Mobile for having entrusted us with such a big project; it is one of the projects the business holds dear. We have also been involved in different government hospitals including Nhlanguano Government hospital, Matsanjeni and Mbabane



Bhekithemba Zwane who runs The Gare holding his certificate and trophy, won the Judges Excellence award. (Pics: by Simon Shabangu)



Nelisiwe Mabuza spoke on behalf of the judges on the night on how they came to pick an eventual winner in the different categories.



King's praise singer Msandi captured whilst singing praises to His Majesty. He was a marvel to listen to as he got the whole house in stitches.

OF THE YEAR 2017

whom he said have nurtured the business since its inception in 2006.

He said their dictum is "Think globally and act locally."

"This has guided us to come up with quality products and pricing that can enable us to compete globally," he said.

Going forward, he said they would be introducing a new product in the local market known as 'polar cola' and they are looking into tapping in the South African market next year through franchising.

Their long term objective is to become a global brand.

Kunene said they were very proud to contribute towards the attainment of the country's Vision 2022 through offering world class products and services.

According to the judges Chairperson African Alliance (AA) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Nelisiwe Mabuza, in order to win the competition under the different categories, the winners were expected to show convincing understanding of their business and com-

petitors and to also show exceptional leadership and customer satisfaction.

"We also sought to identify businesses that have good measures in place to survive long into the future and the impact that they are making in the society in terms of job creation and giving back to the society and what they do to inspire others," she said.

The company was congratulated by His Majesty King Mswati III together with all the winners under the different categories.

"It was very touching to see the reflection of the joy in the heart of the final winner and his appreciation of the money and the car that he has received. We hope that these will go a long way for the well being of the business," he said.

He also congratulated even those who didn't win and said they shouldn't despair.

"We are happy that at EYA everyone is a winner. Those who have not received awards have received guidance on how to improve their business. We hope that in future they will be

the ones receiving awards," he said.

The 15th edition of the awards received 125 entries from the four regions of the country, which was said to be around 45 per cent of the total headcount of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The King said this was commendable and he applauded the organisers of the awards and the judges for a job well done.

The national awards were preceded by regional awards which were held in all the regions of the country for the first time this year.

His Majesty said this was also commendable.

"We need to purposefully advance the decentralisation of development initiatives and service delivery to all communities in our country," he said.

He said this was critical in the pursuit of the country's aspiration to sit amongst the higher middle income countries by the year 2022.

"Let us celebrate together with the winners for their success," he said.



His Majesty King Mswati III advising EYA winner Thabiso Kunene whilst FNB CEO Dennis Mbingo bows, the winner was presented with an Isuzu bakkie as part of the winner's package.



His Majesty King Mswati III seated with Emakhosikati at the EYA dinner and award presentation ceremony.



Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Jabulani Mabuza posing for a photo with some of the winners.

King wants banks to establish loan facility for next winners

His Majesty King Mswati III has recommended that banks should come together and establish a loan facility for next year's winners of the Entrepreneur of the Year Awards (EYA).

He said this could be used for further development of the winning entrepreneurs so that they could go on to make 'millions' and if possible 'billions.'

"They can start with raising E20 million and this money can

then be offered as a loan to winners. They can also work together with the entrepreneurs, assist and monitor them to ensure that their growth comes into fruition," he said.

The King noted that it was important for businesses to have access to finance in order to continue growing.

He said he was happy to hear FNB Chief Executive Officer Dennis Mbingo disclose that banks have opened their hands

to assist growth and development. FNB was the title sponsor for the awards.

The King said they were grateful that over the years, the awards had been supported by the country's big corporate citizens drawn from various economic sectors like banking, education and manufacturing.

He said the work has been a success and there was need for continuous improvement of the awards packages.

government hospital. We have also done Kwezi and Dwalile clinics," he said.

He said they are further involved in corporate social investment projects through a foundation called 'Care for the World.'

Zwane said the foundation pays school fees for needy children and they give food parcels every quarter.

Whilst the business is growing, Zwane said there were a

number of challenges that they were grappling with.

"We are currently faced with a challenge of not being empowered by big contractors locally; this gives us a challenge because there is no circulation of money in the economy.

We are also looking into building a factory, but for now we have a challenge with land as the Motshane constituency does not currently have a Chief therefore land allocation

is currently a problem," he said.

Going forward, he said they were planning to introduce a new product in the market including aluminium and glass fittings on wardrobes and cupboards.

Zwane said to further grow the business, he will be attending different trade exhibitions in countries like Malaysia, Sweden and Dubai.



Swaziland Environment Authority



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL OVERVIEW OF THE ASGM SECTOR, INCLUDING BASELINE ESTIMATES OF MERCURY USE AND PRACTICES

The Swaziland Environment Authority (SEA) in collaboration with the Africa Institute and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) invites competent consultancies to submit Expression of Interest to develop a national overview of the ASGM sector, including baseline estimates of mercury use and practices.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

This project is aimed at assisting the country to develop a National Action Plan to reduce and eventually eliminate the use of mercury and mercury compounds in, and the emissions and releases to the environment of mercury from the ASGM sector in accordance to Annex C of the Minamata Convention.

Detailed Terms of Reference are obtainable from the Reception, Swaziland Environment Authority Offices, RHUS Office Park, Mbabane.

DURATION OF CONTRACT

The consultancy will run over a period of 6 months.

PROPOSAL

The Consultancy should provide a detailed technical and financial proposal in two separate envelopes. The technical proposal should include a detailed methodology on how the Consultant intends to carry out the exercise. The evaluation will be weighted as follows: 80% technical proposal and 20% financial proposal.

SUBMISSION

Proposals should be clearly marked 'NATIONAL OVERVIEW OF THE ASGM SECTOR, INCLUDING BASELINE ESTIMATES OF MERCURY USE AND PRACTICES - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST' and submitted at the Reception, Swaziland Environment Authority Offices, RHUS Office Park, Mbabane. The last day for submission will be Thursday, 9th November 2017.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Should you require any further information in this regard, contact Ms. Bianca H. Dlamini, Swaziland Environment Authority.

BY FORTUNE
NDLANGAMANDLA

ASPIRANT COUNCILLOR: I WAS ATTACKED BY EVIL SPIRITS

The aspirant councillor who collapsed during the counting of votes under Manzini Ward 4 local government elections says he was attacked by evil spirits.

Majahonke Matsenjwa was reported to have collapsed on Saturday night after seeing that he could not match his competitor as they were piling up more votes than him. Matsenjwa got the third position with 34 votes while the winner of the hot seat, Sboniso Nkabinde, amassed 136 votes, while Petros Ngozo came second with 54 votes.

However, the soft spoken Matsenjwa has come out to clarify his situation, saying he had not placed any high hopes on winning the election as he did not even mobilise people of his ward to rally behind him. He said even during the campaign period he pinned only two posters. Matsenjwa also claimed that he did not even have an agent (*galakajane*) to help with winning the election.

However, he revealed that while he was standing and the counting of votes was continuing, he felt like there was



Majahonke Matsenjwa, the aspirant councillor who collapsed during the counting of votes last Saturday night.
(Pic: Fortune Ndlangamandla)

something very strong squeezing him on his upper abdomen.

"I then felt dizzy, I asked those who were around me to land me a chair so I could sit down but before I knew it, I was on the floor," Matsenjwa said.

Matsenjwa said he collapsed because he was weak as the evil spirits was

squeezing his upper abdomen so hard that it was difficult to grasp air. He revealed that the same attack happened on Sunday midday at his home.

"I would not point out fingers or start saying I was bewitched because I don't believe in *muti* or evil spirits," he said. "I'm yet to see the doctors to check

what was wrong with me," he said.

Matsenjwa stated that it was the first time that he suffered from the sickness, adding that he was previously in a very healthy condition. Matsenjwa further argued that taking part in these elections was not a new experience for him, as he participated in the 2013 national elections. When he lost the parliamentary elections then, he notably never collapsed.

Matsenjwa is a businessman who makes a living by selling fruits and vegetables to vendors at the Manzini Market Centre, opposite Boxer Store.

"I don't believe in using *muti* to gain strength or powers that's why I did not go to consult with any traditional healer before the elections," Matsenjwa explained.

He then said he had accepted the outcome of the elections and had long put everything behind him and was moving on with his life.

"Since the news of the collapse, I've been receiving calls from friends and relatives inquiring what really hap-

pened. I told them the same thing that I was attacked by evil spirits," he elaborated.

However, Matsenjwa's only concern is the manner in which people are poking fun of the incident, which he revealed has affected his family.

"They make fun of me but I don't care because I know what happened. I was not happy with the way the issue was reported," Matsenjwa said.

He said this affected his children as people on the streets were making offensive jokes about him in their presence.

"The jokes hurt my son but I told him to learn to accept and let it go as he has no power to stop them from making up those insulting jokes," Matsenjwa said. Despite everything that has happened, Matsenjwa says he would still run for the position of a councillor in the future. He clarified though that he does not see himself running for any position in next year's national elections. Matsenjwa said that decision is inspired by personal reasons not that he was afraid of collapsing again.

MKHUZWENI PRIMARY SCHOOL SAGA:

SHE ROBBED US OF OUR FUTURE - PUPILS

STORIES BY ZWELETHU
DLAMINI

Everyday no matter the weather, they wake up for school with the hope of changing their fate and getting out of poverty, however, that dream has been put on halt by the one person who was supposed to be help hold their hand towards their dream, the head teacher.

At least five pupils from Mkhuzweni Primary were found wondering aimlessly at their homes after being expelled from school because their guardians could not afford uniform and E15 for a clean haircut.

On Thursday in a heated meeting held at the school, over 100 disgruntled parents told the Principal Zanele Dlamini that she had seven days to pack her things and leave the school as she had expelled several pupils from the school, simply because they were poor. The livid parents then vowed to block and topple her car if she failed to heed to the ultimatum by the end of next week.

Siphō Dlakubi*, a Grade Two pupil, said he was chased away from the school by the head teacher simply because he did not have socks and shoes. His aunt Linah Mamba (65) told this publication that the 11-year-old boy is one of the three orphaned children under her custody. She said she



One of the pupils who was expelled from school showing his shirt. One of the parents, Sibongile Mavimbela, stressing a point.



was surprised to see the child coming home in the early hours and could not believe that he had been turned back because he did not have shoes and a new shirt. She said the boy was wearing an old shirt that she had requested from another pupil who was in a senior grade since she could not afford to buy one.

Child's Right

"I tried sending the boy to school several times but each time they would send him back until I gave up and it was how he dropped out of school last term," explained the elderly woman.

Mamba stated that the boy did not have school shoes and wore crocks (*bobhova*) as that was all she could afford and believes that was the reason the child's right to

education had been denied and wondered if the clothes were the ones that needed education or the child.

Surviving

Siyabonga is not the only pupil who is no longer in school despite that government had paid for his tuition fee under free primary education programme as twins, who are now surviving on piece jobs, had been chased away from the school because they could not afford barber fee of E15 to have their hair cut. The two boys; Musa and Menzi Dlamini* now work in the homesteads as garden boys and helpers of bricklayers. One of the boys was in Grade Six while the other was expected to sit for this year Grade Seven examinations. On Wednesday they were working

REO and school committee meet over the issue

On Friday the school committee and the Manzini Regional Education Officer (REO) Mlimi Mamba deliberated on the issue with a view to find an amicable solution. Mamba said they talked at length about the issue with the school committee and the headteacher. He said the principal had denied that pupils had been expelled from the school.

He said they then decided that inspectors will go to Mkhuzweni

tomorrow to investigate the matter as the school committee had not brought the list of the pupils that had been reported to have been kicked out of the school.

The REO requested the parent to be patient while his office deals with the matter. He revealed that he once visited the school after being called by a concerned parent whose children had been expelled for failing to maintain a clean haircut.

as helpers for a brick layer while on Thursday they were landscaping in another homestead.

The twins from Timbutini, who are also orphaned live with their two sisters and one who is also unemployed, had hoped with an education they would improve themselves and their homestead. In an interview with this publication, Nonhlanhla Dlamini* their sister revealed that the pupils' educational dreams were now shattered. "They were told not to return to the school until they had cut their hair, unfortunately at the time we did not have money to take them to the barber shop, and when we had it and returned them to school they were told to go back," she said. Another

orphaned child was also expelled from the school is Bongiwe Dlamini*, who stays alone in a shack and could not afford the uniform. The Grade Seven pupil, who has also dropped out of school, was allegedly manhandled and hit with an open hand by the deputy head teacher. When asked about the allegation, the deputy head said she had no comment. Another, Grade Six pupil has been reported to have been chucked out of the school simply because he is sickly child and on ART. The child is reported to be absent on days of taking treatment and when not feeling well, which did not go down well with the principal, leading to his expulsion. *Not real names

SCU STAFF TO GET THEIR SALARIES THIS WEEK

BY FORTUNE
NDLANGAMANDLA

After two full months of not getting paid by their employer, Swaziland Christian Medical University (SCU) staff will this week get their two months owed salaries. This was revealed by SCU Executive Director Administration Siphō Vilakati on Friday during a telephonic interview with this publication.

Even though Vilakati did not dwell much on the matter, he said SCU management, with government, is doing the

best they can so the staff can get their salaries before the end of the week.

"We hope by the beginning of next week they would have started getting their salaries," Vilakati promised.

Vilakati refused to disclose whether the staff would get their salaries as lump sum or would be paid in installments. He said that issue was administrative.

"All I can say is that we will make sure that they're paid for the two months. The rest would be administrative," Vilakati clarified.

Equally, Vilakati was not forthcoming on details of whether the staff salaries would be compensated or not to cover

up expenses like loan penalties.

On the other hand, Vilakati also praised His Majesty King Mswati III for ordering that the institution be re-opened with immediate effect.

Happy

"We are all happy to go back to work, the students are happy, we're happy too. *Tsine sikhuta twandle nje kuphela. Bayethe wena Waphakathi*," Vilakati said.

He pointed out that students started registering last Wednesday but also stated that for now it would be premature to elaborate and get deep into details about the matter.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of SCU Staff

Association Phila Dlamini, said the staff would be grateful to get their salaries. Dlamini continued to say that if everything was to go according to their wishes, the salaries would have started flowing in by last Friday.

He then mentioned that it would be great if their salaries were to come with some bonuses or extra cash just to cover up loan penalties that some of the staff have suffered as a result of not getting paid for the past two months.

He said even those who were not in loan messes, the extra cash would serve as sympathy for all the previous terrible months.

"We would accept such offers should they decide to give us the sympathy in extra cash," he said. We also hope that the two months salary would not be deposited at once as to reduce tax rates. Dlamini said it would be best to get their salaries in different occasions so to reduce the sum of money that would be taxed by the Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA).

The Student Representative Council (SRC) President Wandile Mkhathshwa said they are very happy that finally the institution has been re-opened. He said they hoped students would be getting their personal allowances as soon as possible.

MINISTRY DENIES SABOTAGING MATRIC SYLLABUS

STORIES BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

Following the submissions made by principals of schools offering Matric syllabus suggesting that the ministry is deliberately sabotaging the syllabus, Director of Education Dr Sibongile Mtshali-Dlamini has denied this.

The principals were making their submission before the parliamentary select committee on Thursday at U-Tech.

Mtshali, who is also the acting Principal Secretary, said instead the

ministry has been trying to rescue the schools that first decided on their own with the South African government. She pointed out that the termination of the offering of the NSC has not been affected in Swaziland alone but all other countries outside the borders of South Africa, including Namibia, and Mozambique.

Responding on the delay in signing of the bilateral agreements, the acting PS stated that it would have been risky as such would come with a huge cost in the event of malpractice in the country. "Signing the agreements would have been accepting responsibility to pay for expenses

of the whole exam in the event malpractice was to be committed in the country. Each time there is an exam there should be two papers, one which serves in the case there have been reports of malpractice because the first has to be recalled. In the 11 provinces of South Africa, how many pupils sit for this national exam, can the country afford to cater for those cost?" she asked.

She also stated that the legal experts of that country had noted that the policy and the regulations of South Africa did not allow the National Senior Certificate examinations to be conducted beyond their border,



Pupils waiting eagerly for their exam paper.

except in special cases.

The acting principal secretary denied allegations that two officials went to discourage DBE from offering senior certificate in the country as she said she was also fingered as one of those officials but no one would prove those allegations. She was quick to add that

the truth in the matter would soon come out as Parliament is investigating the matter and will give a detailed report. The PS revealed that the ministry is yet to meet with the Independent Examinations Board (IEB) to discuss the way forward and possible solutions on the matter.

U-Tech principal spills the beans on ministry's sabotage of NSC exam

A letter dated 9 May 2017, from South African minister of basic education alerting the minister of education and training in the country of the phasing out of the offering of the National Senior Certificate exam (Matric) in Swaziland has prompted U-Tech Principal Mavela Shongwe, to spill the beans on the ministry of education's effort to sabotage Matric in the country.

As per the letter, this decision comes after the ministry of basic education in South Africa has noted that policies from that country do not permit the exams to be conducted outside their borders.

This letter comes after several other letters between the two ministers. One of these letters by Minister Angie Motshekga in September last year outlined some of the reasons that led the Department of Basic Education (DBE) in that country to terminate the offering of the NSC in the country.

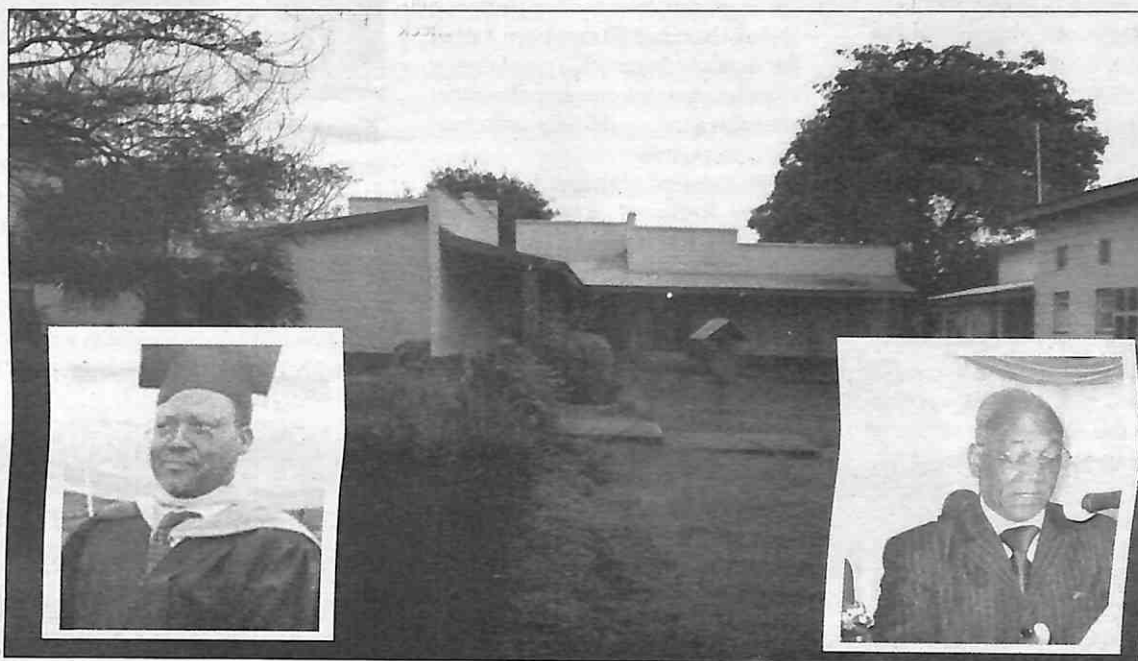
As per the letter dated 19 September 2016, apart from the regulations and the policy which does not accommodate offering of NSC outside the borders of the Republic of South Africa there are other reasons that led to the decision.

These include that the Examinations Council of Swaziland criticised offering of NSC while the ministry did not sign bilateral agreements.

"This decision is the result of a lengthy review process by the Department (of Basic Education) regarding this issue. It also needs to be noted that the Department of Basic Education (DBE) was criticised by the Examinations Council of Swaziland for offering the NSC examinations in Swaziland," reads part of the letter.

The lengthy review process referred to in the letter dates back to 2012 when the then minister of education Wilson Ntshangase had requested establishment of a formal bilateral agreement between the two countries for Swazi pupils to enrol for the NSC. To date, that agreement which was prepared in 2012 had not been signed.

The million-dollar question is what



UTech College (INSET) Mavela Shongwe and Minister of Education Phineas Magagula.

hindered or delayed the ministry from signing the bilateral agreement. On one hand, there is the view that the ministry was advised by two senior government officials not to sign while on the other hand, there is the claim that a legal team from South Africa advised their minister that the policy in that country did not permit the exam to be conducted outside its borders.

According to the first theory, this was because of the feared cost that the Swaziland government would be committing to in the event there was malpractice committed locally as the country would be expected to cater for the cost of recalling the exam papers in both countries.

The argument on the second theory is that Swaziland has been willing to sign but the South African government would resist as per the advice of their legal team, the criticism from the Exams Council and the influence from the two senior government officials who were against this move.

In a letter dated 9 July 2012, by the Minister of Basic Education in South Africa Angie Motshekga to Ntshangase stated that the South African government welcomed the signing of the bilateral agreement but pointed

out that it would be a lengthy one.

"In light of the fact that the development of a bilateral agreement for the South African side is a lengthy process, it is with regret to inform Your Excellency that the exercise cannot be completed in time to allow for Swazi students to write the 2012 National Senior Certificate Examinations," reads part of the letter.

Assessment

The minister added that it was in that regard that the Chief Directorate for National Assessment and Public Examination was to meet the officials from Ntshangase's department to clarify matters pertaining to the request and for the drafting of the bilateral agreement which was to commence as a matter of urgency.

"I trust that once the process is completed, it will be opportune moment for the minister of basic education in South Africa and the minister of education and training in Swaziland to meet for the signing of the envisaged bilateral agreement," said the minister in the letter.

By December that year, the ministry of education and training had already completed preparing the bilateral agreements and was ready to sign; such is reflected in the letter

dated 24 December by Ntshangase directed to Motshekga.

"Honourable minister I'm happy to advise that the Swaziland government has prepared the bilateral document which has gone through relevant structures. The bilateral agreement now has the blessing of the relevant structures. To this end, I humbly request your office honourable minister to facilitate the signing of the bilateral document at your earliest convenience," reads the last paragraph of the letter.

For this reason, Shongwe, whose school also offers NSC and is affected by the phasing out of the offering of the National Senior Certificate Exam (Matric) in Swaziland, blames the ministry of education and training for this situation. He argues that had the country signed the bilateral agreements in 2015, the policies cited would have been superseded and the country would not have to stop the offering of the Matric syllabus locally. The principal argued that the minister of education in South Africa had, since 2012 been encouraging his counterpart from Swaziland to sign the bilateral agreements so the country could be allowed to enrol pupils in the South African National Senior Certificate Exam (Matriculation)

permanently without any hassle.

"The then Minister of Education Wilson Ntshangase initiated the process but the incumbent, being Dr. Phineas Magagula, failed to sign and finalise it. All that the minister had to do after a meeting held with the SA minister in 2014; was to encourage the legal team to finalise the draft of the bilateral agreement but he failed," he said.

Shongwe said the minister's statement that he was not the one hindering Matric in the country was far from the truth as he was the one who should have motivated the legal team to work on the bilateral agreements.

He said signing of the agreements would have seen the country having a permanent right to offer and examine pupils in the country two years ago. He also alleged that the minister was influenced by two senior government officials within the ministry of education to delay or sabotage the process started by Ntshangase.

The principal said what made matters worse, was that the very same officials and the minister were sponsored by U-Tech on the trip to SA in 2014.

He said the school (U-Tech) spent E40 000 on the delegation from the ministry as they catered for transport, meals and accommodation and an allowance of \$150 each which he believed they also claimed on government.

He further lamented on the Examinations Council of Swaziland for having criticised Matric which may have also contributed in the minister's delay and failure to finalise the process. He said they were now banking their hopes for a solution on the parliamentary task team that is dealing with the matter.

Examinations Council Registrar Dr Edmund Mazibuko, when called last week Saturday, denied the allegations, saying he did not like to comment further on the matter. "I don't like to comment on Matric because I may be misquoted, let Mavela (Shongwe) say whatever he wants. We never had a hand in this matter, so I don't want to comment on it," he said.

'SD needs innovative agricultural methods,' says pupil

Collaboration between the youth and experienced farmers can give birth to innovative methods of ensuring sustainable agricultural production, says Sibongiseni Nkosinathi Dlamini.

"There is need for the creation of a platform where experienced farmers can teach the youth about the latest agricultural produce which will enable them to have high yields," said Sibongiseni from Entandweni High School situated in Sikhuphe area.

The young man was presenting an essay during the 'Innovation and Technology in the Financial Sector' workshop hosted by First National Bank at the Swaziland Economic Conference 2017 held at the Royal Swazi Spa Convention Centre last week.

Sibongiseni was one of the finalists in an essay writing competition that was run by the Swaziland Economic Policy Analysis and Research Centre (SEPARC) in partnership with FNB Swaziland, where students were required to submit entries under two categories; rural development or financial inclusion under the theme 'Rural Economic Development in Swaziland: Opportunities for the Future'.

He said such efforts should be paired with investments from government channelled towards the youth. Sibongiseni however cautioned that the requirements for youth to invest as a group are challenging, seeing as it is at times difficult to find a person who matches their passion.

He said it was in this regard that he suggests that every individual who is at the very least eligible, should get a loan enabling them to live their dreams.

"This is because they (the youth) have proven that they are hard workers as evidenced through the energy they have been using in growing dagga," he said.

Sibongiseni further highlighted the need for subsidised farming inputs, "one of the deterrents to entry into the agricultural sector for the youth is the pricey inputs. When you go to veterinary supplies or trading stores to buy medication for livestock, you find that

the costs are usually higher than the income that one expects".

He decried the level of ignorance in the sourcing of funds for agricultural ventures. "Most of the youth are willing to start agricultural enterprises and have the potential to start new ones.

However, you find that they don't know how to go about sourcing funding."

Posing a question to his peers, Sibongiseni demonstrated how none of them are aware of how to go about sourcing funding.

"The process of acquiring funds is cumbersome, it is tiring. A youthful person would prefer to engage in an enterprise that takes a very short time to bring him profits because that is all he is interested in," he said, adding how growing dagga becomes more attractive to the youth who seek fast gratification.

Expressing disappointment about the low prices farmers are expected to sell their produce for, he said the youth would be shocked by revelations such as the price at which Swaziland Dairy Board buys milk from farmers; "The dairy board is buying a litre of milk for E6; yes in 2017."

He said such is discouraging to farmers who are willing to engage in this type of farming and then finding that they are unable to make profits. "Even with NAMBoard, you find that the prices at which the entity buys vegetables from farmers is very low," he said.

Hardships

Sibongiseni said such hardships lead to those who acquire loans for their agricultural enterprises being unable to service them. After being confounded by low prices at the markets and failure to service loans, he said farmers are further affected by the unpredictable weather phenomenon, which reduces their chances of realising proper harvests.

"Look at how the weather was yesterday (Wednesday)," he said, further noting how extremities in weather conditions worsened the economic prospects of farmers. Some of the solutions he recommended include studies into genetically modified foods

THREE RESEARCHERS WALK AWAY WITH E22 500 AT SEC 2017

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

The inaugural Swaziland Economic Conference (SEC) that brought together academics, captains of industry, policy-makers and development practitioners last week ended on a high note, with three researchers receiving accolades for their academic papers.

The conference was hosted by the Swaziland Economic Policy Analysis and Research Centre (SEPARC), the Central Bank of Swaziland (CBS) and the University of Swaziland (UNISWA), with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The partners of the event highlighted the importance of such a platform, saying there has always been a need for such a gathering that would bring together ideas, inform, as well as share research that would help influence national policies.

CBS General Manager Economic Policy Research and Statistics Sikhumbuzo Dlamini, chairman of the SEC organising committee, said the conference would be hosted bi-annually, with the next one in 2019. He thanked all the organisations that

...The conference was hosted by the Swaziland Economic Policy Analysis and Research Centre (SEPARC), the Central Bank of Swaziland (CBS) and the University of Swaziland (UNISWA), with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



SEPARC Executive Director Dr Thula Sizwe Dlamini introducing the title sponsor of the inaugural Swaziland Economic Conference Essay Competition, First National Bank, which was represented by Head of Marketing Zethu Dlamini.

partnered in hosting the conference which brought together experts who came with a wealth of knowledge to

be shared.

SEPARC Board Chairman Dumisani Masilela emphasised on the role that

SEPARC/FNB essay competition winners awarded

First National Bank Head of Marketing Zethu Dlamini also took the opportunity to present the top six winners of the Swaziland Economic Policy Analysis and Research Centre/FNB Swaziland (SEPARC/FNB) schools essay competition that was run by the institutions in August/September.

The competition was launched by SEPARC and FNB to tap into young minds by encouraging them to participate in the national economic dialogue, so as to solicit their views in informing national policy, particularly with a look into the future.

The theme of the competition was; 'Rural Economic Development in Swaziland: Opportunities for the Future', which is particularly important as the country will be celebrating 50 years of independence next year.

...The theme of the competition was; 'Rural Economic Development in Swaziland: Opportunities for the Future', which is particularly important as the country will be celebrating 50 years of independence next year.

SEPARC Executive Director Dr Thula Sizwe Dlamini said it was critical that the nation takes stock of how far Swaziland has come, and look towards the future for new and innovative ideas on how to grow the economy and propel the country forward, especially in this fast changing global space that is continually churning out new technologies for development.

All six finalists were awarded a FNB Future Bank Account with E1 000 cash and hampers from FNB and SEPARC.

In addition, the overall winners; Bonkhe Simelane (Mbekelweni High School) and Nozipho Makhunga (St Anne's High School) also received HP laptops for their winning essays under the 'Rural Development' and 'Financial Inclusion' categories respectively.

The rest of the finalists were Chido Goweri (Mhlatane High School), Mayenzeke Gama (Ka-Zakhali Private School), Sibongiseni Nkosinathi Dlamini (Entandweni High School) and Tsepo Tsabedze (KaBoyce High School).

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SEPARC Board Chairperson Dumisani Masilela awarding associate researcher Tanele Magongo whose paper, Quantifying the Economic Costs of Electrical Power Outage in Swaziland was second placed.

was played by participants, especially those who took time out of their busy schedules to prepare the informative papers that were presented, as well as bringing new insight and recommendations.

Individual researchers who presented the best papers walked away with over E22 000 in cash. The first prize winner was Tengetile Hlophe, an associate researcher at SEPARC, who won E10 000 for her paper 'Mapping the Innovation System in Swaziland', while in second place was Tanele Magongo, also an associate researcher at SEPARC, who received E7 500 for her paper 'Quantifying the Economic Costs of Electrical Power Outages in Swaziland'.

In third place was Bongani Dlamini from the Central Bank, who won E5 000 for his paper 'Assessment of Fiscal Multipliers in the Recession and Expansions in Swaziland'.

Other researchers who presented papers at the conference include Central Bank Governor Majozi Sithole whose paper was however not among those that were assessed for the award as per the

rules and guidelines of the conference.

Meanwhile, Masilela also thanked the prime minister for delegating Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini to officially open the event along with Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini, as well as the entire Cabinet for their contributions.

"Such a platform has always been our dream as UNPD and we are very grateful to have partnered with the organisers of the conference. It is about time that we come together to discuss our own solutions going forward as well as to share and facilitate ideas,"

UNDP Programme Specialist Sithembiso Gina said the main objective of the conference, which was gathering data that would inform and facilitate ideas that were going to be translated into solutions that would lead to economic growth and development, was achieved.

"Such a platform has always been our dream as UNPD and we are very grateful to have partnered with the organisers of the conference.

It is about time that we come together to discuss our own solutions going forward as well as to share and facilitate ideas," she said. Entertainers Swazi Women in Theatre also thrilled the crowd with their well written script about the objectives of the conference and how it was perceived by the everyday Swazi citizen.



The essay competition winners, Mayenzeke Gama (KaZakhali), Tsepo Tsabedze (KaBoyce), Chido Gowere (Mhlatane), Nozipho Makhunga (St Anne's), Bonkhe Simelane (Mbekelweni) and Nkosinathi Dlamini (Entandweni).

Young people drivers of innovation in financial sector

The banking sector is moving away from hiring traditional banking qualifications as it looks at harnessing the different innovations and skills that young people have.

This has resulted in the sector hiring those deemed more brilliant than the traditional workforce that previously worked there.

"If you asked me ten years ago what qualifications one needed to work in a bank, I would probably have said a Bachelor of Commerce Degree in Accounting, Marketing, Economics or Management," said First National Bank Chief Executive Officer Dennis Mbingo, who was presenting on 'Innovation and Technology in the Financial Sector' during the second day of the Swaziland Economic Conference 2017.

He said this was the traditional mix of executives and managers running a bank. Mbingo said this has all changed due to the strategic realisation that there is a traditional and digital bank which speaks to the innovation policy conversation.

Hence, he said it was in this regard that the bank has spread its horizons and hired within the ranks of engineering specialities such as chemical, industrial as well as actuarial science graduates.

Majors

He said the bank was now prone to hiring young people with majors in applied mathematics who have never studied debit and credit.

"In the talent and mix, we have seen the need to hire people smarter than ourselves because of the strategic conversation," he said, further stating how this came about due to identifying their own limits in thinking.

"When you talk to people who have been in the same profession for 20 to 25 years if there is a problem and you ask them for solutions, what do they default to? They default to solutions they came up with over 25 years ago," he said.

He recalled how he was told on several occasions that the way of doing things was not that which he came up with when he joined FNB, "I was told that the success of the bank rode on the fact that things were done in a set manner."

Mbingo said it was for this reason that they hire young people as it enables them to be flexible; "all we want them



Overall winner in the research category, SEPARC associate researcher Tengetile Hlophe getting her replica cheque from Central Bank Governor Majozi Sithole.

to do is use their mathematical appreciation and creative thinking to build models".

He highlighted how one of these models has seen their personal loan book, which is driven by paper applications which has to go through 10 people before approval, can be reached. Instead, the bank now has a decision making process which is 90 per cent automated where algorithms decide whether a person qualifies for a loan or not and this has seen their losses decrease considerably.

"There is a reason for that. When a person comes around, despite not qualifying for a loan, compassion kicks in and you find a way of assisting. On the contrary, the algorithms within our systems don't have a heart," Mbingo said.

He said they had noted an increase of successful loans reaching 800 per cent over a very short space of time. Responding to a question on what informs their innovation, he said it was the genuine respect for one thing; "money is not paper money, but a simple equation. It is a promise to transfer value to someone and the expectation to receive value from someone else."

Mbingo said the moment that people understood that money is not the piece of paper they hold, it opens the

door to a lot of possibilities. He alluded to the fact that the financial sector in Swaziland is brilliant. He was however quick to state that the sector is not good enough.

He said this as he recalled the history of his bank and its conquests in making a mark within the banking sector. Mbingo highlighted that even though he cannot deem it perfect, Swaziland is light years ahead of most African countries.

Acknowledging that criticism comes with the turf, he said FNB started out by modernising its operations and on noting that this was not enough, they resorted to augmenting the traditional banking model with technology and this was manifested by the introduction of automated teller machines as well as point of sale devices.

"This was supposed to support what we had as a business. However, as years went by we noted how what we built was suppose to augment, supposed to support, and had actually taken over. It was now the bank," he said.

He said the initial perception was that they were running two separate banks, the traditional one and that which they were yet to identify. "We took quite some time defining it and at this point, we are actually running two businesses under one umbrella. One is the traditional bank, and the other is the dig-



First place winner Mbekelweni High School's Bonkhe Simelane receiving his laptop from SEPARC ED Dr Thula Sizwe Dlamini and FNB Head of Marketing Zethu Dlamini. He was tied with St Anne's Nozipho Makhunga.



WRITER'S NOTE...

Good day dear readers and a very warm welcome once again to your favourite youth section that ASPIRES to INSPIRE young people to be the best version of whatever they ASPIRE to be.

On today's issue, we have a sit-down with Mmeli Hlanze, a young man who is a chemical engineering graduate, and also owns a record label. He talks to us about his childhood and how music got into the mix.

He shares his wisdom on balancing passion and education and further gives advice to young people on focusing and time-management. Read Mmeli's story on page 18.

On the next page, we have the return of our opinion feature, the Sunday podium by yours truly and today I tackle the issue of the defiance of a directive order from His Majesty King Mswati III to re-open the Swaziland Christian University with immediate effect. We also have our poem on that very page.

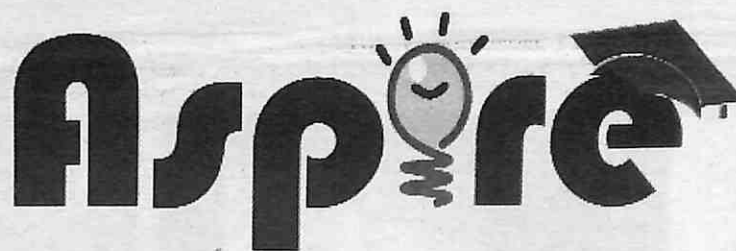
On the next page, we have ASPIRE education and Lindelwe continues with her series where she gives advice and discusses issues that affect one's tertiary life. We also have the last part of our first series of the Youth Stories. We finish the 'how to hide a child' series'.

Have a very good read.

Till next week

Cheers

Sbusiso Dlamini



A Youth Section On Youth Issues By The Youth

November 5, 2017

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

Mmeli describes his childhood as a very exciting one, he spent most of it in Mbabane.

He attended primary school at John and Velera and then moved on to Setsembiso Sebunye for his high school.

He says he dreamt of being a soccer star at that age.

"I had a very exciting childhood which I spent mostly with my siblings and cousins. I grew up in Mbabane and soccer was my first love. At some point my dream to become a superstar soccer player (laughs).

I attended primary at John and Valera Allen Primary and high school at Setsembiso Sebunye - both better known as Baha'i primary and high school, respectively."

He says that attending high school at Baha'i was a great experience as he was exposed to many different characters and he got to make a lot of friends.

"The highlight of my high school days are the friends I made and the experience of being exposed to and interacting with children from different ethnic backgrounds. The school had some of the best facilities and the teachers were remarkable as well, hence the person that I am today."

Mmeli says he was always exposed to a lot of music whilst growing up, hence he developed the love for it from a tender age.

"Well, with my love for music, I cannot recall the exact moment and how it happened. Of course my first reference point would be my family and the music I was exposed to growing up.

Growing up I used to compile music for friends, I suppose you could say I always had an ear for good music."

Mmeli is a chemical engineer graduate and says that he strongly believes in formal education, regardless of one's career path.

He states that time management is how he has managed to keep a balance between his passion and his studies.

"Music never affected my studies and it's all thanks to how I managed my time. If anything, I learnt

how to prioritise my time. Time management is an essential skill to have regardless of your career path. I wouldn't call music my career path. I do believe though that if you're going to devote your career to music then it is befitting that you get some sort of formal education. Talent is one thing but managing talent is another. Harnessing the full potential of your talent is easier when you acquire some sort of formal education."

Supportive

Unlike most parents, Mmeli says his parents and family as a whole have always been supportive.

"Music was never really a decision for me, but it is the definition of me. There was never a time where

MAKE HAY WHILE THE SUN SHINES - MMELI



I had to choose between music and my studies, for example. Music is a passion that I have, one of many. For the most part, I have always received support from my family in everything I do, including music."

INSPIRATION - I have no fixed point of inspiration. Everyone and everything could possibly inspire me. In essence, I am inspired by life. You can draw inspiration from anything in life.

Waking up in the morning is inspirational itself as it presents an infinite amount of opportunities. That is why life is a blessing.

ASPIRATIONS - Aspirations, too many. Musically, contributing in taking Swazi music to the highest of standards. Not just the quality of the music but also the management and business facet of the industry.

Being part of a Grammy Award winning Swazi produced project is one of those aspirations.

ADVICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE

My advice to young people is, firstly, make hay while the sun shines. Being young affords you the opportunity to take chances, make mistakes and learn.

If you're passionate about something then go for it while you still can. But never put all your eggs in one basket, make informed decisions.

Keep focus. That's one of the

things I aspire to work on every day.

Getting distracted is easier than keeping focused and that's why it is such a challenge. Keeping a tunnel-eyed vision is one way to go about. I constantly project my thoughts and actions towards the things I want to achieve. Keeping likeminded individuals around you is very essential in keeping your focus.

On drugs - Well as for substance abuse, it is one of the challenges holding back so many youth in progressing. Knowing what you want in and from life along with keeping the right company is key.

On girlfriends/boyfriends - As for relationships, I'm still a student as well but all I know is if you keep your priorities straight then all will tend to fall in place.



SUNDAY PODIUM

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

This past week, His Majesty King Mswati III issued out a directive to re-open the Swaziland Christian University (SCU) with immediate effect.

The directive, delivered to Parliament by Speaker Themba Msibi, comes after months of confusion and frustration. The institution's students even reached a point where they allegedly burnt sections of Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) Minister Dumsani Ndlangamandla's house.

Many people had been tasked with sorting out this mess before the intervention, and that just proved the complacency and inefficiency that costs the nation development or any type of progression, and unfortunately our law makers are at the forefront.

Instead of admitting that the whole farce was politically-motivated, the ministerial sub-committee tasked with assessing the situation and solving it also played games with us, as they tried to cover it up, taking the public for a ride.

The statement Cabinet issued came with funny findings that tried to justify the hog-wash. The Cabinet and the Swaziland Higher Educational Council (SHEC) are both guilty of the disruption of classes and guiding the university into disarray, including the very first graduation.

Not to try and justify violence, but the findings were in fact incensing, and for one to understand, they should put themselves into the student's shoes.

It's public knowledge that the university has one of the best learning facilities and personnel, many who out of frustration have quit for greener pastures because of all this confusion. Instead of addressing the real problem and tackling the calamity head-on, the statement just caused further confusion.

Personally, besides the fact that I do not, and probably will never understand the SHEC's teething-troubles, especially with all these fly-by-night tertiary institutions with funny sounding names in full practise. Was it so drastic that the only way out was to close down the university? My reason would say deal with whatever whilst progress is continuing – because these are people's lives at stake! Young people! For goodness sake, the future of this beautiful Kingdom nation are these people that we are being channelled towards the path of crime.

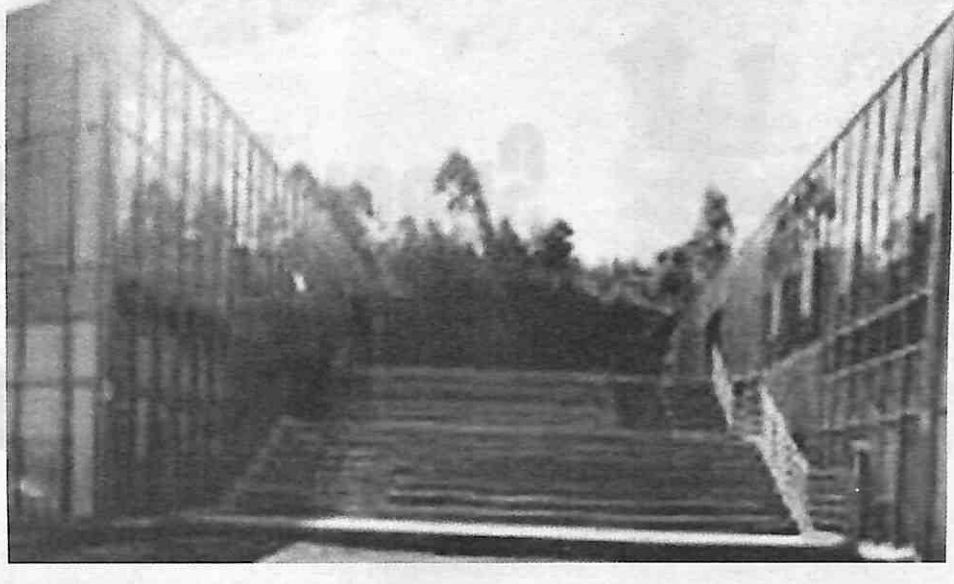
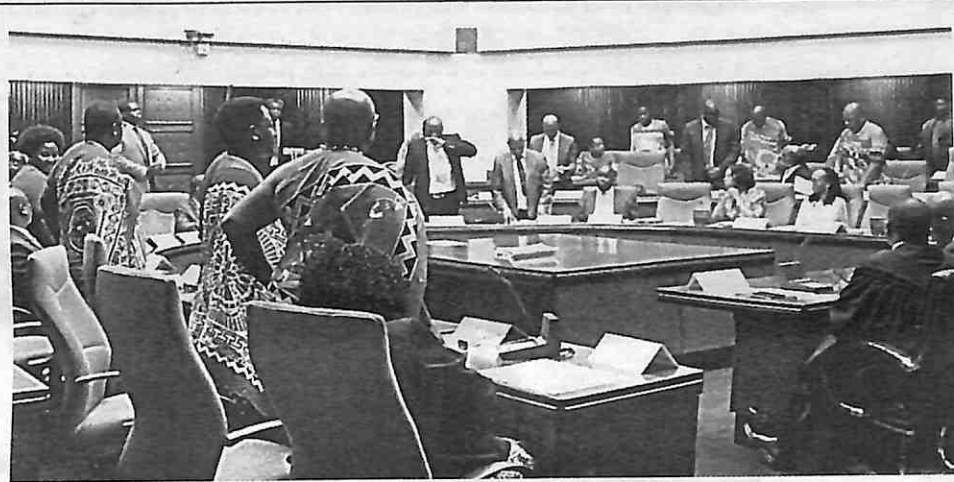
And oh my, didn't it also open an opportunity for our opportunistic MP's to do what they do best – playing to the public gallery, with their cheap political point scoring stunts.

They suddenly act like thy car, when the Parliament Select Committee tasked to report on the matter had also failed. Mbabane West MP Johane Shongwe even had the guts to say that he would go and book himself at the luxurious Lugogo Sun, because nothing had stressed him out like the SCU issue Really? (Sigh) And ICT Minister Ndlangamandla should take a chill pill. Come to think of it, does Ndlangamandla expect us to be concerned with his house more than these students' future. I choose to hold my horses, lest I get misinterpreted for inciting violence.

I had decided I wouldn't say a thing about this, but I just can't stand what he did. Interrupting Timphisini MP Apton Ndlovu's submission and trying to swerve the House's attention to his house situation was offside.

"I heard the MP saying that the students have been able to handle themselves during this period, were they able to handle themselves when they burnt my house?" Unlike the House, some of us don't even have sympathy to give.

Trust me, we've seen more.



CABINET WORKING AGAINST DEVELOPMENT

Personally, besides the fact that I do not, and probably will never understand the SHEC's teething-troubles, especially with all these fly-by-night tertiary institutions with funny sounding names in full practise. Was it so drastic that the only way out was to close down the university? My reason would say deal with whatever whilst progress is continuing – because these are people's lives at stake! Young people! For goodness sake, the future of this beautiful Kingdom nation are these people that are being channelled towards the path of crime.

Anyways, that's not the main gist for today's piece. **Cabinet**

The main point that I'm trying to make is that the Cabinet and our said 'representatives' are all working against the King's vision with their questionable decision making and inefficiency. It is really a cause for concern that Cabinet dragged its feet with such an important issue, especially when one considers Vision 2022.

Education is vital if we are to attain this vision, but hundreds of Swazis have had their futures on the brink of collapsing, and gawd knows how everything would have eventually panned out were it not for His Majesty's intervention with the directive, although it's a different

story that it has been defied.

And the explanation behind the defiance of the King's directive hasn't been given at all. I don't think it's even needed for Minister of Education Phinas Magagula to read out his statement, because well the issue is done. He just needs to dedicate himself to making sure that the directive is efficiently effective as from yesterday!

I know he hmas never been a good with deadlines. Initially he was supposed to table the progress report October 10 and 30, but till today (November 5) he is still yet to. Urgency is foreign to him, but it's not something now because all the ministers that tried to justify why he hadn't read statements are also just like him. What have

the ministers of the ministries of public service, health and information and technology done for our country in the past the years? Nothing!

Disappointment

Tell me if there's anything but disappointment that will hit-you forever when you hear the names Owen Nxumalo, Sibongile Simelane, Dumsani Ndlangamandla and all their colleagues come to mind! They've been nothing else but a disappointment, and are continue to hinder progress.

I may be quite lay with my culture and tradition, but as far as I'm concerned, *Inkhosi ayiphikiswa futsiyabut-wakanengi. Kuvelekweniwe lakushito ngemphutfumo.*

POETRY

Longing for the Stars

My mind is always a million miles away

I long for a better time...I long for a better day
There's nothing in this life that turns me on
If it weren't for Mondo, I'd pass and be gone
I have no desire to be here at this time
I feel that God putting me here is a crime
I feel like a chess piece on his old worn out board
Why would he do this to me?...my father...my

Lord
What does he get out of seeing me suffer?
Instead of life getting better, it just keeps getting tougher

Life really stinks, I hate being here
There's only one thing here that I hold dear
Amondo Michael Cole you are the one
You are my moon, you are my sun
You are the light that makes my darkness disappear

I just wish that you were near
It is so hard to be away from you
I'm always sad...I'm always blue
The days just keep rolling on
I often wonder when I'll be gone
I will leave this place and travel back to Saturn
I will be out in the stars as I watch this place

burn
All of the low life people will melt away
Leaving you and I to make our way
Back out into the stars where we belong
Putting us here was totally wrong
We never belonged here...we're too good for this place

If God were here...I'd tell him to his face
I'd tell him I am angry, but I'm glad I was led to you

Only a loving god would do that for me and that's true

So when the hard times get to be too much
I clear my head and think of your touch
God knew he could not get through to me so he sent you

You are real, you are honest, you are good, you are true

You swept me off of my feet with your first letter

Things just keep getting better and better
I know you love me more each day
I can feel you and I have to say
Thank you so much for coming into my life
I cannot wait to be your wife
You have made my life complete
No other can could ever compete
There's only you and I forever
We'll travel the stars...we'll leave here together

er
Never to return...for the stars are our home
Forever with you...never will I roam
You are the brightest star that shines in my world
We are twilight in the netherworld
We are beautiful as long as we're together
For us to shine we need forever
We can never let the other burn out
There can be no questions and no doubts
You have to know I love you as much as I do
You have to know my love is true

I also need the same from you
I need the love you had when we flew
Away to Saturn the first time around
You picked me up off the ground
You wrapped me in your big black wings
You took me on to better things
Then we got separated and came here
I was gripped with sadness...I was gripped with fear

I had no light left inside of me
You shined your light and made me free
Then the demons came rushing in
Everything I said and did was full of sin
I was like a demon overnight
You knew something was wrong...things just weren't right

You came to me in a dream
Your light was on me like a strong beam
It soaked through me and set me ablaze
I have never been so filled with light...never been so amazed

Your love has got me in a daze
My soul you lifted...my soul you raised
You brought me out of the darkness where I was residing

I was tired of dying...I was tired of hiding
Then I woke up to the madness I created
I would have been fine had I waited
To talk to you again to make me see
This darkness I am in is no way to be
You need to force me into the light with you
I want to be done with these demons...I want to be through

I don't know what else to do
I need you to pull me through with your love that's true

They say true love conquers all
Don't let me slip...don't let me fall
The abyss is constantly calling my name
I am living with regrets...I am living in shame
Then you came along and, my soul, you tried to claim

You perfected your shot and your arrow you aimed.

Aspire A Youth Section
On Youth Issues
By The Youth



ASPIRE EDUCATION

HOW TO HIDE A CHILD PART 2

I'm afraid to hear what her price was. The doctors had started testing the girl when she was about three, when she began to show small signs like pulling her favorite toys to her from across a room, whispering things to us when we weren't there.

Her mother would watch her with evaluative eyes, but I never imagined that the things she was thinking of extended to this. "You, of all people, know what they do to children like her! How much did you sell her for?"

"What if I tell you, nothing?" she whispered without missing a beat, lowering her voice into a slippery thing that crawled into my ear. "What if I tell you I did it because I was curious? Because as much as they do, maybe more..." She paused and dropped the next few words slowly, one after the other, so I could feel their weight. "I just want to see what happens."

The phone line sizzled through the silence that trailed after, as my fear and rage swelled hot in my throat and muted me. She laughed again and disconnected the line, and I threw the phone against the wall as hard as I could. It didn't make me feel any better to hear it shatter and it didn't matter. She wasn't going to call again and the sound wasn't going to wake up the girl, who was exhausted and slept like a corpse anyway.

I wanted to cry. I wanted to scream and rage and smash up every piece of shitty furniture in that hole of an apartment. I wanted to sing to our daughter and ask her to forgive me, to explain that her mother was a strange and beautiful creature who enveloped us into her world and that I hadn't considered how we'd escape because I never thought we would want to.

Cursed

I wished I could hate her for that, even a fraction as much as several other people did, those that wrote her letters that had to be screened before she opened them since all kinds of assassinations can be stored in paper. They followed her and cursed her acidly, calling down their gods until they were hoarse and hysterical, impotent against her guards. I never asked her much about her work but I knew it was controversial- using human subjects always is, even though they legalised it several years ago. I had never thought it would matter.

Our daughter was small and serious, sometimes unnervingly so for someone so little. I used to spend hours watching her, waiting for her eyes to meet mine and wondering if

she would look at me in that undisturbed way that her mother had.

World

But every time she saw my face, there was a world of violent motion in her eyes, movements that said love and trust and joy and a thousand other emotions I think adults have lost, and they all cracked me open like overripe fruit. I was rotten and soft in her hands, useless and pulped.

I could not give her to her mother.

It was not a possible thing, despite how trapped as we were. Even if my wife reined in her people, those hungry white-coated machines, even if she swore to me that they would-

n't hurt the child, I couldn't. And we could not escape her- my wife's fingers were long and cool, reaching everywhere with a clinical patience. I could have tried to divert them, stashed the girl and had them go after me instead, but I knew I wouldn't survive that run and it wouldn't save her, not eventually. We were trapped in a corner, and I could not give her to her mother.

The worst part was that some of me had anticipated we would be hunted down to this, I couldn't imagine my wife failing at anything. I knew too much about our options and it pressed me flat.

The next few hours were confusing, blurred, and heartbreaking. I

remember crawling into a filthy corner and crying so hard that all the skin on my face went raw. I remember my hands shaking when I emptied the dose into her glass, knowing it was too much, she was too small.

Crying

I remember it was blurred when I stirred it because I was crying again and that I dropped the spoon because my hands were shaking. But by the time she woke up and levered her body upright, I was collected. She saw me and smiled, reached out her arms to me and my entire body moved towards her, just an inch or two.

She was already pulling so strong-

ly. No wonder they wanted her.

I put her in my lap and gave her the milk, told her to drink up and watched her be a good girl.

Moments

I'd caught her in the smudged moments between being awake and asleep, so when she fell right back into drowsiness, she wasn't alarmed. She just snuggled against my body and closed her eyes again.

I looked inside myself and expected to find a storm, but instead, it was smooth. This was right, this made sense. This would keep her from my wife.

I held her until her heart stopped, then I kept holding her and I waited for her mother.



Special Needs

HOW TO HANDLE CRITICISM

It's hard to feel warm and fuzzy inside when our latest integral post receives a measly two likes, let alone when our lecturers give us negative feedback on a project.

But to succeed in life, both personally and professionally, it's important to take criticism in stride. Being able to hear other people's opinions can improve our relationships, academic performances, and job satisfaction. Find out how to handle what other have to say without shedding a tear.

HURTFUL OR HELPFUL

Criticism is a term for judgment or evaluation, good or bad. And it can pop up everywhere: from colleagues, at work, to family and friends (your new hair cut doesn't



suit your face shape). There are many reasons why people offer criticism, like feeling jealous or insecure, but not all criticism is bad

Learning how to handle criticism is one of the most valuable lessons we could ever learn. Unless we know how to accept honest feedback, we'll never be able to improve ourselves and our craft.

news.

CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

Offering thoughtful feedback can help us gain valuable insight into our actions and increase trust between people.

Among college students, constructive criticism on academic work may boost your esteem more than deconstructive criticism. On the other hand, deconstructive criticism the "you suck" kind, involves accusing people and pointing out their faults without suggestions for improvement.

But whether criticism is useful or just plain humiliation, there are

ways to deal with it and move on.

Respond calmly - be respectful no matter what, thank someone if the feedback is useful. If the critique is cancelled kill them with kindness.

A simple smile makes you the bigger person

Don't take it personally - try to move yourself from the situation and focus on what's being critiqued. That C+ midterm doesn't reflect you're A+ personality. Instead it's a reminder to study a little harder next time, skip all the partying the night before or realise that caucus isn't your biggest strength.

SUNDAY COMMENT

Local govt elections
vote of no
confidence

If last week's local government elections are anything to go by then we can conclude a number of things pertaining to the 2018 national elections.

For starters, the turnout was poor—so poor in fact; it is already being argued that the councillors can't claim to be legitimately representing the people. This is no fault of the winners of course, but it is a loud statement as to the representation of the people's wishes. The numbers are disappointing and speak to the greater issue of failure to educate the public on the need to participate in bread and butter issues as well as the failure to mobilise the public to turn up on the day of election. As our columnist Comfort Mabuza points out in his column today, this is not a good picture of our desire of democratic principles. It exposes the lack of understanding of the significance of people taking issues on to their own hands and owning their destiny. What will these councillors do that the people want, when they fail to ensure the right people are elected?

The second point to be picked up from the elections and that is generally informing of next year's event is that there were fewer women voted for by the public. Again, the statistic is so disappointing that we can already claim that there is no desire by the public to trust in women leadership. Either that or women aren't doing enough to show up too. It cannot be enough that the public has to ensure there is greater women representation in public office if it is not going to be accompanied by the call for women to take that responsibility too.

What is particularly worrying, however, is that councils will be led by people who can rarely claim to have the people's mandate. If we want to grow as a country, we must be led by people who understand the will of the people, and who have the desire to work for their needs. What we are then left with, often in cases is that the councillors do as they please and work for their selfish gain. This can never be right.

If this election was a barometer for the national elections, then we have a lot to worry about; we will hardly have the required quota of women representation; we will hardly have a good turnout at the polls; and those who will be elected will be frauds.

The Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) has its work cut out in ensuring that people turn up in numbers next year, and that we choose from a quality line-up of candidates, not to be forced to go for what's there.

Otherwise it is safe to say that the turnout at the polls last week already has given the councillors a vote of no confidence. They are not there because they deserve to be there. They are the proverbial one-eyed man leading the blind.

Analysis & opinion

PHINEAS A DEAD
MAN WALKING

BY MBONGENI
MBINGO

This has been a terrible week for Phineas Magagula, and not least his colleagues in Cabinet.

Perhaps too, the Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini, were it not for his glorious wedding yesterday—and a pending honeymoon. The PM wedded his beautiful wife Gugu yesterday in a historic event and no doubt he would have been preoccupied by paying attention to the finer details of arranging such a ceremony than what his colleagues at Hospital Hill would have been up to.

This means that he would have learnt of the command by His Majesty the King that the embattled Swaziland Christian Medical University (SCU) be opened with immediate effect, while busy with arrangements for his wedding. The decision by His Majesty the King has brought sanity, relief and common sense all round. A lot of people still remain baffled as to how the university was closed in the first place—and why.

Complicated

The statement last week by Cabinet complicated things even further, if not exposing just how farcical the Swaziland Higher Council on Educational (SHEC) has been in the handling of this issue—whatever that it was about the university. As one who has written strongly on the unnecessary closure of the university, one must state that the message from the throne this past week serves as a strong indictment on the players behind the travesty that befell the students of the university.

In saying so, we must say for starters that the SHEC has been complicit in the controversy that has played itself out with the closure of the university, and as such they must take a very strong look in the mirror themselves. They must bow their heads in shame. But more importantly, it would not be farfetched to suggest that they should pay the price too.

As will the minister of education and training.

Poor guy. He is, virtually, a dead man walking. The pronouncement by the Speaker of the House that the university is hereby commanded to be open with immediate effect is in effect a vote of no confidence on Phineas Magagula—not least his Cabinet colleagues. Throughout



this confusion, the minister has been as unconvincing as he has been wobbly; and obviously the fact that he failed to win his colleagues over means that he has failed the ultimate test—twice.

Cabinet's decision is the minister's decision, no matter how much collective responsibility we wish to attach to this. If he had been unconvincing to Cabinet, then it means he had to take the fall, and agree with his colleagues. Now that this decision has been reversed it can be said to expose the frailty of his position and support among his colleagues. For this mess, he cannot hide his head in his hands and hope to escape the blame. In this mess is the minister's head on a platter. He has ultimately been exposed, been found out, and left to trudge off to next year's elections as a has-been.

Decision

It is the same for the SHEC, whose report was initially the basis for such a horrible decision. It is they who gave the smoking gun, and frankly failed—if at all they tried—to persuade Cabinet that the decision to close the institution would have needed to have been the absolute last resort.

As things stand, they too cannot escape the blame. As things stand, it is tempting to think of their establishment as being part of an agenda to get the people behind the university—which has now been laid bare.

SHEC never seemed to know in the first place what it was that was wrong that led to the closure of the university.

In fact, a cursory glance of the statement issued by government last week and you realise just how confused things were.

This is the reason we are all left to speculate that the closure of the Swaziland Christian University had more to do with the politics (hopefully not of the stomach) than any glaring irregularities. Two

months after it was closed they still could not put their finger on the problem, and all they could do was hastily put together some sort of report claiming students were being poorly graded.

Well, if that was the case, then surely, there could have been another way!

But, let me not bother with that. What is more informing of the situation is that it took His Majesty to intervene, to restore sanity. What is important is that this week children will once again assemble for class, pick up where they left off, and hope that this is now in the past.

Re-open

In that regard, one has to commend Parliament's role in this; well done to the Members of Parliament who were being lobbied and who fought for the university to re-open. This fight has been vindicated by His Majesty command. The position MPs took in this matter has been clear from the onset, and for that we are grateful.

We are grateful for the children of Swazis whose lives were put on hold, if not disrupted. We are grateful because now government is tugging its tail between the legs and coming to the party, offering to address the shortfalls in their agreement with the university that should long have been addressed.

It is downright disappointing that the university was set up with government's blessing and support, and MoU—as with every other arrangement. Yet, since the formation, government has hardly come to the party, and instead, it is government that has acted with distrust and arrogance. The decision to close the university should have been at least reserved for end of the academic year, if there were any good intentions about it.

This would have allowed for all the issues to have been addressed,

and would have meant that parents would have known their positions early on before they commit emotionally and financially in the decision to send their children to this university.

This for me is what makes it hard to accept all the sorry excuses that are now being brandished as though there is a greater scandal waiting to be exposed relating to the operations of the university. As it stands, it is clear there is not much wrong with the university. It is clear this university has not enjoyed the support of Cabinet, and government. It is clear they do not like it.

What has come out of this sham of course, is how confused and confusing the minister has been. For all of his credentials as a teacher, a president of the teaching profession and awkwardly, his insight into the university, it had to undergo such a torturous experience with him at the helm. The fact that he was powerless to prevent this from happening is in itself a statement. It is another that once he was overlooked, it had to be overturned by the king.

If ever there was any subtle vote of no confidence, then this is it. The minister only needs to throw in the towel to save any more embarrassment.

But, the contrast couldn't be more beautiful; the man who likes the look of a fine suit, the Mbabane West MP—and from Mahwalala, where the university is located—is a picture of that proud peacock.

MP Johane must pat himself on the back, and of course deserves the majestic walk in the corridors of Parliament.

He and his colleagues have finally got something they can brag about. That is, he and MP Musa Sitezi Dlamini, MP Sikhumbuzo Dlamini, MP Menzies and the DPM. They have done a great job. What's now left for us to say is a loud, **BA YETI! WAPHA KATHI!**



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
SWAZILAND**

Nontobeko Mbuyane

*Fund Development and Communications
Manager*

The past month saw lots of young people graduating from the country's institutions of higher learning and indeed it was a happy day for SOS Children's Villages as amongst the many graduates a number of them were SOS Children.

We were emotional, danced, shared tears of joy as we recalled how far we had come with the children graduating. When you have known the different challenging circumstances of these children when they were brought into the SOS Children's Villages you really would not help but shed a tear when reminiscing. How they have grown, how they have become victorious despite their difficult backgrounds, this surely propels one as a worker and sponsor to further commit their energies and resources when we see such from the children.

One must state that such is a collective and collaborative effort of the SOS Children's Villages Mothers who commit themselves in raising these children as their very own, the communities where all our Family Houses are located who have consistently supported SOS Children's Villages in raising the children, after all we all know that, 'it takes a village to raise a child.' The co-workers at SOS Children's Villages who selflessly give their

time and love towards the best interest of the child, how can we forget our sponsors such as DHL who have made it all possible that these children despite their circumstances get a chance towards education in life.

DHL SWAZILAND

DHL which is the world's leading logistics company, together with SOS Children's Villages, have celebrated half a decade of a successful partnership that has helped to improve the employment prospects of disadvantaged young people from SOS Children's villages in Swaziland. The partnership between DHL Group and SOS Children's Villages began in 2010 in South Africa and over years also expanded to Swaziland. Such for our country was exceptionally great news as youth employability is a very serious challenge.

Empowering youth and improving their employment prospects is the objective of the international partnership between SOS Children's Villages and DHL Group. The success of this partnership is rooted in the commitment of DHL employees who volunteer their time to mentor youths and to help them get ready for their foray into the job market. Employees mentor youths from both SOS Children's Villages and SOS Family

Strengthening Programmes, and organise a variety of tailored career development activities that deliver tangible results for the mentees.

While SOS Children's Villages provides a loving home for the children, DHL enable their independence through their employee volunteer programme. The programme empowers youth through exposure to the working world and educates them on the career options available. As a result, young people become self-reliant, responsible, contributing members of society which

improves educational opportunity and employability for young people.

Corporate responsibility is an integral part of DHL Group's corporate strategy with "Living Responsibility" as its motto.

To SOS Children's Villages the company's responsibility has surely made the future of so many Swazi children brighter, hence we plead and implore other companies to make a PROMISE today towards bettering the life of an orphaned and vulnerable child by supporting SOS Children's Villages. To

keep this promise, simply make a donation using Swazi MTN Mobile Money, dial *007*03*04*032# and make the donation or send through mobile money number, 76400273 or through the bank with account details, First National Bank, Account Number: 62372140493 BRANCH CODE: 280164

For more information contact, Nontobeko Mbuyane on Nontobeko.mbuyane@sos-swaziland.org or call +26825058471/1/2/3 and visit our facebook page @SOSSwaziland and our website: www.sos.org.sz

THE PROMISE!



Polar Triller Mabizela
**SOS Children's Villages
Swaziland**

21 mins

If it wasn't for SOS and DHL I wouldn't be here... THANKS TO MY HOME, SOS Ekutfokomeni, National Office, SOS at Large. Thank you all

Im now holding an Associates Degree in Information technology!!!



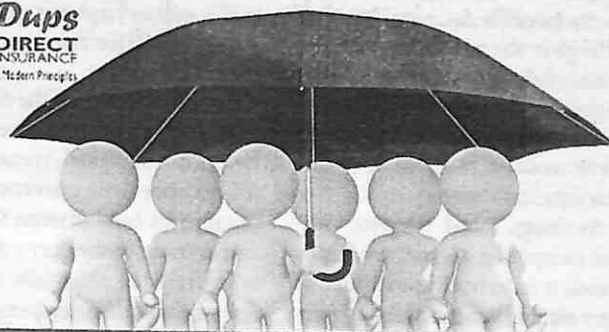
Write a comment...



FIND ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNERS IN GROUP POLICIES



There are many advantages associated with having a group policy, chief among them being that you will be protected from sky-high funeral costs in the event of a death in the family, or your corporate or residential community. Thinking about financial problems should not be part of the grieving process.



**SAVE ON PREMIUMS WITH
GROUP INSURANCE SCHEMES**

An accountability partner is a person who assists another to keep a commitment.

This concept works in various spheres of life but was originally used in connection with weight-loss programmes in the 1960s. The term is also often used by Christians where the accountability partner helps a person to adhere to a moral commitment, such as refraining from smoking, getting drunk or any other iniquities.

You can get a partner to help you with attaining a six-pack, starting or improving a business, or some other purpose involving a goal. A study that was carried out at a university and published in Forbes Magazine concluded that one reason 92 per cent of people did not accomplish their New Year's resolution was because they did not have an accountable partner.

Dups Direct Insurance has a plan in place that would greatly assist those that falter.

A Dups group policy minimises the possibility of defaulting on paying your premiums because there are people around you counting on you to. All alone

you can easily get overwhelmed by circumstances and think, "Oh well, I'll take care of this next month or the one after," which is something that would not be acceptable in a group. You would have to pull your own weight, and when you are weak, other members can encourage you and remind you what is at stake when you default.

We do not discriminate where these groups come from - they could be corporate, religious, expatriate, family or just from the community. With regards to the group funeral plan, we consider

30 or more people to be a group.

There are many advantages associated with having a group policy, chief among them being that you will be protected from sky-high funeral costs in the event of a death in the family, or your corporate or residential community. Thinking about financial problems should not be part of the grieving process. Instead of a family or community always coming together after someone passes and having to make impromptu financial commitments that leave people under financial and emotional stress, why not

just come together and make small monthly commitments that are affordably going towards payment of premiums?

Another advantage of getting a group funeral plan is that you would enjoy certain discounts on our services. Among our most popular packages is the Homelink plan, designed for foreigners resident in Swaziland or Swazis resident in other foreign lands as explained in last week's installment.

Instead of people of the same nationality, for instance the Mozambican,

Zambian, Asian or Ghanaian community in Swaziland, only coming together to pool funds when a compatriot passes away and has to be repatriated home, it is more astute to rather make small contributions regularly towards a funeral plan than have to scamp around every time it happens, trying to make a substantial contribution. Huge contributions will set you off for quite some time.

Some people get so desperate that they end up ensnared by loan sharks who might have steep repayment terms. On the other hand, Dups funeral premiums start from just E7 a month, which is a very small price to pay for the peace of mind that you will enjoy in the event of a loss; not to mention the sterling service Dups will provide to ensure a decent send-off.

If you are a group of 30 or above, you can call our head office on 2505 2028 and invite us for a presentation where we will explain the different levels of cover.

You can even fill in forms at the comfort of your offices or homes and we would take back the forms for capturing at our offices. You are also welcome to pay us a visit at our offices in Manzini, Matata, Matsapha, Simunye, Nhlangano, Mbabane, Piggs Peak and Siteki so that we can discuss group policies with you. Alternatively, you can send queries to info@dupsgroup.com, www.facebook.com/dups or on Twitter @dupsinsurance. Dups wishes you a blessed November.

**Dups Direct
Insurance**
*has a plan in
place that would
greatly assist
those that falter.*



WRITER'S NOTE:

RED, BLUE, YELLOW, BLACK AND WHITE; those are the colours of the Swazi flag.

Its colours are meant to show that white and black people live in peaceful coexistence in Swaziland. The flag has four horizontal stripes - two blue stripes at the top and bottom while the centre stripe is red. Two thin yellow stripes border the red stripe in the flag.

Back to this week's issue we are embracing everything Swazi and how designers are finally putting our flag to work. Thanks to Touch of Soul for that Durban-Swazi party at Eyadini that saw Swazis parting up a storm, most in Swazi attires. That is what we want to see.

We have Nomalungelo Dladla, one of Swaziland's talented vocalists and there is no denying that she is a force to be reckoned with. She talks to SCENE about her year, working with Ringo and the making of her single 'Mporoma' and collaboration with Tendaness. She is the first SWAMA Best Afro Pop winner and she says that was one of her rewarding moments.

We also had a chat with SGONIAN REPUBLIK [SR] founder Philani 'Sgonia' Mpanza. He is currently out of the country due to studies but assured us that SR is still stronger than ever. He tells us about his creative process and revamping the SR brand. This brand is one that made our flag fashionable. We have had several other designers who have taken a liking to our Swazi colours.

On our back pages, we have Mdu on the house who is still holding it down for house fans. And Notsile, who is a plus size designer who just got started on 'Ngondlekile'. She talks about being plump and still slaying regardless of the public's opinions. Notsile has caps, T-shirts, bags as well as dress T-shirts which she plans on growing. On our page 8 we have a young lady; Natalie Smith who is a beautician and a mother. She talks about her business, beauty parlour, family and balancing all that and being a mother. Here is to another fruitful week, 'till next time.

Hailing straight out of Siteki, and currently on a creative regeneration sabbatical, SGONIAN REPUBLIK [SR] is one brand which we believe managed to restore the confidence of Swazi people in locally products amenities, we chat to its founder Sgonia, who gives us a sneak-peak into this juggernaut of Swazi fashion.

Indulge us in on your creative process.

The existence of every garment by SGONIAN REPUBLIK [SR] is premised on three tenets, guiding points of departure before production even begins:

1. Would we be happy to be seen out rocking the work we sell?
2. Away from the now and today, is our work bound to out-perform the conventions of time as retails to clothing? TIMELESS QUALITY.
3. Will our customers have enough reason to go beyond being connoisseurs of our work and proudly evangelise about it?

With all these very well in place, we set out to curate the next best must-haves to hit the streets of Swaziland and other parts of Africa and the world.

What questions do you ask before you begin any design project? Why do these questions matter?

Tied to our creative process, the one critical question here speaks to the necessity of producing work which drove towards giving the people of Swaziland every reason to proudly call Swaziland home. Was our work quality enough for our people to proudly associate with? What limits were there to push towards the achievement of this premise? And were we doing enough to push them? Beyond being a brand out of Swaziland, we believed in the necessity of seeing ourselves as one critical component in the building of a healthy and confidence-catalysing "Brand Swaziland."

Questions which matter - as they greatly informed and helped curate our narrative being a brand rooted in local pride and inspirations yet at heart, driven by global ambitions and relevance. We have always yearned to remain a proudly Swazi brand which though Swazi - speaks an international fashion language, one even a lover of the finer things in strolling in the streets of London or New York would easily grasp.

What rules, culture, or structure is needed to exist to foster team collaboration?

The one rule behind our existence and operations was respect of our vision: "To tailor clothing the individual

TIMELESS

SGONIAN REPUBLIK [SR]

The one rule behind our existence and operations was respect of our vision: "To tailor clothing the individual can be proud to own and don, everyday", fully respected, owned and shared it remained the only wind we needed beneath our wings, seeing the brand grow to be the industry standard by miles.



can be proud to own and don, everyday," fully respected, owned and shared it remained the only wind we needed beneath our wings, seeing the brand grow to be the industry standard by miles.

A culture of a shared need to make every-one who happened upon an SR garment feel like they could conquer anything, which we drove towards through the quality of our work, consistently. Alongside openly shared opinions and ideas about what would steer the brand forward, all interwoven, carefully around the brand's vision and what we believed the people would delight in.

The designs you created are no doubt good enough, but who and which things were your inspiration while creating such designs?

We owe all inspiration in all the work we did to element of desire. Through our work, we wanted to not be just content with making clothes, but essentially objects of desire. Say, you are in town and are without anything SR, and along or by come someone on an SR, the idea was to live you who is without and SR drooling and tongue-dry from wanting your own SR, and further say, you proceed to get your own, the idea from this, was to give you even more reason to not just buy SR, but be a collector of SR. Basically, this was just about it.

How would you describe your personal style?

I think I'm a simple guy - always happy and comfortable in my SR shirts and T-shirts, jeans [strictly Levi's or Diesel, just for now though] and sneakers, and maybe at least once a year, that bespoke SR suit would be fortunate to be won. I rarely am on a suit. I remained beyond happy though to have the tasteful gentlemen of the world rocking our suits.

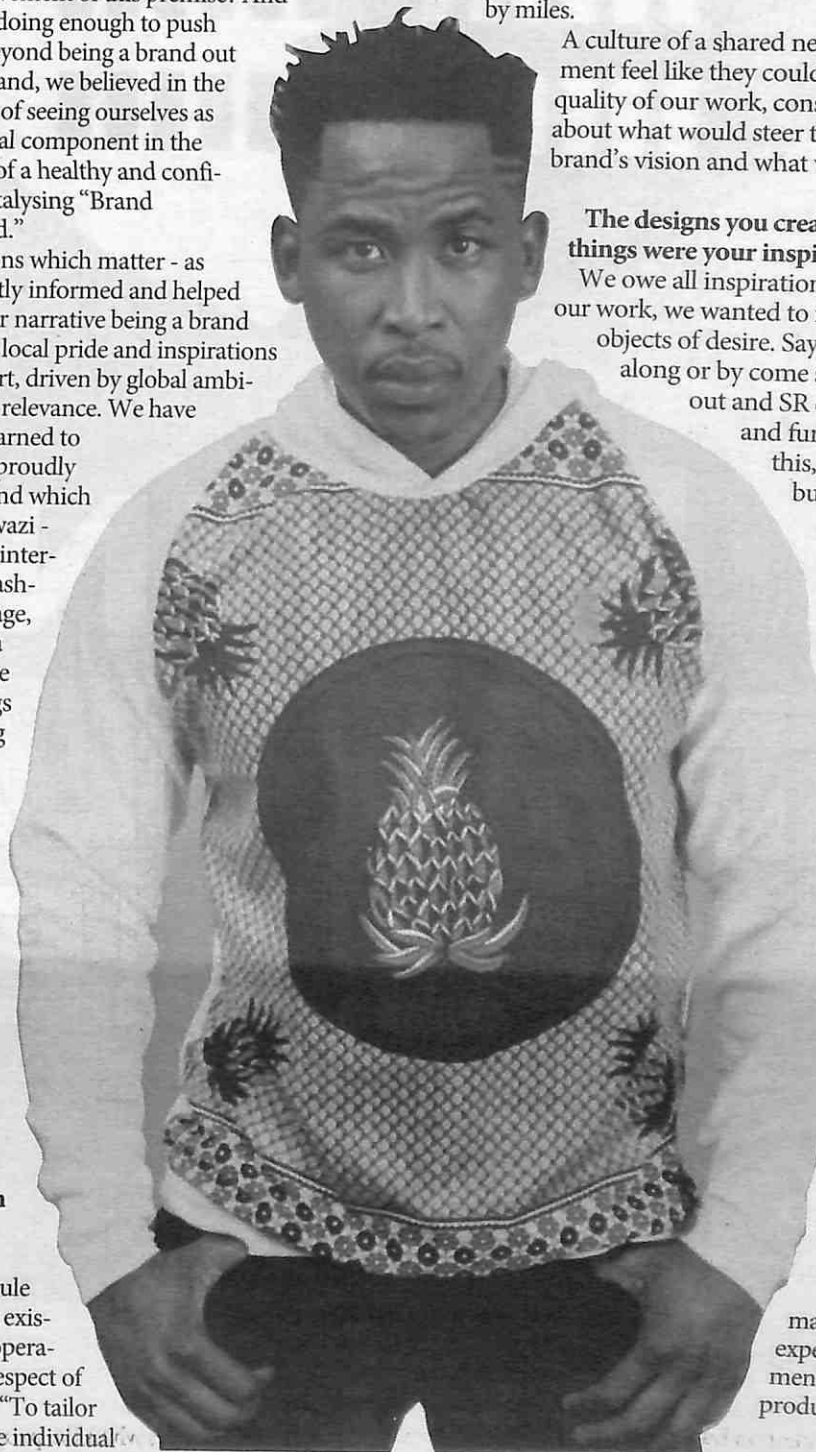
What do you consider the important facets of the fashion industry?

The first one is respect, for ourselves as fashion creatives, for our brands and ultimately our customers, which proceed to inform these: the necessity of the element of surprise, meaning the death of monotony, which sadly continue to plague what we are trying to build of an industry. For a market as thin and sensitive as ours, imagine how much excitement, originally would add, then the quality.

Under normal circumstances, there also has to be the "why" behind a brand's existence, as this may proceed to inform and shape the brand's vision, then its narrative going forward.

How do you stay up to date regarding fashion?

I believe we have grown and managed what we have managed with SGONIAN REPUBLIK [SR] through experienced intuition, paired with perhaps good judgement and ability to shape rough ideas to exciting end products has perhaps been one of the major boons.



QUALITY



sents and futures to be like. It's looking good for the past.

Tell me about the goals of SR and the thought process behind your Swazi flagged designs.

Well, as we did announce earlier on in the year, SR is currently on a necessary sabbatical for re-branding and re-structuring purposes, with myself scouring some of the world's foremost fashion havens in Europe, for new inspirations and refreshing ideas towards what will be the brand's next trajectory, as we are intent on building a legacy brand, not a

WHEN MUSIC MEETS FASHION

The perfect balance between the creation of a garment and the person wearing it makes one look chic.

Music and fashion are all about creativity. Fashion is so fast these days nothing you see is new, the fashion world is mostly regurgitating gears, which is why it is about artistry. Designers want to have powerful artists, movers, models and the likes in order to sell and promote their brands. Fashion and music were made to coexist with each other. It is no more just about the artist alone but people also pay attention to what s/he is wearing.

We have musicians that are deemed fashion icons because they take fashion risks that pay off. Rihanna is a good example of fashion mixing with music. She has her Fenty line that is doing extremely well and so is her music.

We also have fashion houses that rope in artists to be faces of their brands. Artists have come a long way to just living off music or having that "struggling" label on them.

LEVELS

Singing a song in your bathroom is free but the moment you knock on the door of a recording studio the prices you hear can scare the talent in you away. This goes to show that there is more to show biz than talent. Being creative

afro pop artists but gospel artists too. These are just some of the artists who have made it possible for Swazi artists to sing and be comfortable in their native language.

IDENTITY

Local artists have had an identity crisis in the past. Listening to a local artist was equivalent to listening to a Swazi version of Lil Wayne and that was a problem on its own. Imagine an American artist trying to sing or rap in siSwati. It just does not jell, yes, we would be fascinated but that does not mean it works.

Which is why Swazi hip hop artists were not going anywhere, reason being that the world already has a Lil Wayne but lacks an Illa Penboy.

Originally is key. Local artists have fused local traditional stuff into their music, being Swazi is now fashionable. Limkokwing University showed us how it should be done when they presented their design to the entire world, now why should Swazis limit themselves?

is a **GIFT** that not everyone has nor understands. Creative people see the world differently. They have a deep passion for making beautiful things. Most young musicians are struggling not because they lack talent but rather because they want to wear Sean John and all these expensive designs yet there are levels to this things. When you are big enough household brands headhunt you as an artist. The goal is to be rich than to look rich.

TALENT

Swaziland is filled with talent just like any other developing country. There are so many designers who gave us a run for our money during the SWAMA Awards.

How refreshing was it to see so many Swazi designs embodied with the Swazi flag and colours. Swazi artists are finally taking pride in their language, artists are flying our flag high while singing in siSwati. Sands, Bholoja, Nomalungelo, Siyinqaba who can forget *Gwayimane*, the list is endless.

This is not just limited to hip hop or

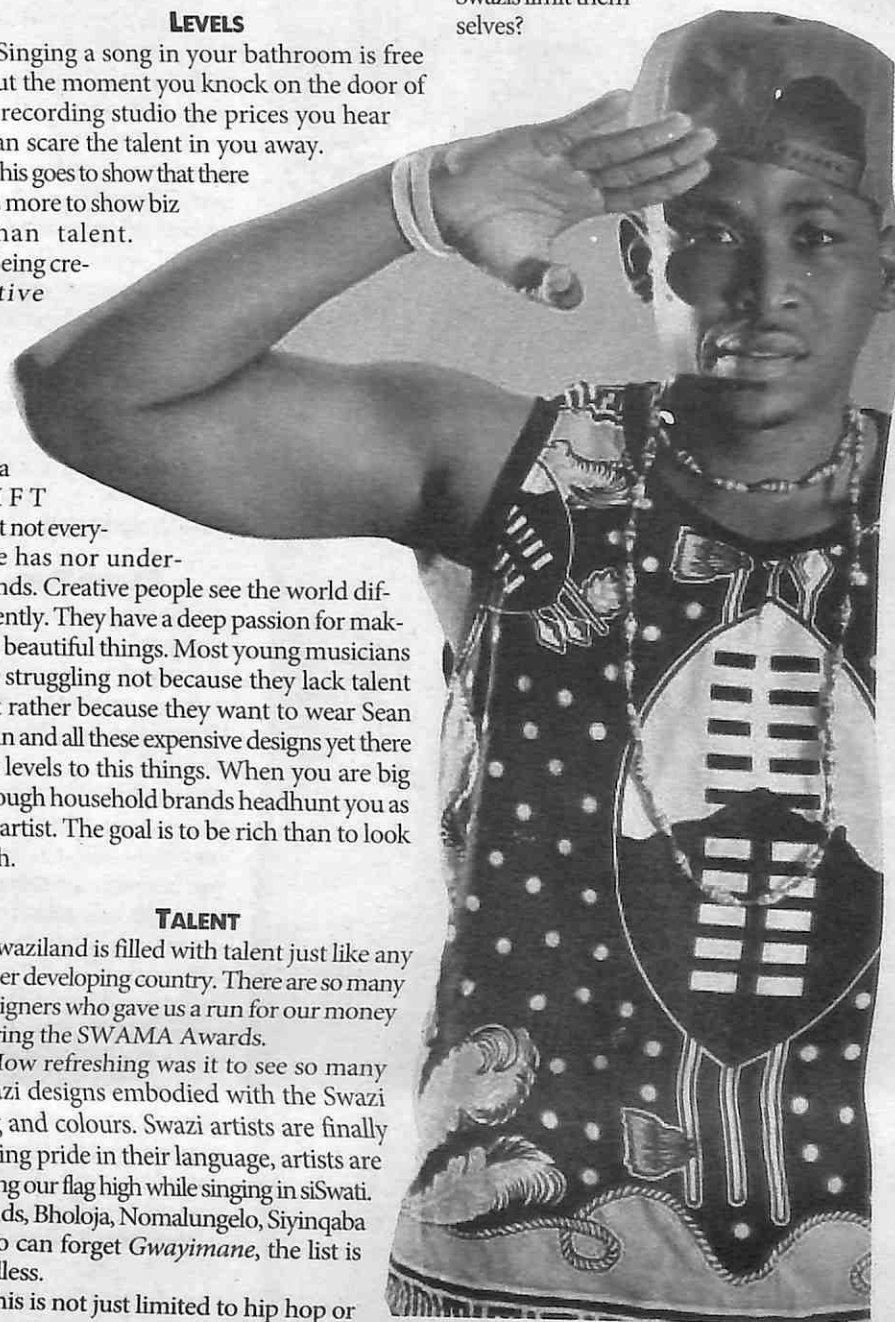
fad - which on its own calls for a stronger foundation and purpose.

The premise beneath the Swazi-flagged designs was an invitation to us to celebrate the promise of Swaziland, what we are and essentially, what we can be.

Lastly, any idea yet when the people can

expect SR back in their lives and wardrobes?

A great impatience of ours this! We envisage that this will be no later than the autumn/winter of 2018, developments around which though which will be duly communicated with all our publics across all media once all is set.



IMIYALO, CALL

Arguably one of the most underrated female artist in Swaziland. She has done a lot musically, and we are yet to witness her success, SWAMAs were just the beginning.

For as long as she can remember, Nomalungelo Dladla has always been a go getter.

She has come a long way from *Imiyalo* to winning best afro pop then working and sharing the stage with the living legend, Ringo Madlingozi.

"The story of how I was discovered is a good example of the fight in me. First, I met Psycho-Lution at headcount, I asked him to introduce me to the people he was working with. He introduced me to Mozaik and I had to do a three mini-audition while he was walking to SBIS where he had a radio show at the time. From there I made my first song '*Imiyalo*' and that is where things started for me. I went on to do '*Gwayimane*' and got signed to EMS in South Africa.

They helped me promote the music internationally while I was also doing a Public Relations degree," Nomalungelo says.

CAREER PATH

Nomalungelo knew when she recorded '*Imiyalo*' that she wanted music to be her career. "I wanted to tell my African stories and have people listen."

Music took it a step further, people do not just listen, they connect to the stories. I knew I wanted to make a career from it when I made my father cry from watching me sing."

Her music career kicked-off early 2009 when she featured on fellow stable mate's album, the '*Psycho-tik Revolution*', which was released on 4 March of that year.

MPOROMA, CALL ON ME

Tenderness has featured Nomalungelo on one of his singles, 'Call on Me' the track has a touch of soul mixed with a little bit of house. Nomalungelo says the track as well as her latest single *Mporoma* are what she is all about.

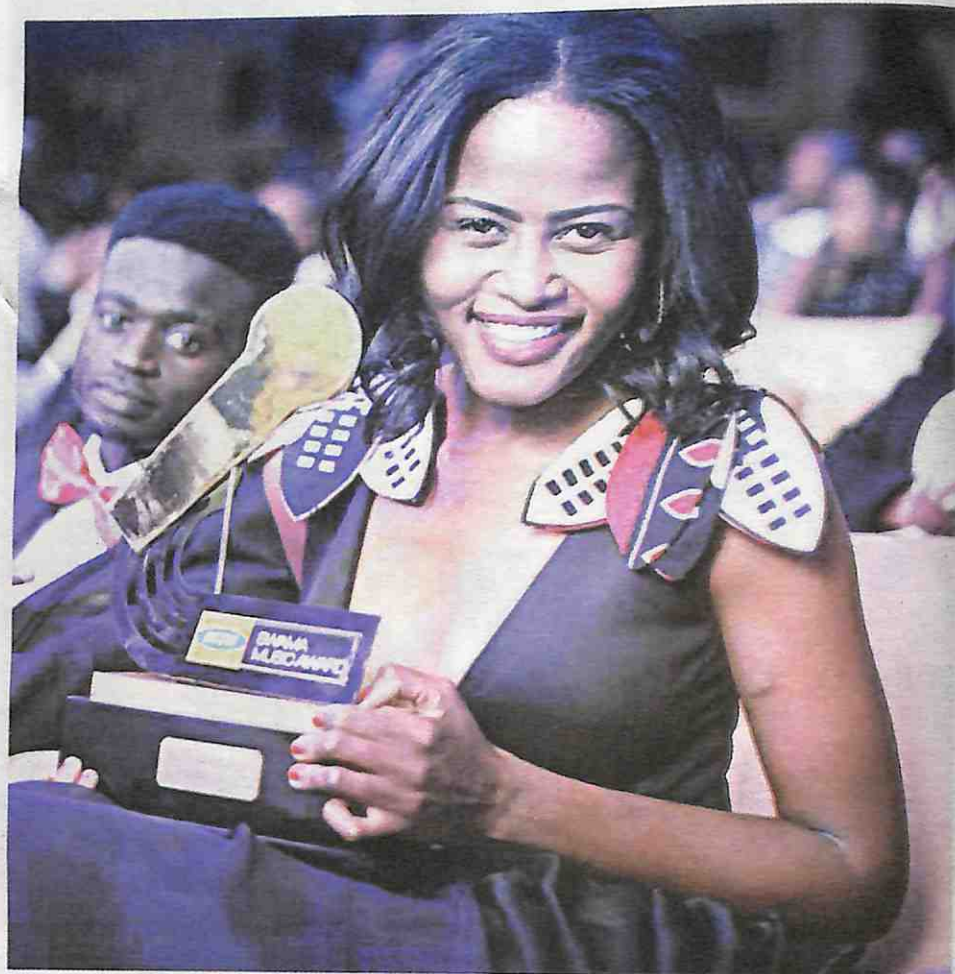
"My band always says I have two sides to me (and

they would know, they listen to me all the time). The girl from the hood who is fun and hip; while still being the girl who addresses social issues telling the story of the black child.

To Nomalungelo, songs like *Mporoma* are a gateway that positions Nomalungelo so she addresses the issues that speak to her purpose. 'Call on me' is exactly the kind of message I am about. The essence of 'Buntfu' brought into the African pop culture."

Working with Ringo in August 2013, Nomalungelo collaborated with South African artist Ringo Madlingozi in her second 14-tracks album titled '*Kuba Ngimi*'.

The South African artist is featured on her two songs titled 'Why' and 'Kuwe'. The album was produced by Robbie Malinga, Mjalefa Tebe, and features Ringo, Tresor Riziky and Rubba Swag.



"I used to be inspired by my life, till I found it boring and the idea of being self-inspired vain. So, I started looking into black history, trying to find a fight, every artist needs a fight, I believe it propels them towards their destiny. Today I can say I am inspired by Africa and its stories. I'm inspired by its past and present; it's trials and victories."

Nomalungelo says she met Ringo by default.

"I was sick with the flu, exhausted from gigging with a throat infection, afraid I was losing my voice for good."

I developed bad singing habits to compensate for my condition that was being prolonged by fear.

My team at the time was so understanding they

asked Lolo my

spokesperson, to find me a mentor who would ready me for the workload. I was juggling school, gigs and promoting the album in Mpumalanga. Lolo knew Ringo and asked him to help. He gave me a 20-page handwritten vocal training booklet and has been my mentor since," she says.

She continues to stay fortunate for his support and teachings.



ON ME, MPOROMA, NOMALUNGELLO



"He is a father, I have been blessed to know him in teacher mode too. Working with him has been educational and he is one of the most gifted vocalists I know."

His sage wisdom on the development of the African arts has helped me greatly to mould my purpose. Every stage when working with Ringo is a classroom."

BEST AFRO POP

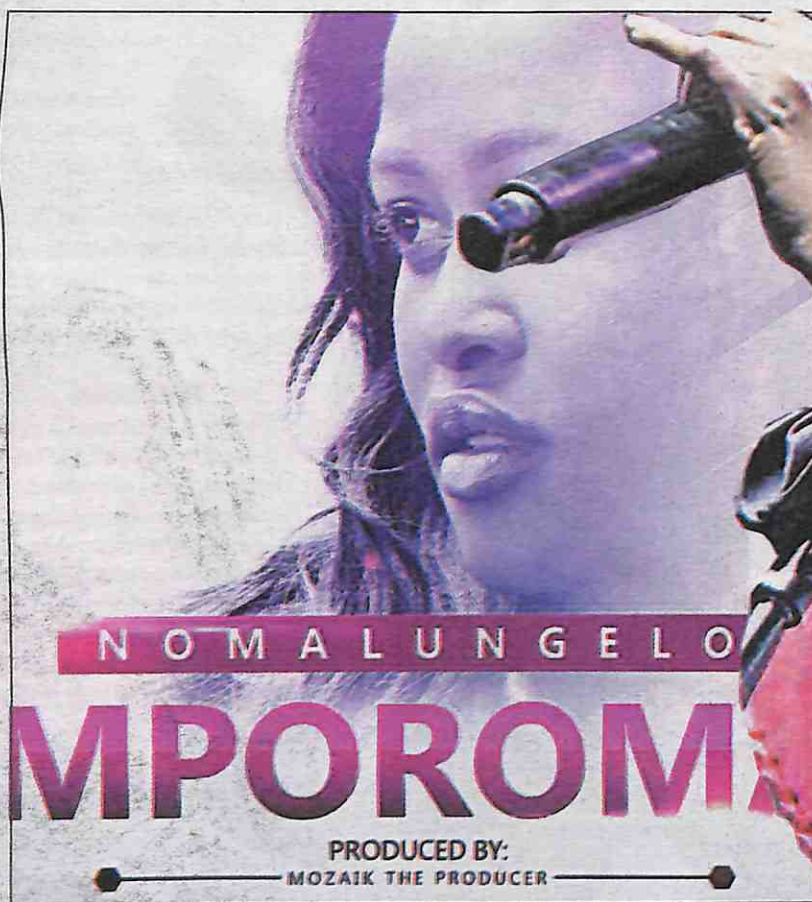
This year MTN Swaziland presented the SWAMA awards to the public. They had an element of growth and there is still room for more growth. Nomalungelo won best afro pop. She says being nominated alone was humbling but winning was more gratifying.

"The support from corporates and the government following the awards has been humbling. Musically it has been amazing, more work and more opportunities to collaborate and make interesting music. Honestly excited about 2018 SWAMAs. I have always believed in Awards, I believe they give artists healthy competition. This allows them to measure themselves while building systems that regulate their industry, let us keep them going. For me, they mean working harder and respecting the audience. When people voted they were indirectly helping us build the industry for them, and as an artist that was humbling," she adds.

BEING SWAZI

"When I was in Johannesburg, I got the impression that being from Swaziland was bad. I did not like being picked on cause of my language or because of where I come from. I decided to support local and really promote self-acceptance. I am proud to wear the flag, I think every Swazi engineer, doctor, lawyer, poet, and rapper should be too."

We have so much to give as a people as our culture is rich and authentic. In a world of constant pursuit of authenticity, why not stand out in RED, BLUE,



YELLOW, BLACK AND WHITE," she explains. Nomalungelo is always colourful in Swazi inspired outfits. She says it is more of an identity thing. She wants it known that she is Swazi and represents anything and everything Swazi.

INSPIRATION

In the creative world, one has to have a source of inspiration. As an artist, you have to show versatility. Where does Nomalungelo draw her inspirations from? "I used to be inspired by my life, till I found it boring and the idea of being self-inspired vain. So, I started looking into black history, trying to find a fight, every artist needs a fight I believe it propels them towards their destiny. Today I can say I am inspired by Africa and its

stories. I'm inspired by its past and present; it's trials and victories. I'm inspired by black excellence. I'm inspired by the work that awaits the art industry, we get to help Africa define itself civilisation. We are tasked with defining the African cool and bring the attention of Africans back to Africa." Nomalungelo's motto is to 'Build capacity to help Africa' which she says is her newly found purpose. Nomalungelo's sound in five words... "I will have to ask the readers to help me with this one. Follow me on Facebook, Twitter, Sound cloud and Instagram and let me know what you think of the music and my journey. You can ask any questions from this article I promise to answer honestly. Thank you for your continued support."

To Nomalungelo songs like 'Mporoma' are a gateway that positions her so she addresses the issues that speak to her purpose. 'Call on me' is exactly the kind of message I am about.



GIRLS WITH CURVES: NGONDLKILE

Being plus size is something that not only women struggle with but even men have issues coming into terms with.

Our communities and the media have set unrealistic body goals that cannot be achieved naturally. It has taken so many fashion magazines years before they could start putting plus size women as cover girls.

Notsile Nelile Nkambule, an International Relations graduate from the University of Pretoria and an activist, is one lady who is setting to make a mark in the fashion industry.

Notsile is a contributor for an online magazine called PLATFORM, a volunteer for a mental health organisation and the owner of Ngondlekile; the movement.

NGONDLKILE

“Ngondlekile came about out of sheer frustration and annoyance at the mainstream fashion industry and the treatment big people receive in society. I used the term ‘ngondlekile’ to reclaim the stereotype that big people eat too much, there are many contributing factors to weight gain and you can only know them if you care enough to ask. Even then you are not entitled to an explanation,” Notsile says. Notsile wants to encourage plus size women to reclaim spaces that have long segregated them and all but ignored them. “I want a big Swazi woman to throw on this shirt and enter a gym, rock a treadmill, get some groceries, do an easy lunch with the girls and everything they have ever dreamt of doing.”

FAB SIZE

Notsile is just getting started on her brand; so far she has T-shirts, caps, bags and dress shirts. She does, however feel that there is growth for not only her brand but people who can and should be selling plus size merchandise.

“This industry is still very young and raw. It is up to us as big women to give it the character it deserves. I have, however, dealt with people that have the misconception that loving yourself the size that you are is glorifying obesity. The general idea is every other group gets representation but big women should hide until they lose weight,” she says.

COMMON MISCONCEPTION

People tend to think that being plus size is a result of a bad diet or over eating yet that is not always the case.

Everyone is different and our bodies react differently to different diets. Notsile says the common misconception that people have about plus size people is that they eat a lot, which some do.

“But who does not binge every now and then? Secondly, people believe no words can hurt us, it is true we have thicker skins but we are human too. There are limits and there are different stages of the self-love journey and they are not all

positive and filled with strength. Lastly, that we do not have our pick from men. Big women can reject men, we are beautiful women with standards too.”

She says due to people’s projection and limited intellect, most people would rather assume and be wrong than bother asking and finding out the truth. Also people feel entitled to big people, hence they give unsolicited advice and insert themselves in matters that do not concern them. Unless asked for tips, do not share your diet tips to any big women just because you have a problem with their size.



OWN YOUR SPACE

There is nothing like a woman that is comfortable in her own skin.

Hence Notsile says there is not an innovation she would like because she believes plus size women have all they need already.

“All we would love is the space to do our own thing at our own pace. Join gyms without stares, jog without snarky comments and fashionable stores with fashionable clothes.”

RECLAIMING

“I want it to diminish every ounce of power that the negative names plus size women are called, by reclaiming them. I want it to be a lifestyle brand that makes plus size women feel as united as any other group of women. A place where they can enter and just be. Not apologetic, not uncomfortable but truly under-

stood and encouraged. I recognise the importance of keeping a healthy weight but I also know that self-loathing and suppression will never encourage anybody to be a better version of themselves. Everything starts with embracing yourself in your current state, which gives you the power to move forward in life,” Notsile adds.

BEING BIG THE RIGHT

The plus-size fashion industry has always been a far step behind the fashion world at large in terms of style in general, but it is also never been thought of as a true part of the fashion world at large, due to it being thought of as a separate industry. That is why Notsile says that it has been assimilated into mainstream fashion but that is largely due to plus size models being classified as women who are just a little bit over the weight limit, women that are shaped in a more “attractive” way, hip to ratio is still a thing. So now we have moved from not being thin to not being big the right way.

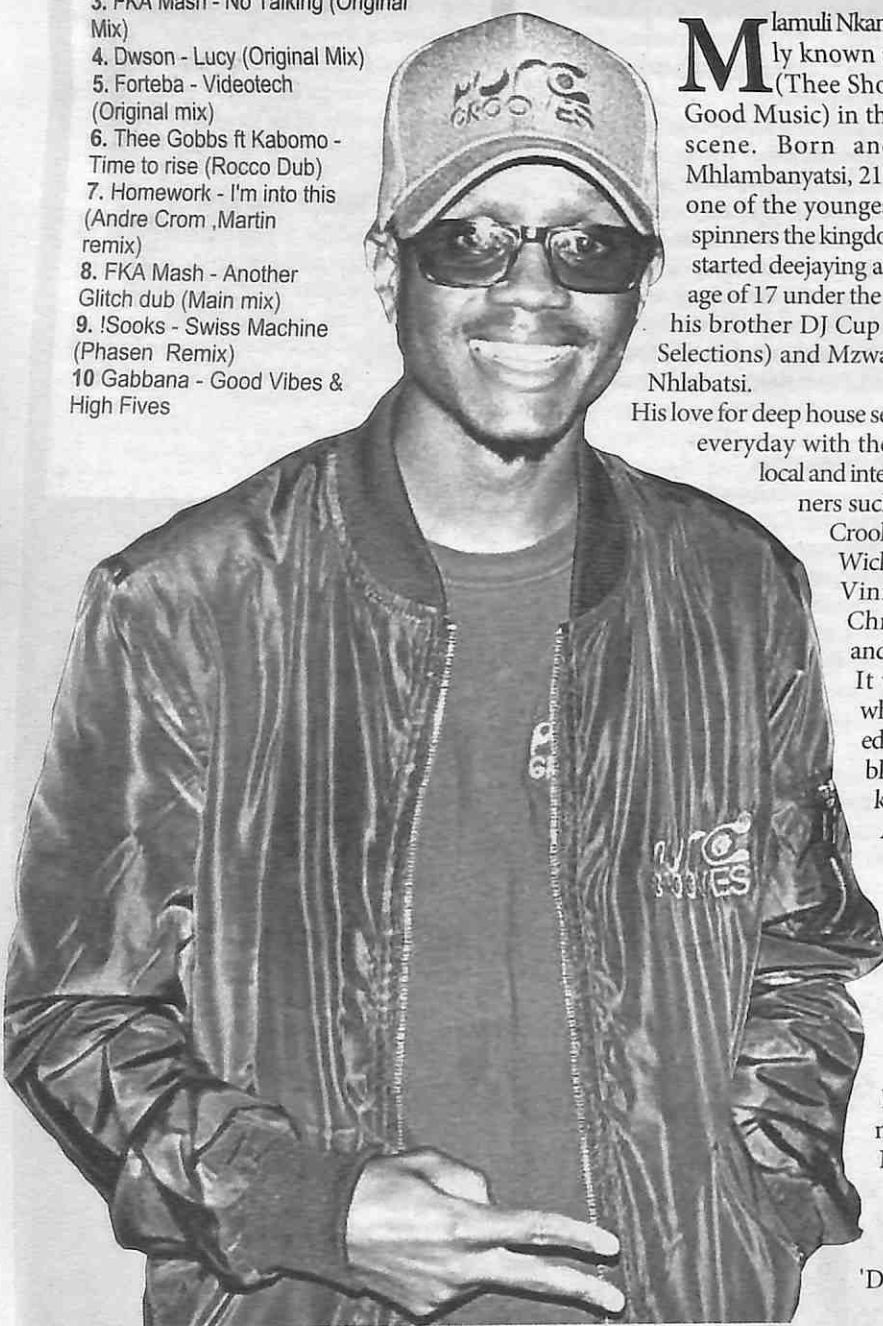


BEAT ON BEATS WITH MDUBASA

ACE4NIC'S CURRENT TOP 10 TRACKS

1. Dwson - Luna (Original mix)
2. !Sooks - The Kitchen will dub (Phasen Remix)
3. FKA Mash - No Talking (Original Mix)
4. Dwson - Lucy (Original Mix)
5. Forteba - Videotech (Original mix)
6. Thee Gobbs ft Kabomo - Time to rise (Rocco Dub)
7. Homework - I'm into this (Andre Crom, Martin remix)
8. FKA Mash - Another Glitch dub (Main mix)
9. !Sooks - Swiss Machine (Phasen Remix)
10. Gabbana - Good Vibes & High Fives

DECIDE, COMMIT, SUCCEED - ACE4NIC



Mlamuli Nkambule, famously known as ACE4NIC (Thee Short Guy With Good Music) in the deep house scene. Born and raised in Mhlambanyatsi, 21 years of age, one of the youngest deep house spinners the kingdom has to offer, started deejaying at a very tender age of 17 under the mentorship of his brother DJ Cup (Deep House Selections) and Mzwandile 'Scotch' Nhlabatsi.

His love for deep house seemed to grow everyday with the influence of local and international spinners such as DJ Tibza, Crooks, Craft, Dr.P, Wicked, Rekorder, Vinny Da Vinci, Christos, Rocco and many more. It was in 2013 when he decided to form a stable, which was known as AcidTone Music which over the years changed to being Pure Grooves Inc. It was with his two hoodmates Mhlonipheni 'Dexter' Masilela and Mkhululi 'Deepy Café'

Pure Grooves has shown so much potential and boasts to do even better in the future. It is all about assembling a great team that has the same dreams and ambitions as you.



Nzalo. The idea of this assembly was for the three young lads to have some kind of a foundation which would support them and known for in the musical journey they were about to embark on. ACE4NIC has made a name for himself in the community as being one of the best deep house spinners in the country.

His unique song selection when he plays has earned him the love of many deep house fans. The love shown by the public and the responses to the Pure Grooves Mixtapes shows that indeed Ace4nic does live up to his deep standards. ACE4NIC seeks to do even better and

have guestmixes from all over the world and soon also wishes to venture into production.

From the mad love the group was getting from the deep house community in Swaziland a merchandise department was formed. With music and school taking much of his time, since he is a student at Limkokwing University of Technology, Mlamuli decided to hand over the merchandising department to Mhlonipheni Bhembe's care.

Pure Grooves has shown so much potential & boasts to do even better in the future. It is all about assembling a great team that has the same dreams and ambitions as you.

HOUSE MUSIC INDUSTRY IN SWAZILAND

Well in the country not many people are well versed about house music, especially the deep house sub-genre.

So I still think there's a lot for us to do locally towards contributing to the the house scene, but I believe we have alot of the best deejays and producers. In terms of improving the industry we can introduce facilities like music and deejaying schools for the young talent which still needs grooming. Also implementing services like DJ/music conferences can help into naturing and equipping young up and coming DJs with certain skills in how to survive in the industry and be better DJs. Also trying out on production would uplift more of the local talent and also doing shows with more local acts while making sure to avoid exploiting our own.

HIGHLIGHTS AND PITFALLS IN YOUR MUSIC CAREER.

My first highlight would be when I

got a chance to be part of the DJ Sbu's MoFire Launch, where I got to share the stage with some of the best deejays and musicians. The Likes of DJ Terrence (Music Box Compilations), Kwesta, Bucie, Mafikizolo, just to mention a few.

Another one would be headlining the Braamfantain Swazi Party with some of the country's and SA best spinners. Last but not least would be last year when my stable Pure Grooves hosted our first ever show debuted 'Da Solid Groove Part 1' which took place in Solani's Shisanyama and attracted a number of the Deep house population.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BRANDING

A good brand speaks volumes for one as a DJ/artist. Branding helps in terms of having some kind of a foundation which one is to be recognised with, this even helps in terms that alot of people would know more about you while they never even met you even once. The brand establishes an emotional connection to the listeners. This connection cements why a listener listens to your music in the first place; because he feels what you feel through the elements that you put into your own tracks or any set

you render.

Branding directs you to the appropriate actions regarding your musical career. You have to act out your brand across all platforms so that the fans and listeners will see you as a professional and have the overall bigger picture you're all about and as someone who's truly serious and honest to his craft.

Branding allows you as a DJ/artist to connect to your target listeners effectively. The world has listeners with different musical tastes and preferences. So this builds a bridge between the listeners and you the DJ/artist.



NATALIE BEAUTY PARLOUR

Make-up, hair, clothes and nails are some of the things that define the so-called slay queens.

Natalie Smith is a 20-year-old self driven young entrepreneur who has taken full advantage of all these accessories.

Natalie hails from Siphofaneni which she describes as a place that was a push factor in her setting some goals for herself.

"Having to work for everything at a young age has taught me that I cannot let my background determine my future, hence I set the bar high for myself, making my dream a reality," she says.

Natalie owns a beauty parlour in Ezulwini which started off in the lounge of her house, pampering friends and family and later inviting the public when she saw how good she was actually getting with practice. Her specialty is all things glamorous; she is a certified nail technician, make-up artist and currently on retail hair.

Natalie is also a MILF, who has been getting a lot of family support which enables her to work full time yet still be a mother to her son. When she is not busy making people look fabulous she is at her favourite role which is one's typical motherly duties.

"It is exhausting being a working mother but also a very rewarding job. I enjoy travelling with him and he is a fun baby I cannot really complain much."

GETTING IN BUSINESS

"I have always had an eye for beautiful things. In this case it was a matter of putting my best foot forward. I enjoyed getting my nails and hair done, but was very picky with what I wanted. The feeling of walking out a parlour feeling like a million bucks was priceless. That is when I decided that being a beautician was IT for me," she explains.

It is no secret that nowadays there are a number of people who are either selling hair or make-up artists. Natalie says what sets her apart is the fact that she puts her heart and soul in everything she does. "You are basically as good as your last gig. There are so many people in this industry, and the way things are evolving everyday it needs one to be on their toes in order to survive. I get turned down many times, criticised, it is a struggle but it builds me."

INSPIRATION

Natalie fell in love with Laque Nail Bar, which is based in California, according to her they are the ultimate parlour goals. That is where she draws most of her inspiration from. Locally she says she is inspired by every woman who is turning passion into business.

"And I commend it. The only competition one should have is their self. We learn a lot from each other, everyone has a story. Most importantly I love

that I get to meet many different people, and they walk out so happy. I also get to make people look gorgeous on their special functions. The feeling is priceless."

Social media also plays an important role in keeping up with latest trends. Natalie spends hours browsing through it just to get inspiration. "Currently I would say metallic nails are the way to go, more is less, white nails and toes are gorgeous, ombre nails, have been trending. A number of people are headed that direction."

NAIL CARE TIPS

- Wear gloves whilst doing household work
- Be careful when using insect repellents and sun lotions. Wipe clean after application
- Moisturise hands and nails daily
- Always apply a treatment base coat on bare nails to avoid chipping or breaking of nails.

Insta @theclawdistrictsz

Facebook @theclawdistrictsz
7661 3639/7846 5113



MIND THAT ERROR

ADIDI UYO



As I was settling down to start this review, one of those messages – you too receive them now and then, I'm sure – zinged into my cell phone.

This particular message happened to have something that is somehow related to what my mind was set to dwell upon, today – somehow related to ICOP, that is.

ICOP, let me say, first, stands for Incorrect Case Of Pronoun. And the first sentence of the message that came into my cell phone had many pronouns in it. It read: "We all have flaws, some more prominent than others, but we all do and anyone thinking that they don't are in denial."

Substantively, you'd agree, that's a very telling and sobering sentence. For one thing, it touches the essence of this column, as it reinforces the fact that we all are liable to erring, that we all are fallible. How can you forget that popular dictum, "To err is human"? Telling and sobering as that sentence was, it was flawed. So the first thing I tried to do after I read it was to figure out what must have caused the problem. The cause is something which grammarians call, "pronominal shift."

Seemingly, the writer was not mindful of this shift. But you can discover it, readily, if you take a close look at the sentence. You see, there are eight pronouns in the sentence. Seven of the pronouns are plural, and only one, "anyone," is singular. This might be too serious a term to use here, but this singular pronoun turns out to be the Achilles heel of the sentence: It is its fault line.

That very pronoun, as it exists in the construction, "anyone thinking that they don't are in denial," indeed smacks of what we may call a paradoxical problem. Although it is a shift to singular from the other seven pronouns which are plural, it does not make the writer remember that the verb which should follow it needs to also shift from plural to singular.

Put another way, the ambience of plurality in the sentence makes the writer fall into the trap of using

the plural verb, "are," instead of the singular form, "is," after the singular subject, "anyone." This is an error of subject-verb disagreement. The error of subject-verb disagreement disappears, immediately, when we make all the pronouns in the sentence plural. This is the revised sentence, with all the pronouns in capital letters: "WE ALL have flaws, SOME more prominent than OTHERS; but WE ALL do and THOSE who think that THEY don't are in denial." However, if want to retain the singular pronoun, "anyone," we may revise the sentence, as follows: "We all have flaws, some more prominent than others, but we all do; and anyone who thinks that HE (or SHE) doesn't IS in denial."

I don't know about you, but I consider the second revision quite cumbersome, if not awkward. All the same, all that we have been doing so far is sheer perambulation, for the error which is of interest to us today is not that of subject-verb disagreement, howbeit, between pronoun and verb, but the error which we have dubbed, ICOP, Incorrect Case Of Pronoun. Let's meet our first case of ICOP. It is taken from NEXT GOVT TO INHERIT SELF INFLICTED (sic) PROBLEMS, a commentary in the Times of Swaziland SUNDAY, October 29, 2017. The first paragraph of the piece follows; but it is actually the second sentence that is of interest to us, here – the first and third have been included only for the purposes of context.

The paragraph reads: "The current

government will be vacating office in the not too distant future as we are all aware that next year, the electorate will be going back to the polling stations. They will be going there to elect people who they would find fit to represent them in Parliament. From the elected, His Majesty the King will choose some members of Cabinet."

The second sentence contains four pronouns, "they," "who," "they," and "them." These four pronouns happen to include all the three traditional cases of pronouns, viz., nominative or subjective, objective, and possessive. But one of these pronouns is in error because its case is incorrect. So, which pronoun is not in the correct case: the first, second, third, or fourth?

You got it right! It is the second pronoun, "who." This pronoun, that is, "who," is incorrect, because it is not the subject of the sentence. It is indeed the element which is receiving the action from the subject of the sentence, which is the electorate, or the pronoun, "they."

The object of the sentence is, of course, "people," and "who" is a relative pronoun. As a relative pronoun, it needs to be in the same case as the noun that it is related to, that is, "people;" hence, it should be "whom." Accordingly, the sentence needs to be revised, thus: "They will be going there to elect people WHOM they would find fit to represent them in Parliament."

The pronoun, "who," will be correct, however, if we had a sentence like this: "They will be going there to

elect people WHO will [be found to] be fit to represent them in Parliament."

The correction we have just effected reminds us of the saying that, "You cannot have two captains in one ship." In grammatical terms, you cannot have two subjects in one sentence.

But that is exactly what you have here: "Who's fooling who?" This is the title of the second editorial in the City Press of April 30, 2017. The first "who" is the subject the interrogative sentence and it is the captain of the ship, so to say. Since there can be only one captain in the ship, the second "who" must bow out and become the object of the sentence: It must be in the objective case, "whom." Corrected, the title should read, "Who's fooling whom." I ASPIRE TO BE A JOURNALIST was the title of a feature in the Sunday Observer of September 3, 2017. The second paragraph of the article reads: "Feelings of anxiousness evoked as I sat patiently at the reception area. The thought of being surrounded by people WHO I don't know for five whole days dwelled on me. Although I am a social person, these were people way older than ME. I guess being unable to predict the outcome of this experience and being in a much more corporate environment compared to school could have induced those feelings." The two pronouns in capital letters are our main concern, so we shall not bother about other problems in the passage. The pronoun, "who," in the second sentence is like the case we have dealt with earlier on. It should be in the

objective case, not the subjective case.

Besides its ICOP, we must say, the sentence also contains another error – that of misplaced modifier. It may be revised, thus: "The thought of being surrounded FOR FIVE DAYS by people WHOM I don't know OVERAWED me." The error in the third sentence is the reverse of that in the second sentence. Whereas the pronoun in the second sentence is in error because its case is nominative instead of being objective, the pronoun in the third sentence is in error because its case is objective instead of being nominative.

It sounds rather awkward in a sentence, but the pronoun, "me," should be "I." The third sentence in that passage should be revised, thus: Although I am a social person, these were people way older than I."

We find the same error in the following sentence: "I think the lady who sells vegetables on the street is more productive than me." This is a sentence from an article in the Life Style magazine of the Sunday Times, July 10, 2016. The pronoun, "me," is in the incorrect case.

It should be in the subjective case, not the objective. So the sentence should read: "I think the lady who sells vegetables on the street is more productive than I."

If "I" sounds rather awkward to you, maybe making it "I am" will make it sound a bit better. But no matter how it sounds, a sentence that has no ICOP is always good music to the mind.

ICOP HERE, ICOP THERE, ICOP EVERYWHERE

EDUCATORS CORNER

With Gadinkosi Dube



CRIPPLING TALENT

The main reason why our learners can't exhaust their potential fully, stems out from the fear of failure which is instilled by most schools at a tender age.

I have seen educators in more than one occasion intimidating learners; telling them if they fail a particular module they will amount to nothing in life and threatening them with academic exclusion. Such incidents undermine the learner's ability and learners end up performing poorly regardless of how talented they are because of such parous behaviour exuded by the so called 'educator'.

SYLLABUS BOUND LEARNING

"You guys should be cooperative in class, don't be shy there's no wrong answer." I've heard the preceding statement countless times during my tenure as an elementary learner.

Surprising enough, learner performance has always been weighed and marked by using right or wrong symbols in our schools, with this practice dating back as far as the inception of formal education. It goes without saying that teachers

also find themselves obliged to adhere to syllabus mandates, although they understand the problem on the ground, that is not allowing students to learn from their mistakes or errors committed is indirectly denying them the opportunity to learn.

The biggest challenge that educators are faced with is completing the syllabus in time and this has been a major hindrance in facilitating meaningful learning. The idea of limiting learning within the scope of the syllabus make both our learners and educators less creative, more routine-based and less practical on their approach.

THE NEED TO FULFILL

PROCEDURAL UNDERTAKINGS

Many educators and those in the authoritative seats of educational institutions suffer from 'we've always done it like this' syndrome. Although many will acknowledge that new teaching and learning methods should be adopted by schools, they can't easily change since they've been accustomed to conventional practices and routine procedures.

It's funny how a number of industries have acclimatised to novel

WHY ARE SCHOOLS PUNISHING LEARNERS FOR THE MISTAKES AND ERRORS COMMITTED DURING THE LEARNING PROCESS?



practices and new technology over the years while schools still remain stuck with old technology and traditional ways of handling their business.

Because of following procedure many educators don't allocate time for proper feedback and assistance of learners with corrections. What's more important to educational institutions these days it's improving the pass rate and no one cares whether the educational content is tangible or meaningful.

LACK OF MOTIVATED LEARNERS

Learners nowadays lack the hunger and zeal for learning since educators constantly penalise them for making mistakes.

Learners have been indoctrinated to believe that excellent work is perfect work which is not the case in the real world. When one steps out of school into the working environment what counts more is how one learns from failure and the ability to rectify mistakes.

If we could teach our learners that in life stumbling blocks can also be used as stepping stones in achieving great results we would have given them the most valuable lesson at a very young age. Contrary to popular belief perfectionists are non-existent, most of those who make it big in life are those who embrace failure as part of life and learn from it.

The greatest value of failure is the lesson that comes with it hence that's why learning something new is a struggle and numerous mistakes are committed in the process. Therefore the idea of developing learners to become impeccable professionals in the labour market is farfetched and it will always be just that an idea.

WHY A-STUDENTS ARE OUTWITTED BY SECOND CLASS STUDENTS IN THE REAL WORLD.

The aforementioned discussion highlighted that learning something new comes through failure. I can also attest

to this premise since I have seen over the years how students who have failed a number of modules before graduating end up becoming competent working professionals.

What's even more surprising is that these average students or erstwhile repeaters also outsmart the A-students in the field of practice. Many professionals have attributed this kind of development to emotional maturity or emotional intelligence.

Most former repeaters develop emotional intelligence as they go through the learning process. These learners know how to handle failure and disappointment. However the A-student lives in a world of perfection where everything should automatically give a positive outcome and when things don't go their way they tend to crumble in the face of adversity, failure and disappointments.

HINDERING CREATIVITY

If learners are not motivated to learn, their horizons of thinking are limited and their innovative edge slowly dwindles into obscurity. This is the twenty-first century educational institutions should find ways on how learners could learn without being intimidated by the fear of failure. Failing should be treated as part of the learning process and proper feedback should be administered by educators to their learners on how remedial solutions can be implemented.



**NOKUKHANYA
GAMEDZE**

JA BOARD CHAIR

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT AND WHAT EVERY YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR SHOULD STRIVE TO ACCOMPLISH DURING GEW

An exciting commemoration of the importance of entrepreneurship across the continent will be hosted from November 13 - 19 in the form of Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW).

GEW is perceived as the world's largest celebration of the innovators and job creators who launch startups that bring ideas to life, drive economic growth, and expand human welfare. This celebration is hosted in 160 countries worldwide where thousands of events and competitions are hosted to signify the importance of entrepreneurship around the world. The mandate is to inspire millions to engage in entrepreneurial activity while connecting them to potential collaborators, mentors and even investors. JA Swaziland is the host organisation for all activities that are meant to commemorate GEW in Swaziland. Today, one will take time to dig a little deeper as to why such an activity is important and what young entrepreneurs should strive to accomplish during this week.

WHY IS GEW THEREFORE IMPORTANT?

Former president of the United States of America Barak Obama once said "with the help of experienced entrepreneurs and companies, and through events like Global Entrepreneurship Week... we can ensure our startups have access to the resources, connections and partnerships that will promote their success." Barack was a visionary president who identified the value of entrepreneurship and he identified that GEW is a strategic activity that is very crucial in forging strategic partnerships between established businesses and startups and mobilises resources that will ensure the success of startups. GEW is also very significant in assisting young startup owners to link with connections and forge partnerships that can ensure that small businesses thrive in this current economic climate. It is no secret that worldwide, there is serious concern over economic instability caused by so many factors such as global climate change, inflation and

so many issues. It becomes difficult for stable businesses to perform: startups are even more affected by this, and left with very little possibility to survive. It calls for collective efforts to be made to ensure that even startups have a fighting chance. This is where GEW becomes important where activities can cater for ensuring that stable businesses meet with small struggling businesses to forge partnerships that will be mutually beneficial.

GEW plays a pivotal role in revealing the importance of entrepreneurship in economic growth. Small businesses assist in driving the success of their communities. Most investors and town developers, first assess the availability of small businesses and the potential for expansion in any community before they can make a commitment towards establishing bigger businesses in that particular area. Investors become very skeptical to develop communities without any sign of life for small business owners. GEW therefore is able to connect these small business owners with potential investors and developers through different networking activities that provide a platform for open communication and identification of possible areas of collaboration. Such is very important in driving progress forward and in the development of businesses. Former US president, Bill Clinton supports this idea when he says "in today's challenging economic climate, entrepreneurs need



**JA Swaziland
Executive director attending a
Global
Entrepreneurship
Congress recently held in
Johannesburg.**

our support more than ever--and we need their success. Often, it is small entrepreneurs that drive economic growth in their communities, creating jobs and opportunities for people who need them most."

WHAT EVERY YOUNG PERSON SHOULD STRIVE TO ACCOMPLISH DURING GEW

About 53 per cent of young people in Swaziland are unemployed. These statistics indicate there is serious need for interventions that will provide empowerment to young people, ensuring that they claim their economic success through identifying entrepreneurship as a catalyst for their economic empowerment. There are quite a few things that I would like to encourage each young person, specifically those who are unemployed and those who are aspiring entrepreneurs, to accomplish during GEW.

Firstly, every young person should strive to learn something new that

will inspire them in terms of entrepreneurship. Education and knowledge empowers one to take the first step towards turning an idea into a real business. Lack of knowledge can also hinder one from pursuing so many avenues that can result in profits. It is therefore crucial that every young person invest in gaining knowledge on the business they might like to pursue. I am currently reading a book entitled Rich Dad, Poor Dad by Robert T. Kiyosaki. I challenge all young people, whether at home, looking for something to do, at school, aspiring entrepreneur to get this book and I can promise that it will transform their thinking towards entrepreneurship. It outlines how one can gain financial independence for the rest of their lives. This kind of knowledge can be very instrumental to inspire as well as get young people secure a very financial stable place in the economy. It is all centred around how one can make money work for

them through entrepreneurship. This and other books are the kind of knowledge that are crucial in adding value in the lives of young people. Make sure you take the chance to learn something new during GEW, that will kick start your entrepreneurial career.

Secondly, I challenge young people to utilise GEW to create networks that will assist them get their entrepreneurial journey started. Avail yourself to partake in some of the activities that will be formulated to celebrate entrepreneurship and these will provide an opportunity for one to meet with networks that can be crucial in the future. An entrepreneurial journey requires that one taps into a network of business people who can mentor, advise, partner and inspire an individual to persevere in the mist of challenges that maybe encountered along the way. The networks are also important in introducing an individual to the right people that might grow their business. Finally, one of the most important elements in growing a small business is finding a market. With all the activities that GEW will be providing, it becomes a perfect time to source out a market for young entrepreneurs. So many people seek to empower young people by providing them with business, however they do not seem to know how to go about it. I encourage young people to ensure that they do not miss opportunities to connect with potential clients through GEW.

FSE & CC ANALYSIS OF THE UN'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS WITHIN AN AFRICAN CONTEXT (PART TWO)

VOICE OF BUSINESS



In Africa, the dual commitment to the 2030 Agenda and to the implementation of the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 informs the vision and plan to build a more prosperous and sustainable Africa within the next 50 years. The importance of the AU Agenda 2063 is emphasised within the 2030 Agenda where it is considered as an integral part of achieving its goals.

In last week's edition, the Voice of Business laid out the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in the African and Swazi Context. Just to recap briefly: In 2015, the United Nations adopted a set of goals focused on ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring prosperity for all as vital components of a new sustainable development agenda. These goals have specific (169) targets to be achieved over the 15-year period 2015-2030 and require the committed and active participation of all sectors of society, including government, the

private sector, civil society and individuals. These goals form a critical component of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In Africa, the dual commitment to the 2030 Agenda and to the implementation of the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 informs the vision and plan to build a more prosperous and sustainable Africa within the next 50 years. The importance of the AU Agenda 2063 is emphasised within the 2030 Agenda where it is considered as an integral part of achieving its goals.

Below are the remaining 11 SDGs: SDG 7 aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for all. As the population continues to rise, more people will need cheap energy for their homes and businesses. The traditional power generation has a number of drawbacks; fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions are making drastic changes in the climate, leading to big problems on every continent.

Instead, Swaziland should strive to become more energy efficient and invest in clean energy sources such as

solar, wind and biomass. That way the country's energy needs will be met, while protecting the environment.

SDG8 promotes sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full employment as decent work for all. An important part of economic growth is that people have jobs that pay enough to support themselves and their families.

However there is the issue of widening inequalities and job growth that is not keeping pace with the growing labour force. Swaziland currently has an unemployment rate of 28.1 per

cent, the Voice of business believes that can be reduced by developing policies that encourage entrepreneurship and job creation.

SDG 9 seeks to build resilient infrastructure, promote industrialisation and foster innovation.

Technological progress helps address big global challenges such as creating jobs and becoming more energy efficient. The world is becoming ever more interconnected and prosperous thanks to Information, Communication and Technology (ICTs). The more connected people and businesses are, the more they can all benefit from. Bridging the digital divide, promoting sustainable industries and investing in scientific research and innovation are all important ways to facilitate sustainable development. A free and competitive ICT sector is therefore a strong prerequisite towards enabling innovation and investment.

SDG 10 aims to reduce inequality with and among countries. Income inequality is a global problem that



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FEAR OF SNAKES CONQUERED: A BLOG ON A VISIT TO NSANGWINI

Swaziland Tourism Authority (STA)'s friend and now certified tour guide, Jenny Bowen, recently led a group of six visiting English tourists under the Undiscovered Destinations' maiden trip to Swaziland.

Part of their itinerary was visiting the now famous Nsangwini Rock Art, at Maguga area in Hhohho, and they were guided by local guide Sipiwe. The calmness of her guests made her conquer her fear of snakes, which are just part of the natural habitat of most Swazi, if not African jungles. In her monthly blog, Jenny narrates the story and shares her new knowledge about Nsangwini Rock Art. She writes:

"Our guide Sipiwe yelled 'Snake, snake!' as she barrelled down the rocky trail towards us, like a bowling ball in a skittle alleyway. We leapt out of her way as she bombarded past us leaving a trail of destruction; guests in the bushes either side and her shoes on the path near to where she had seen the snake. Yes, we saw it on the way down in the same place. It's OK, it has gone now, said Enid calmly.

I had not seen it but obviously there was a resident snake on the trail and Sipiwe was not overly impressed by the whole idea. We carefully retrieved Sipiwe's shoes and handed them back to our hyperventilating guide.

Apparently, most Swazis are not that keen on snakes. Which is not surprising considering the Big Seven in Swaziland are the seven deadly snakes found there; puff adder, Mozambique spitting cobra, snouted cobra, rinkal, black mamba, boomslang and vine snake.

We checked the path for the snake

"Our guide Sipiwe yelled 'Snake, snake!' as she barrelled down the rocky trail towards us, like a bowling ball in a skittle alleyway. We leapt out of her way as she bombarded past us leaving a trail of destruction; guests in the bushes either side and her shoes on the path near to where she had seen the snake. Yes, we saw it on the way down in the same place. It's OK, it has gone now, said Enid calmly.



and gingerly walked past the rocks where it had slithered off to. No doubt the snake was more scared of us, although I did have to rethink this looking at Sipiwe, who was still breathing heavily and wiping a sweaty brow. The fact that she had not broken into a sweat walking down to the Rock Art, or back up, was testament to her fear of snakes.

Origins of Nsangwini Rock Art

That morning we had decided to visit the Rock Art of Nsangwini, it is a bit of a mission to get to as the roads are quite rough and ragged. It also can be quite confusing as it is sign posted as Rock Art but it is in fact Rock Painting. There are so many carvings for sale on the side of the road I am sure many a tourist has been confused by the out-

come. The Nsangwini Rock Shelter is the largest example of San art in the country and is said to provide the most comprehensive display in Swaziland.

After a serious downhill hike – imagine walking on marbles and this will give a good picture of the terrain, and with an initial visit from the snake on the path, we arrived at the Rock Art, an overhang of rock forming a shelter from the elements.

You would be forgiven if your first thought was "Was that worth it?" To begin with it looks as though there is nothing there, but then you start to notice the paintings and suddenly they are everywhere – on the walls, boulders and the ceiling. Some of the figures are large and crude, there is a big elephant, indicating that this was a rainmaking site, as well as some small and exquisitely painted figures with human bodies, bird wings and praying mantis heads. Very peculiar.

4000 years ago, the San people (also known as Bushmen) used the area for experiences, visions and dreams and for recording iconic moments in their lives through etchings on ancient rocks. The paintings are a poignant link with the past, depicting scenes from a lifestyle which remained virtually unchanged for thousands of years.

The caves were discovered in 1955 and although, not realised at the time, this find contained the most diverse subject matter anywhere in Swaziland. Dating the paintings has proved tricky: they could be anything from 400 to 4000 years old.

Sipiwe began to recount the history around the pictures. She pointed out the only rock art blue wildebeest south of the Zambezi, is unique to Swaziland paintings. There are two blue wildebeest with

a very tall elongated human figure between them. They have been identified as blue wildebeest from their body profiles and by the way they are holding their heads. They could be confused with black wildebeest or buffalo, but the former has distinct curved horns and the latter has a much heavier body and more solid horns. It is thought that they may represent ancestral spirits, special to the people associated with this rock shelter.

More intriguing are the human figures. Some are clearly hunters, walking in line bearing spears.

The most unusual drawing consists of figures who are in a trance dance who are thought to be shaman initiates moving right and entering the 'power' world through a fissure in the rock. This crack represents the division between material and spiritual worlds. Below are two winged figures in dark red monochrome, who could possibly be transformed shamans indicating the entrance to the spirit world behind the rock face. To the right of this vertical fissure the figures are supernaturally tall, the hunters having undergone a transformation as they pass over into the spirit world. The Swazis have a strong belief about the powers of their ancestors which is depicted here as art.

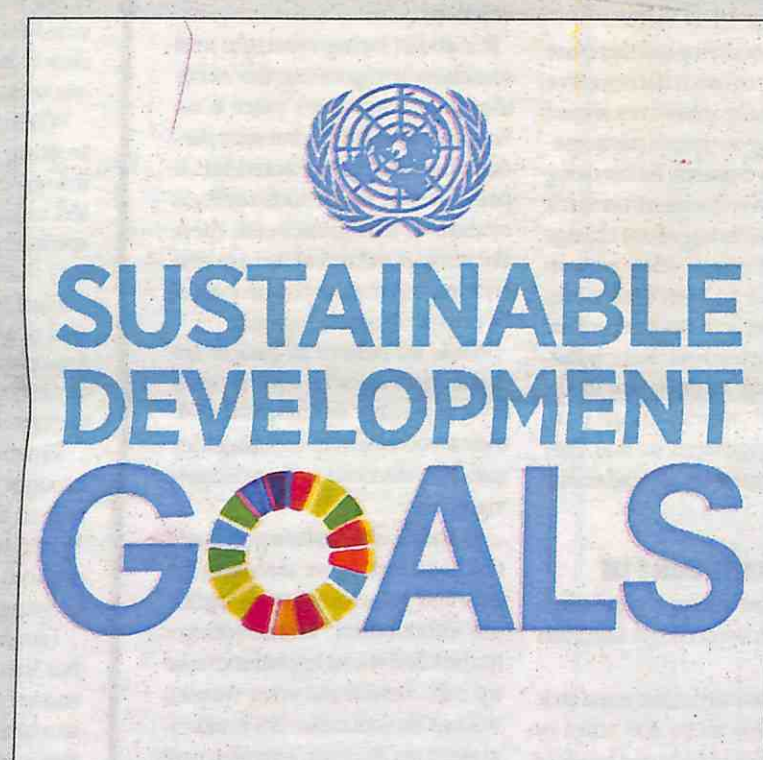
The work has been executed with amazing delicacy and precision using red ochre and animal blood. Given the ravages of time, it seems little short of miraculous that it has survived at all, let alone with such colour and clarity. If you want to see the Rock Art then make sure you are wearing sturdy shoes and be prepared for a steep climb down and up on a rocky path. It is worth it though, this is Swaziland's finest rock art and is believed to have been completed by bushmen in a shamanic trance."

requires global solutions. That means improving the regulation of financial markets and institutions; sending development aid where it is most needed and helping people migrate safely so they can pursue opportunities.

SDG11 seeks to make cities and human settlements safe, resilient and sustainable.

To make cities sustainable for all we can create good affordable public housing. The Voice of Business commends organisations including the Municipal Council of Mbabane who have implemented quality management systems (ISO 9001) that have paved the way for creating sustainable cities. Further investment in upgrading the public transport systems and creating green spaces, among other initiatives, is needed in order to realise the goal.

SDG12 hopes to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. Policies to be developed and enforced to ensure Swaziland manages her natural resources more efficiently and disposes of toxic waste better and reduces and recycles waste.



SDG 13 takes urgent action to combat climate change and its impact. Every country is seeing the drastic effects of climate change. It is through

sheer political will and technological measures that the country can limit the increase in global mean temperatures to 2 degrees Celsius above

pre-industrial levels and thus avoid the worst effects of climate change.

SDG14 seeks to conserve marine resources for sustainable development.

Even landlocked countries such as Swaziland cannot live without the sea and the maritime industries that are created when the marine environment is thriving.

SDG 15 aims to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. Humans and other animals rely on other forms of life on the land for food, clean air, and clean water and as a means of combatting climate change. Plant life makes up about 80 per cent of human diet.

However the land and life on it are in trouble. Arable land is disappearing, deserts are spreading. Given the fact that Swaziland is to an extent an agrarian based economy, it is vital that the ministry of natural resources and energy, in collaboration with the ministry of agriculture drive the agenda to mobilise resources to conserve and sustainably use the ecosystem.

SDG 16 promotes peace, justice and strong institutions. This goal aims to reduce all forms of violence and propose that government and communities find lasting solutions to conflict and insecurity. That means strengthening the rule of law and promoting good governance.

SDG 17 speaks to strengthening the means of implementation of global partnerships. As mentioned the world is more interconnected today than ever before, thanks to the internet, travel and global institutions. The goal lays out a way for nations to work together to achieve all the 16 Sustainable Goals.

The government of Swaziland has the primary responsibility for follow up and reviews in relation to progress made in implementing the Goals and target over the next few years. Nevertheless, the Voice of Business also calls upon to be more involved in the development agenda. That could mean providing quality, accessible, timely and reliable data to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one person is left behind.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND WOMEN IN CIVIC LEADERSHIP POSITIONS: HOW ARE WE FARING?

...Is this not an indication that the Swazi populace is still struggling with women leadership? Are we still being held captive by the notion that women's place is in the kitchen? Something is seriously wrong here and the gender activists must realise we are doomed and there will definitely be no women in Parliament come 2018. Where are we missing the plot good people?



By Comfort Mabuza

Now that the local government elections are done and dusted, we should be disappointed that not many women become counsellors in the various municipalities around the country.

While we rejoice Ezulwini's feat with so many women taking charge there, certainly there is absolutely nothing to celebrate in other towns.

Women representation is a disaster in all municipalities as they are dominated by men again. Imagine, in Manzini, only Jabu Shiba managed to squeeze through with less than 50 votes! If this is indicative of what is to come in the forthcoming national elections in 2018, then we should be anxious that gender mainstreaming and women in civic leadership positions is not bearing the desired fruit.

Is this not an indication that the Swazi populace is still struggling with women leadership? Are we still being held captive by the notion that a women's place is in the kitchen? Something is seriously wrong here and gender activists must realise we are doomed and there will definitely be no women in Parliament come 2018. Where are we missing the plot good people? Is it a cultural stereotype phenomenon that the Swazi populace still believe more in men than women?

We should be afraid, very afraid, of these clear indications that the Swazi populace is not ready to endorse women into leadership positions.

Is this a vote of no confidence for our women or are we still held captive to the thinking that women are not capable enough for meaningful roles in civic leadership positions? What about the numerous efforts by NGO empowerment initiatives?

Are women not equally capable? Last time I checked, we are all born equal and free, and no one sex should dominate the other and relegate it to mere spectators and

followers. The situation should not degenerate to a level where men dominate, manipulate and control women forever. All this must come to a complete stop. This is a human rights issue that must be engaged, women deserve better treatment and recognition. To what extent has the socialisation process perverted the democratic ideals of Swaziland?

THE PROBLEM

The honest reality is that gender mainstreaming processes are not given the due national priority, therefore we are doomed my friends. The gender unit under the deputy prime minister's office is just a mere department with not enough resources and capacity to bring about any meaningful change in Swaziland as the country's patriarchy tendencies has rendered gender mainstreaming as merely a women's thing.

The SADC Protocol on Gender and Development was evaluated at the SADC Heads of States Summit in 2015 with limited success, milestones and inroads by the way. There is a growing concern that the country is lagging far behind in meeting the targets set when the national Gender Policy was adopted way back in 2010. In the absence of a leading ministry of gender, it remains a great source of concern that the gender unit at the deputy prime minister's office is still not fully capacitated; it seemingly lacks the resources to spearhead and drive this process with great success.

Gender activists are therefore facing an uphill battle to sensitise members of the public and to ensure that the set benchmarks are met and scaled up in the country. We certainly are not taking women seriously and this continued domination by men cannot be allowed to continue.

It cannot be business as usual, something must be done to reverse this abnormality. Women are complete human beings deserving respect.

Are we going to sit down feeling defeated when 2018 national elections are already around the corner?

Good people, this is a national problem and a human rights issue. Women deserve much more recognition.

WOMEN REPRESENTATION AT CIVIC LEADERSHIP

It is high time that gender issues making them become integral part of the national development agenda. It is perhaps high time that women are given space and opportunity to rise up to civic leadership roles in the country and be champions of change and transformation even though there are presently many bottlenecks suppressing women and they remain marginalized and side-lined on issues that affect them.

If women representation in civil leadership is so wanting then it certainly is worrying that there is seemingly no political will by government to achieve the agreed targets come 2018. As things stand, gender activists are faced with the huge challenging task of going all out to sensitise the greater population through aggressive interventions and strategic mechanisms aimed at ensuring women voices are heard.

It is high time that gender issues become an integral part of the national development agenda. It is perhaps high time that women are given the space and opportunity to rise up to civic leadership roles in the country to enable them to become champions of change and transformation even though there are presently many bottlenecks suppressing women and they remain marginalised and side-lined on issues that affect them.

The urgent rallying call therefore is - come out with alternative empowerment initiatives aimed at enhancing women's participation and involvement. Accelerating women's involvement on such issues should bring about change and transformation where women are voted for to civic leadership levels. Gender activists must ensure that there is grass root mass mobilisation where women are given equal opportunities through purposeful engagement so that they are represented in all leadership levels.

FIGURES DON'T LIE

I have tallied the figures and compared them accordingly and I am shocked.

How can someone become a civic leader with a mere 200 votes or less? We should hide our heads in shame because we are being led by people who have no support from the bigger percentage of people living in the urban areas. Of

course we will make noises about the fact that people who own properties are not that many.

Well what about the broader population, because most of these urban areas have thousands of people living in them. One would have expected that at least a deserving councillor should be a person who attracted at least a thousand votes not these dwindling and shrinking numbers.

Well let's be very honest, people are not interested in local government and as far as I am concerned, this affirms that our population is not ready to embrace democracy ideals to choosing leadership. Perhaps, we must be honest, the Swazi population has apathy about election participation. This to me is indicative of a deeper complex issue needing to be unpacked. The reason for the poor turnout is surely pointing to the fact that democracy ideals need and to be examined thoroughly. Why is the Swazi population restrained and not ensuring women's participation and support? Let us revisit civic education and how best we can add value in ensuring women participation and involvement in the forthcoming national elections.

VOTE FOR WOMEN

Those who work in the NGO sector and human rights empowerment initiatives have laboured so hard to ensure that women are assisted to get involved in leadership positions without much success. This is not a discriminatory agenda but affirms that women who are marginalised are forever denied support and they should be set free and liberated.

We certainly believe that the 'vote for Women' campaign should not be seen as discriminatory but rather affirming women as equally capable and competent. However, with no support from the UN system as well as central government itself, we should be mourning at how we have lost a great opportunity to ensure that women vote and are voted for.

It's about being strategic and somehow invigorating the noble ideal that a women's place is no longer in the kitchen but seen participating and being voted for. It pains us that when such reality is evident of this great need, there are entities who feel we are discriminating men in the process of "Vote for Women" agenda.

While we believe all people are equal, there must be a purposeful drive to engage women and seek their involvement in ensuring they stand for elections and participate vigorously.

As the results are being analysed one has a feeling we are losing the plot, and yet we need to be aggressive without delay. Women deserve the best and it's an opportune wake up call, Swaziland your women will not do well come 2018 national elections. Women's involvement in elections is a human rights matter and we are determined to push it as part of ensuring equal participation and recognition. This too is a human rights agenda.



JOY NDWANDWE'S ZONE LEADERSHIP

My spiritual and academic journey, a fascinating merging old soul, LaZidze and the life of Joy Dumsile Ndwandwe - researcher and African Renaissance activist.

Evidently, immersing Joy and emadloti 'ancestors' into research, a journey that began as classic midlife crises when retiring at 42 years. Walking away from municipal finance and urban development, my ego driven passion, which began with a Diploma in Business Studies and Accounting, later Bachelor of Commerce. This was my second choice after returning from Nigeria, visiting my mother, who was studying at the University of Ibadan. Where I saw Professor Wale Soyinka, teach arts and drama, and my soul was set on fire

When I shared this passion with my grandfather, he said 'you wish to amuse people', the Bachelor of Commerce served my grandfather providing him accounting and finance advice, as a businessman and property owner.

TRUST IN GOD

Studying accounting opened my eyes and ears to numerous opportunities, such that when I can say I am an African Renaissance activist. This is based on having got my hands dirty in modernity, which has its bases in accounting, economics, finance, infrastructure and service delivery or taxation, which we all struggle to pay.

Therefore when I retired, going against the bases of modernity, today I testify, have survived by trusting God. I always reflect on how the US Dollar bill has the words God we Trust etched on it, money is the baseline data of modernity. As a former modernity expert with extensive experience rooted in well-resourced, cities like Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban. Cutting ties with money required trust in God, which God, as the US Dollar is already trusting in God, in all its modernity and who am I to trust God without money.

Trust in God does not require money but resilience for trusting God, to provide spiritual guidance and protection. This spiritual and academic journey merging Joy and LaZidze, has been based on trusting God, as no amount of money could have bought me this path. Going against modernity, cannot be achieved when money is the dominate paradigm, hence sacrificing money requires trust in God. God provided this time to reconstruct my lenses and see clearly how we circumvent and short change our trust in God.

When we trust money, we cannot experience trusting God, as God wishes to transmute us into gold when we go against modernity. I studied money as baseline for modernity and my spiritual path required going against, the modernity that I studied.

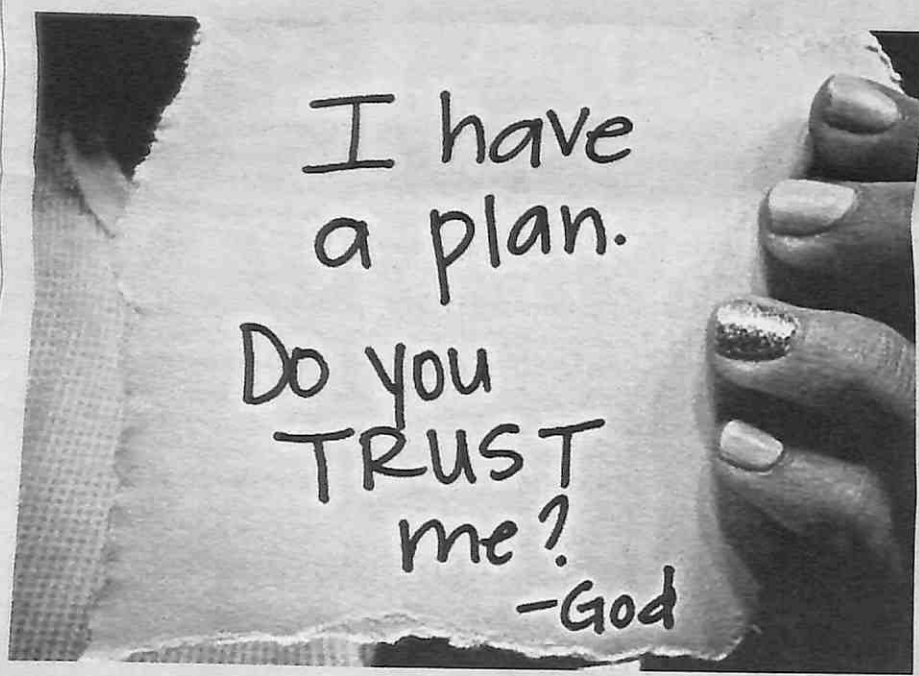
Trust in God, is the baseline for my spiritual and academic journey, which has taught me how money has limitations. And how modernity is not the ultimate experience we have come to experience on earth.

Trusting God, is the journey we have been brought into the world to enjoy, and not modernity as the dominate paradigm advocates for. When we trust God, we can enjoy modernity without it being a dominate paradigm but as a blessing from God.

I studied accounting and I understand money, but this does not mean there is no life without money. God wishes all of us to relate with money as a blessing and not as the dominate paradigm, this is where we have lost the plot. Modernity is defining us, our relationships, our career paths and most significantly our religious choices and path.

Thus begging me to state, 'trust in God, not

TRUST IN GOD OR TRUST FUNDS?



in trust funds.'

TRUST FUNDS

Trust funds are trending as we have all embraced modernity as the dominate paradigm, such that, trusting in God must manifest in trust funds. Many people ask me whether my research and publications have been funded by trust funds, essentially the intrigue is whether I am a trust fund baby. I have never been a trust fund candidate, as at birth I did not choose rich parents that would leave me trust funds. But I have lived an enriching upbringing, such that after turning 16 years, was exposed to Professor Wale Soyinka in Nigeria, when searching for possible career paths. The arts and drama that was unpalatable to my grandfather, but I had other opportunities to inquire. The late Professor Sam Guma, Professor of African languages did not escape my inquiry on why indigenous knowledge was not then and continues to be sidelined as academic knowledge.

I probed and conducted what evidently looks like baseline inquiry into what has manifested as my spiritual and academic journey, over the past 40 years. I had no trust fund when I was mentored by my spiritual guru, Dr Steven Hlophe, but this was my trust in God - accessing resources. I accessed tremendous human resources within the Jewish community, such that I have been exposed as if I had a trust fund. Trusting in God has been my trust fund, I access invaluable resources that support my spiritual and academic path.

I am studying towards a doctorate, and yet I have no trust fund, but trust in God enabled me to access resources from South African National Research Foundation. These resources are not accessible to me because of my family and connections, however these resources are my trust fund from God.

God has trust funds for all of us, but do we trust God or money, the baseline for modernity? Right now I have motivated interest in the establishment of the proposed Academy of African Leadership. God is opening opportunities for me to access my trust fund from God, as I have sacrificed money and modernity to be of service to humanity. Undergoing humiliation and sacrifice is required to access God's trust funds, for God was testing my trust. I am overwhelmed when people get excited that I have survived the entrapments of modernity, whilst living in a country where sex,

money, greed and materialism is the dominate paradigm. It's humbling to know that I have been watched to see whether I will crumble, and I have survived. God has been placing resources in my path, evidence of how these trust funds from God, have always had my name written on them.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, when King Sobhuza II said 'utakuhlekwa live utokwati umhlaba' this speech has always been my source of motivation on trusting in God. I have been through 'kukhlekwa' the humiliation, mockery, and laughing stock labelled failure. What my enemies and detractors failed to understand is that I was learning to live, and living to learn 'kwati umhlaba.' Knowing earth requires trusting God, as God teaches by guiding and protecting us during extremely turbulent and vulnerable moments. To go against and survive the modernity one studied and affirmed, is mission impossible unless trusting God to access resources for teenage passion. I was never the 'A' student because the education system was not designed for my soul. Hence trusting in God to guide and protect me such that my soul can experience this academic and spiritual journey as LaZidze and Joy. To create a legacy that will enable those non-A students to excel, and second changes for 'tidvomu' to express passion. Thus enabling their souls to research what FNB Mbingo at SEC 2017 coined as 'non-technology innovation.' This proposed academy is a manifestation of my quest to study with Professor Soyinka and probing the late Professor Guma. Thus creating knowledge production, creation and disseminating space on pedagogy and epistemology of the cradle of humanity. My trust fund from God being shared with my African trust babies, evidence of trust in God.

Trusting God, is the journey we have been brought into the world to enjoy, and not modernity as the dominate paradigm advocates for. When we trust God, we can enjoy modernity without it being a dominate paradigm but as a blessing from God.



THE RED PEN

Phila Dlamini-Vilakati

RUSSION ROULETTE

Russian roulette is a deadly game in which a person loads a single bullet in the cylinder of a revolver; spins the cylinder so that the location of the bullet is unknown; points the weapon placing the muzzle against their head, and pulls the trigger.

It is lethal game of chance. Roulette in itself refers to the element of risk-taking whereby the outcome is not known and in fact can be fatal. Who in their good mind can play such a stupid game? I would relate this game to the risk of taking drugs. Most of us do not know the real truth about substance abuse and the best way to convey the truth about drugs is through the words of those who have "been there."

As an educator... I feel obligated at all times to shed some light to my students on many things other than teaching English Language alone. We were discussing drugs the other day and I realised many adults themselves get involved because they did not actually know the truth. Most of us only got stern warnings from our parents not to drink and smoke but they never clearly explain the real facts against such habits.

Well here it goes... HOW DO DRUGS WORK?

Drugs are essentially poisons. The amount taken determines the effect. A small amount acts as a stimulant (speeds you up). A greater amount acts as a sedative (slows you down). An even larger amount poisons and can kill. This is true of any drug. Only the amount needed to achieve the effect differs. But many drugs have another liability: they directly affect the mind. They can distort the user's perception of what is happening around him or her. As a result, the person's actions may be odd, irrational, inappropriate and even destructive.

Drugs block off all sensations, the desirable ones with the unwanted. So, while providing short-term help in the relief of pain, they also wipe out ability and alertness and muddy one's thinking. Medicines are drugs that are intended to speed up or slow down or change something about the way your body is working, to try to make it work better. Sometimes they are necessary. But they are still drugs: they act as stimulants or sedatives, and too much can kill you. So if you do not use medicines as they are supposed to be used, they can be as dangerous as illegal drugs.

WHY DO PEOPLE TAKE DRUGS?

People take drugs because they want to change something in their lives.

Here are some of the reasons young people have given for taking drugs:

- To fit in
- To escape or relax
- To relieve boredom
- To seem grown up
- To rebel
- To experiment

They think drugs are a solution. But eventually, the drugs become the problem.

Difficult as it may be to face one's problems, the consequences of drug use are always worse than the problem one is trying to solve with them.

The real answer is to get the facts and not to take drugs in the first place.

One lie told about drugs is that they help a person become more creative. The truth is quite different.

Someone who is sad might use drugs to get a feeling of happiness, but it does not work. Drugs can lift a person into a fake kind of cheerfulness, but when the drug wears off, he or she crashes even lower than before. And each time, the emotional plunge is lower and lower. Eventually, drugs will completely destroy all the creativity a person has. When teens were surveyed to find out why they

started using drugs in the first place, 55% replied that it was due to pressure from their friends. They wanted to be cool and popular. Dealers know this.

They will approach you as a friend and offer to "help you out" with "something to bring you up." The drug will "help you fit in" or "make you cool."

Drug dealers, motivated by the profits they make, will say anything to get you to buy their drugs.

They will tell you that "cocaine will make your life a party" and that "heroin is a warm blanket." If you take Ecstasy, "you can be with a lot of girls."

They don't care if the drugs ruin your life as long as they are getting paid. All they care about is money. Former dealers have admitted they saw their buyers as "pawns in a chess game."

Get the facts about drugs. Make your own decisions.

Prolonged use causes long-lasting and perhaps permanent damage to the brain, affecting the person's judgment and thinking ability. Sooner or later the person becomes an addict. I have had the privilege of spending some time with recovered addicts. I have realised that by telling their stories, they can pass on what they have learned so that others avoid going down the same path.

I have shared these stories with my students who engage in substances already. For some reason the lifestyle fascinates you. You think it's going to be fun; a very dangerous road to go down. It's like playing Russian Roulette with your life, you have no idea what you're getting yourself into.

No matter what the initial reason is for a person to start taking drugs, the end result is invariably the same—disaster. As educators, we want to help the youth stay clear of drugs and we need to reach them before the dealers do. If the dealers have beat us to it, we have to reach our children before they get addicted, because now... that's another story altogether!!!

THE FOUR ROOTS OF ADDICTION

Tolerance | more of the substance needed to feel the same effect,

Dependence | a person is no longer able to function without the drug. They become physically addicted to the chemical of choice.

Dysphoria | excessive negativity; may cause a person to relapse in order to gain control of emotions

Sensitisation | greater responsiveness to a drug, which is what makes people more likely to relapse if they have gone for a period of time without using.

There is still so much misunderstanding and stigma around addiction. In the past, the addict was dismissed as being "weak-willed" or having poor control. There has been a long standing debate whether addiction is a choice or a disease. You don't really know the difference until you are directly involved.

Addiction, Doctors say, is "the only disease that tells the sufferer he doesn't have a disease."

Many believe addiction is not a disease because it's caused by the person's choice to use drugs and/or alcohol. That's true. The first time is a choice. But keep this in mind- nobody wakes up and says, "I'm going to be an addict today". Left to choice, no one would ever choose to live as an addict. But there is one choice addicted persons make. That's how long they will stay sick. While addiction may not be a choice, recovery is. The trouble is, the addicted person isn't in their right mind, so sometimes families may have to step in and make that choice for them. Addiction is hell both for the person caught up in it and the family who loves them.

There are many myths about addiction. One is that the addicted person needs to hit rock bottom before they realise they need help. The other is that; addicts must want to get well. I have since learnt that most patients who are in rehab find that they are there because they'd run out of options or their family intervened.

Whether addiction is a disease, a brain injury, a mental illness or a choice, no amount of yelling, nagging, pleading, cajoling, rewarding, or controlling, will help. In order for someone to want to change, there must be consequences. Consequences are what motivate change. If your person is resistant, involve professionals. There are many resources available to you. Get people involved. Do not attempt to try and do this alone. Remember your loved one is not at their best right now. Don't expect them to be happy you're confronting their illness or setting healthy boundaries. They will thank you for it later. Addiction is a very treatable illness. With the right help, addicted persons can and do recover.

Focus on SA scene

SAFTU angered at wage hike for politicians

JOHANNESBURG – The South African Federation of Trade Unions (SAFTU) has expressed anger at reports that the Independent Commission for the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers is recommending a four per cent salary increase backdated to April for the highest-paid state officials.

"If the increase is agreed, President [Jacob] Zuma's salary will rise from nearly R2.9 million a year, to just under R3 million a year, [Deputy President Cyril] Ramaphosa's from

R2.7 million to R2.8 million. All 35 ministers will get R2.4 million a year, and their deputies R2 million," SAFTU said in a statement.

National Assembly Speaker Baleka Mbete and National Council of Provinces Chairperson Thandi Modise would each earn R2.8 million, while Mmusi Maimane, as leader of the opposition, and ANC chief whip Jackson Mthembu were each set to earn R1.5 million and premiers R2.2 million.

"MPs will get a bigger percentage

increase of 4.5 per cent, which will take their salary to nearly R1.1 million. Mayors' salaries are set to jump by R56 000 to R1.3 million. And judges and kings are also all in line for rises."

Cabinet

Yet this news came in the same week in which Cabinet approved the National Minimum Wage Bill which would "condemn millions of workers to live in poverty on R20 an hour, or R3 500 a month."

"These news encapsulate every-

thing that is wrong with the way wealth is distributed in South Africa," SAFTU said.

Unemployment

Political leaders who were responsible for the economic crisis – which had led to the highest level of unemployment in 14 years, to more than half the population living below the poverty line, and to the creation of the most unequal society in the world – would continue to live in luxury while the poorest South Africans and "the workers who create the country's wealth are forced to patriotically tighten their belts and pay the price for this crisis of which they are

the victims, not the cause".

"What makes this news even more sickening is the flood of allegations that many of the people who will be receiving these increases have already been receiving far more than their official salaries through their part in the looting of the state coffers through bribery, tender manipulation, mismanagement of state-owned enterprises and colluding with private business to rob the state of billions of rand. And now the workers and the poor are being presented with the bill for these lost billions," SAFTU said.

African News Agency

JACKSON MTHEMBU, MP ANC ALLIANCE PARTNERS BACK RAMAPHOSA

JOHANNESBURG – African National Congress (ANC) Chief Whip in Parliament Jackson Mthembu and the Mpumalanga leadership of the ruling party's three alliance partners, praised Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, saying he was an ideal candidate for the organisation's presidential position.

"Here is a leader who held two positions in the top six of the ANC as secretary general [in the past] and now as deputy president. He never stole from the government. He never stole from the public purse," Mthembu said while addressing a crowd of about 3 000 ANC members inside a hall in Witbank in Mpumalanga.

Speaking during the same event, Nkangala regional chairwoman of the South African National Civic Organisation, Conny Nkalitshana, appealed to the members of her organisation to fully participate in the ANC's branch general meetings (BGMs) and nominate Ramaphosa for the presidential position. "We choose Cyril because we need someone with courage. We want someone with dignity, not someone who is going to work for his home," said Nkalitshana.

Provincial Chairman of the South



ANC Chief Whip in Parliament Jackson Mthembu.

African Communist Party (SACP) Bonakele Majuba also used the opportunity to take a swipe at President Jacob Zuma, saying he must step down as president of the country.

He said SACP General Secretary Blade Nzimande was axed from his position as minister of higher education and training in a recent Cabinet reshuffle because the "SACP was fighting cor-

ruption".

"The person who reshuffled the GS [Nzimande] was supposed to reshuffle himself. That is why we are saying President Zuma must leave as soon as possible." Mpumalanga provincial chairman of Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) Solly Phetoe said Ramaphosa was the only person who would unite the ANC. *News24*

Reconfigure the alliance or we rebel - Popcru president

PRETORIA – If the proposal for a reconfigured alliance is not accepted by the ANC, we are going to rebel, Popcru President Zizamele Cebekhulu said in his address yesterday.

Cebekhulu said workers will not give presidential hopeful Cyril Ramaphosa a blank cheque but rather, if he succeeds President Jacob Zuma, he should ensure that the ANC led alliance is renewed.

The SACP and COSATU have been calling for a renewed alliance which will give all parties equal decision-making powers.

Partners

For the past three years the two alliance partners have called for an alliance which will collectively monitor the implementation of policy and decide on deployment, which can also call ministers to account.

News24

Students deserve free tertiary education - Ramaphosa

EMALAHLENI – Students at tertiary institutions deserve free education, Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa said on Friday.

His comments come as tensions continue to rise at tertiary institutions, with students demanding that President Jacob Zuma release the Fees Commission report, while others have stated that they would not pay any fees in the 2018 academic year.

"There is nothing wrong with students demanding free education and, in fact, it is something that our children deserve," he said. Ramaphosa, however, did not give details of Judge Jonathan Herer's recommendations following the commission's investigation of the feasibility of free tertiary education. The report was discussed at Wednesday's

Cabinet meeting. "The president, the government will come out with an announcement to say how we are going to face this challenge. We must wait for the report... what we want is for our young people to be skilled," he said.

Acknowledged

Ramaphosa was in Emalahleni, Mpumalanga, addressing a hall packed with hundreds of the ANC presidential hopeful's supporters. He acknowledged that tertiary education was expensive and out of the reach for poor families, most of whom, he said, were part of the high number of unemployed in the country.

"Students want free education because their parents are struggling. The fees of universities and technikons are too high," he said to applause from his audience.

News24

Don't share pirated Jacob Zuma book - Publisher

JOHANNESBURG – The publisher of a new book detailing allegations of corruption involving President Jacob Zuma has appealed to the public not to share pirated copies.

NB Publishers says illegal copies of *The President's Keepers* are being distributed on social media.

This as the State Security Agency and the South African Revenue Service's (SARS) attempt to get the book withdrawn.

The author, publisher as well as *Exclusive Books* have promised the public that the book has not been banned. They said they will fight attempts to stop distribution.



NB Publishers urged the public to buy the book in stores or electronically if physical copies are sold out.

More copies are being printed to meet the overwhelming demand, publishers

confirmed.

The book, written by investigative journalist Jacques Pauw, has been flying off the shelves since attempts to remove the book emerged. *eNCA*



Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Focus on SA scene

SOUTH AFRICA READY FOR A FEMALE PRESIDENT: MAHLANGU-NKABINDE

JOHANNESBURG - As the African National Congress (ANC)'s leadership race gains momentum, debate is also intensifying on what gender the party leader should be.

Former National Assembly Speaker, Gwen Mahlangu-Nkabinde says both the country and the ANC are ready for a female president.

Her comment comes at the time when ANC Member of Parliament Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa are front-runners for party president. However,

there are perceptions that Dlamini-Zuma really is a front for her former husband, President Jacob Zuma.

"I think the ANC has a lot of potential when it comes to women. We were all trained; we have all been given an opportunity to be sharpened. There are many women who are ready, they can take over. I will be very happy if women win on merit not on the ticket of being a woman but on being the best candidates South Africa has," adds Mahlangu-Nkabinde.

SABC NEWS



Former National Assembly Speaker, Gwen Mahlangu-Nkabinde.

SABC salary increase dispute yet to reach conclusion

JOHANNESBURG - The SABC and unions are yet to reach an agreement over wage increases.

The public broadcasters' executives were locked in meetings with shop stewards from the Broadcasting, Electronic, Media and Allied Workers Union (BEMAWU) and Communications Workers Union (CWU). The demand is for a 10% to 15% salary increase.

BEMAWU's spokesperson Hanno Bekker says "We met the SABC yesterday where we locked into a meeting the entire day and they (SABC executives) arrived with absolutely no mandate to settle our dispute of the 0% salary increment. However, they proposed that they would only offer salary increases in the next financial year and the board would be reckless if they put an offer on the table for something that they don't have and that they cannot honour."

Bekker said the mere fact the public broadcaster is committing itself to negotiations is a clear indication that it has the financial power to increase employees' salaries.

"We are then of the view that the SABC has money that they have set aside for salary increases so we then requested to revise the offer and instead of



offering us (salary increases) for the next financial year.

We asked them to make that offer to us formally so that we can start negotiating around that.

"There is no deadline for these current negotiations because our members are still on strike and there are no consequences then what is already happening at the SABC... so it's for them to speed up and come back to us as soon as possible," added Bekker.

BEMAWU has about 1 800 members and CWU has about 1 500.

CWU members were on Thursday urged to hold their horses until an agreement is reached.

CWU Secretary General Aubrey Tshabalala said SABC management had requested the union to put the strike on hold because they intend reaching an agreement at the end of their two-day meeting, which began on Thursday.

Sowetanlive

Moyane may disclose Zuma's tax details to refute allegations



SARS Commissioner Tom Moyane.

JOHANNESBURG - SARS Commissioner Tom Moyane is sitting with the loaded gun that could see President Jacob Zuma removed from office or absolved of wrongdoing over his taxes.

Moyane may, under the Tax Administration Act (TAA), publish Zuma's tax information, or parts thereof without his permission, to protect the integrity of the South African Revenue Service.

Following revelations in investigative journalist Jacques Pauw's new book, 'The President's Keepers: Those keeping Zuma in power and out of prison', which tells how Zuma dodged the taxman's iron grip for years, it would almost certainly be in the best interest of SARS to do just that.

Of more particular interest is the fact that Zuma may have been paid R1-million a month by a Durban-based security company, Royal Security, for a few months after he took office. Zuma's long-time friend Roy Moodley is linked to the firm, Pauw wrote.

Constitutional law expert Pierre de Vos has said this allegation, if true, is the most shocking and is an impeachable offence.

The payments to Zuma were picked in a routine tax audit and it emerged that SARS had not received its mandatory cut of the earnings.

The outstanding tax bill was reportedly settled by Moodley himself, and that was to be the end of the matter. Why this apparent wrongdoing was never reported

to law enforcement or even the National Assembly by the SARS commissioner at the time, Pravin Gordhan, is a question that remains to be answered.

But Chapter 6 of the TAA, under Section 67 sub-section 5, reads as follows: "The commissioner may, for purposes of protecting the integrity and reputation of SARS as an organisation and after giving the taxpayer at least 24 hours' notice, disclose taxpayer information to the extent necessary to counter or rebut false allegations or information disclosed by the taxpayer, the taxpayer's duly authorised representative or other person acting under the instructions of the taxpayer and published in the media or any other manner."

Sowetanlive

'Eskom's Singh paid Trillian R30.6m for no reason' 39 injured in two KwaZulu-Natal, Free State crashes

PARLIAMENT - A whistleblower told the parliamentary inquiry into Eskom the power utility settled a fraudulent invoice from Trillian for R30.6 million.

Former Trillian Management Consulting (TMC) chief executive Bianca Goodson said she found her signature on a cover letter to the invoice that was sent to Anoj Singh, Eskom's Chief Financial Officer, who was suspended following allegations of improper payments to companies linked to the politically connected Gupta brothers.

She did not compile the invoice, nor did she write the cover letter, Goodson said. She was adamant that there was no reason to remunerate TMC, an affiliate of Trillian Capital Partners, as it had only one other employee and



no capacity to deliver on a big contract, yet the sum was paid to Trillian.

"I did not do that work and my CFO did not do that work. We did no billable work. We were establishing the company," she told Parliament's portfolio committee on public enterprises, which is conducting the inquiry.

Goodson said she quit Trillian in 2016 after just two and half months with the company, disabused of the notion that it would be a "proudly black consulting firm".

African News Agency

BLOEMFONTEIN - At least 39 people were injured, some critically, in two separate road accidents involving single vehicles in the Free State and KwaZulu-Natal yesterday morning, paramedics said.

About 18 people were injured when the driver of a minibus taxi lost control and the vehicle rolled on the R702 in Dinaweng near Bloemfontein in the Free State, ER24 spokeswoman Annine Siddall said.

ER24 paramedics arrived at the scene around 11.30am and found some of the passengers lying outside the taxi and some walking around on the scene. About six people sustained moderate injuries and 12 more sustained minor injuries.

ER24 transported six of the patients to nearby hospitals for further medical care and other emergency services on the scene attended to the rest of the patients, she said.



About 39 people were injured when the driver of a minibus taxi lost control and the vehicle rolled on the R702 in Dinaweng near Bloemfontein in the Free State yesterday morning. (Citizen)

In the second incident, at least two people were in a critical condition after a bakkie transporting 21 people rolled on the N2 southbound in Amanzimtoti, just south of Durban in KwaZulu-Natal, Siddall said.

ER24 paramedics arrived at the scene, also around 11.30am and found some of the passengers lying in the slow lane and others in the emergency lane of the N2.

Citizen

BRIEFS

Western countries voice concern over Egypt rights detainee

CAIRO - The governments of Canada, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Britain have expressed "concern" to Egypt over the case of a detained human rights lawyer.

In a rare public joint statement, the countries urged Egyptian authorities "to ensure the freedom of civil society and the protection from torture that are enshrined in the Egyptian Constitution," regarding the case of Ibrahim Metwally Hegazy.

Metwally, a prominent rights lawyer who focused on the issue of forced disappearances, was himself arrested in secret on September 10 at Cairo airport on his way to a UN meeting on the topic.

AP

IMF cuts GDP growth forecast to 3.7 pct for 2017

ABIDJAN - Cameroon's economic growth rate is expected to slip to 3.7 per cent this year, down from an earlier estimate of around 4 per cent, due to falling oil production, the International Monetary Fund said.

In a statement at the end of a 10-day review mission, the IMF said that it had reached an agreement with the government on economic and financial policy ahead of the first review of the programme, which is expected in mid-December.

Reuters

Four foreigners working at power plant kidnapped in Libya

BENGHAZI - Four foreign engineers working for the Turkish construction firm Enka were kidnapped in southwest Libya on Friday, a Libyan state electricity official said.

The men, who were Turkish and South African, were seized while travelling from the airport in the town of Ubari to a power plant they were helping to build, the official said, asking not to be named. There was no immediate indication who had abducted them.

In a statement on its website, Enka referred to three Turkish citizens being kidnapped.

Reuters

US strikes against Islamic State in Somalia

WASHINGTON - The United States carried out its first air strikes against Islamic State militants in Somalia and killed "several terrorists," the US military said on Friday.

The Pentagon's Africa Command said the first strike was carried out at midnight local time and another one at 11 am on November 3.

"Several terrorists" were killed, the military said in a statement, adding that the strikes were conducted in coordination with Somalia's government.

Reuters

Kenya opposition supporters urged to boycott three companies

NAIROBI - Kenya's opposition coalition has asked supporters to boycott three big companies it says benefit from ties to the government of President Uhuru Kenyatta, who won last week's repeat election after an opposition boycott.

Wearing hats embroidered "RESISTANCE", and speaking against a backdrop showing a clenched fist, members of Parliament gave their supporters a week's notice to stop using products from telecoms giant Safaricom, dairy products from Brookside and Bidco cooking oils. AFP



SUNDAYOBSERVER AFRICA NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday

Liberia's Supreme Court to rule on delaying election

MONROVIA - Liberia's Supreme Court will rule tomorrow on a petition asking to delay the runoff presidential election after a complaint said the National Election Commission failed to investigate claims of irregularities in the first round of the vote to replace Africa's first elected female president.

All activity to prepare for Tuesday's runoff has been halted until the court's decision. A delay of the vote is almost certain, as the electoral commission has said it would be hard to meet deadlines now.

The court heard arguments on



George Weah, former soccer player and presidential candidate of Congress for Democratic Change.

Friday. Charles Brumskine, the Liberty Party candidate who placed third, has asked the court to grant an October 27 petition to halt the runoff vote until the claims of irregularities are investigated. He argued

before the packed court that the October 10 first round was marked by fraud.

His party petitioned the court to compel the election commission to investigate the complaints.

A lawyer for the commission, Alexander Zoe, asked the court to dismiss the petition and allow the runoff vote to proceed.

Brumskine told The Associated Press he looks forward to a rerun of the October vote, in which 20 candidates vied to replace Nobel Peace Prize winner Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

AFP

LUNGU WARNS JUDGES OF CHAOS IF THEY BLOCK HIS RE-ELECTION

USAKA - Zambian President Edgar Lungu has warned constitutional court judges not to stop him running for another term in office, state media reported, drawing a rebuke from a top legal body.

Lungu told supporters that the judges could plunge the southern African country into chaos if they made any "adventurous" rulings, the Zambia Daily Mail and Times of Zambia reported.

Allies of Lungu's Patriotic Front party have asked the Supreme Court to confirm that he will be eligible to stand again in presidential elections scheduled for 2021.

Opponents say that would break the Constitution which bars leaders from standing for three terms. He argues his first period in office doesn't count as he took over after the death of the last leader without an election.

Lungu told a political meeting in the northwestern town of Solwezi that he had information that the judges were thinking of barring him from

Allies of Lungu's Patriotic Front party have asked the Supreme Court to confirm that he will be eligible to stand again in presidential elections scheduled for 2021.



Zambian President Edgar Lungu.

standing again, the newspapers said. "To my colleagues in the Judiciary, I am just warning you because I have information that some of you want to be adventurous, your adventure should not plunge us into chaos please," Lungu was quoted as saying.

He said they should not follow the example of Kenya's Supreme Court, which annulled the result of a presidential vote

in August.

There was no immediate comment from Zambia's Supreme Court, which is due to meet to consider the election case on Nov. 16. The Law Association of Zambia asked Lungu on Friday to withdraw his warning saying it served "to undermine the authority of the Judiciary and erode public confidence in the institution".

Reuters

Refugees in Algeria yearn for homeland in Western Sahara

BOUJOUR - Selembouha Dadi can only imagine the homeland she dreams of but has never seen, agonisingly out of reach beyond the Algerian refugee camp where she has spent her whole life.

"They tell me it was beautiful," the 25-year-old told AFP.

The territory that Dadi yearns for is Western Sahara, a sprawling swathe of desert on Africa's Atlantic coast that has been disputed by Morocco and independence fighters from the Polisario Front for decades.

Her father Moulay abandoned everything and fled 42 years ago when Moroccan troops arrived

Now, along with tens of thousands of other refugees, their family of nine lives in one of a string of refugee camps just 50km away, beyond the Algerian border and a "defence wall" erected by Morocco in the 1980s.

in 1975 during the rush to claim the former Spanish colony as Madrid let it go.

Now, along with tens of thousands of other refugees, their family of nine lives in one of a string of refugee camps just 50km away, beyond the Algerian border and a "defence wall" erected by Morocco in the 1980s.

Morocco and Mauritania were meant to share Western Sahara

when Spain relinquished control, but in 1976 the Polisario proclaimed the independence of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic - and was determined to fight for it.

Mauritania in 1979 gave up its claim, leaving Morocco to seize most of the 266 000 square kilometre territory, but it was not until 1991 that a UN-backed ceasefire came into force. AFP

Zim police charge US citizen with coup plot

HARARE - A US citizen was charged with attempting to overthrow the Zimbabwean government, which carries a sentence of up to 20 years in jail, after police earlier accused her of insulting 93-year-old President Robert Mugabe.

Martha O'Donovan, who works for Magamba TV, which describes itself as Zimbabwe's leading producer of political satire, was picked up in a dawn raid at her Harare home, her lawyer said. O'Donovan, who denies both charges, was expected in court yesterday, lawyer Obey Shava said.

Police spokeswoman Charity Charamba could not be reached for comment on the new, much more serious, charge.

O'Donovan was first charged with insulting and undermining the president, according to a police charge sheet, which accused her of last month calling Mugabe a "selfish and sick man" on Twitter, the first such arrest since the creation of a Ministry of Cyber Security last month.

That charge carries a maximum sentence of one year in jail, her lawyer said.

Shava said police then accused O'Donovan of setting up Magamba, being behind a "shadowy Twitter character" called @matigary and setting up another Twitter account @OpenPartyZw "for the sole purpose of overthrowing the government through unconstitutional means".

The government has been particularly uneasy about social media after activists such as pastor Evan Mawararire and his #ThisFlag movement last year used social media to organise a stay-at-home demonstration, the biggest anti-government protest in a decade. A national election is due in 2018.

The police search warrant showed that central to its investigation was a post on O'Donovan's Twitter feed referring to a "Goblin" whose wife and step-sons had imported a Rolls-Royce, an apparent reference to Mugabe, though he was not named.

In a statement to police seen by Reuters, O'Donovan said: "I deny the allegations being levelled against me as baseless and malicious. That is all I wish to say."

The U.S. embassy in Harare confirmed an American citizen had been arrested and said it was monitoring the situation closely.

Shava said his client had refused to sign a new document known as a "warned and cautioned statement" with the fresh charge. The document sets out the government's case and signing it signals a suspect understands the charge.

AFP



SUNDAYOBSERVER WORLD NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday

Spain issues arrest warrant for Catalan leader

MADRID - A Spanish judge issued an international arrest warrant on Friday for former members of the Catalan Cabinet who were last seen in Brussels, including the ousted separatist leader Carles Puigdemont who said he was prepared to run for his old job even while battling extradition in Belgium.

The National Court judge filed the request with the Belgian prosecutor to detain Puigdemont and his four aides, and issued separate international search and arrest warrants to alert Interpol in case

...The five are being sought for five different crimes, including rebellion, sedition and embezzlement in a Spanish investigation into their roles in pushing for secession for Catalonia.

they flee Belgium.

Puigdemont's Belgian lawyer has said that his client will fight extradition to Spain without seeking political asylum.

The five are being sought for five different crimes, including rebellion, sedition and embezzlement in a Spanish investigation into their roles in pushing for secession for Catalonia.

The officials flew to Brussels after Spanish authorities removed Puigdemont and his Cabinet from office last Saturday for declaring independence for Catalonia.

The Spanish government has also called an early regional election for December 21.

Puigdemont told Belgian state broadcaster that he was in Belgium "ready to be a candidate" in the

early polls and because he had lost faith in the Spanish justice system.

"We can run a campaign anywhere because we're in a globalised world," he told RTBF, adding that he was not in Belgium to "Belgianise Catalan politics."

"I did not flee, but it's impossible to properly prepare" a legal defense while in Spain, he told the broadcaster.

If Belgium acts on a European warrant and arrests him, Puigdemont would have to be brought before an investigating judge within 24 hours. **AFP**

British PM launches code of conduct amid sex scandals

LONDON - Prime Minister Theresa May released a new code of conduct for Conservative Party representatives on Friday as a sexual harassment scandal dogged the British parliament.

Following Michael Fallon's resignation as defence secretary, May outlined new procedures for dealing with allegations, as further claims swirled around Westminster.

Her governing Conservatives will adopt a new complaints procedure with a hotline for reporting potential breaches, and officials want the measures replicated in other parties.

May's announcement follows the flood of sexual assault and harassment claims against Hollywood movie mogul Harvey Weinstein. Those revelations prompted allegations of inappropriate behaviour in Westminster -- with several allegations of misuse of power surfacing.

May is due to meet leaders of other parties on Monday to thrash out a cross-party approach, saying it was not right that "vulnerable or concerned people" could be left to "navigate different grievance procedures."

"There needs to be a common, transparent, independent grievance procedure for all those working in Parliament who wish to raise concerns which provides clarity and certainty about how their concerns will be dealt with," May said.

The new Conservative code applies to the party's elected representatives, from MPs to local councillors and city mayors, and party officers at all levels.

Fallon quit as defence secretary on Wednesday, saying his behaviour had fallen short of the standards required.

AFP



UK Prime Minister Theresa May.

TRUMP'S BRIEF TWITTER OUTAGE PROMPTS CHEERS, CONCERNS

SAN FRANCISCO - Some cheered and others raised concerns when President Donald Trump's Twitter account, a mouthpiece for the US presidency, mysteriously went dark for a few minutes this week.

"My Twitter account was taken down for 11 minutes by a rogue employee," Trump wrote from his restored account early on Friday morning, making light of the brief Thursday evening outage that vexed many of his millions of followers. "I guess the word must finally be getting out-and having an impact."

Twitter on Thursday night blamed a customer support worker for deactivating Trump's account on his or her last day on the job.

The San Francisco-based social media company has promised a "full internal review" and said it is taking steps to prevent it from happening again. It has declined further explanation, raising questions not only about its own safeguards but on Trump's heavy reliance on a single platform to broadcast his views.



United States of America President Donald Trump.

While Twitter's customer service employees have the ability to suspend or remove accounts, or delete individual tweets, over violations of service terms, they cannot post on someone else's account.

Safeguards

What's less clear is if the company has tougher safeguards for taking action on higher-profile accounts, such as Trump's. "It's not surprising that even the brief shutdown of the presi-

dent's Twitter account has provoked debate," said Jameel Jaffer, Executive Director of Columbia University's Knight First Amendment Institute, which filed a federal lawsuit last month challenging Trump's practice of blocking Twitter users who criticise him or his policies.

Twitter has been Trump's primary means of communicating with the masses since even before he launched his presidential campaign. **AP**

Britain rejects Russian bid to revise UN probe of Syria gas attacks

LONDON - Britain rejected a Russian bid to attach conditions to the extension of a UN-led panel tasked with identifying who is behind chemical attacks in Syria's six-year war. Russia has circulated a draft Security Council resolution that calls for a six-month extension of the panel, known as the Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM).

Its mandate expires on

November 16.

The United States has put forward a rival text seeking two more years for the JIM following the release of its latest report blaming the Syrian government for a sarin gas attack. Moscow's text proposed that the council shelve that report on the use of the nerve agent on the opposition-held village of Khan Sheikhun to allow for a new investigation.

British Ambassador Matthew Rycroft said: "The Russian draft resolution is a cynical ploy to discredit a professional, independent and impartial body." "Russia is trying to shoot the messenger to cover up for the crimes of its abhorrent ally." Britain called on the council to renew the JIM's "existing mandate, which has already delivered rigorous and conclusive findings." **AP**

BRIEFS

Barcelona politicians demand release of Catalans

BARCELONA - Barcelona's politicians spoke out on Friday against the imprisonment of nine former Catalan ministers as their city braces for continued protests after Spain imposed direct rule. The nine Catalan government officials, including dismissed vice president Oriol Junqueras, were jailed without bail in Madrid on Thursday on charges of sedition, rebellion, and misuse of funds. **AL JAZEERA**

Monsoon rains kill 12 in southern India

NEW DELHI - Thousands of people have taken refuge in relief camps as torrential monsoon rains flooded parts of southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, killing at least 12 people this week. Schools in Chennai, the state capital, and other coastal towns have been closed with the weather office warning of intermittent heavy rains this weekend.

A government statement yesterday said over 10 000 people were living in 105 state-run relief camps as rains flooded low-lying areas in Chennai and its suburbs on Thursday and Friday.

AP

Venezuela opposition coalition split ahead of new vote

CARACAS - One of Venezuela's major opposition parties has decided to run in local elections next month despite a boycott by others, deepening a split in the Democratic Unity coalition to the glee of President Nicolas Maduro and his ruling Socialist Party.

Three of the four main groupings in the coalition have vowed not to participate in the Dec. 10 balloting for 335 mayors and one governor because they believe the election system is rigged. But the fourth party, A New Time, based in oil-rich western Zulia state where the governorship is up for grabs, argues Maduro must still be fought at the ballot box to avoid simply handing him more political space.

Reuters

Promote peace, China's Xi tells soldiers

BEIJING - Troops serving at China's first overseas military base, in the Horn of Africa country of Djibouti, should help promote peace and stability, President Xi Jinping told them in a video chat, encouraging them to promote a good image.

China formally opened the base in August on the same day as the People's Liberation Army marked its 90th birthday. It is China's first overseas naval base, although Beijing officially describes it as a logistics facility.

Reuters

Islamic State on verge of defeat

BEIRUT - Islamic State's self-proclaimed caliphate was on the verge of final defeat, with Syrian government forces capturing its last major city on one side of the border and Iraqi forces taking its last substantial town on the other.

The losses on either side of the frontier appear to reduce the caliphate that once ruled over millions of people to a single Syrian border town, a village on a bank of the Euphrates in Iraq and some patches of nearby desert. **AP**

Officials on both sides of the border said its final defeat could come swiftly, although they still fear it will reconstitute as a

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Last Tuesdays of the

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1800hrs - 2000hrs

Every Friday

Youth Services: 1800hrs

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Fridays 5pm - 7.30pm

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Contact

76638622/76471717

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services

Mondays

Prayer 6.00pm-7.30pm

Thursdays

Bible Exposition 6.00pm-7.30pm

Fridays

Youth 6.00pm-7.30pm

Saturday

Women 2.00pm-3.30pm

Sundays

English Service 8.30am - 10.30 am

Siswati Service 11.00am

1.00pm

Children's Ministry 8.30am

10.30am, 11.00am, 1.00pm

Men-Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of

the month 6.00pm - 7.30pm

Single Parents -Every 1st Saturday

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Contacts 2404 0979

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MBABANE CHURCH OF

THE NAZARENE

Services

SUNDAY

8:00am - 9:30am - English Service

9:30am - 10:30am - Junior Fellowship

10:30am - 11:30am - Sunday School (All Ages)

11:30am - 12:30pm - Youth Service (Youth)

12:30pm - 1:30pm - Siswati Service

WEEK-END

MORNING PRAYER

8:00am - 9:00am (MONDAY-FRIDAY)

EVERY WEDNESDAY

12:30pm - 1:30pm (Siswati Service)

12:30pm - 1:30pm (Siswati Service)

FOURTHLY THURSDAYS

12:30pm - 1:30pm - Men's Ministry Service

CONTACT

76180775

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Pastor C.S. Khumalo

Free Siteki

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Wednesdays

6.00pm-7.30pm

Saturdays Youth

3.00pm

Sundays Women

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9.30am - 10.30am

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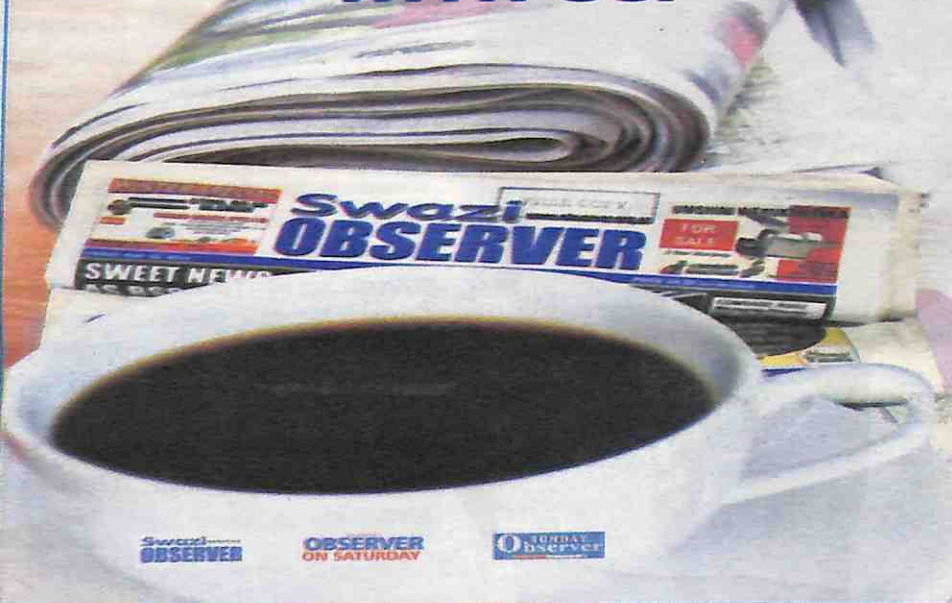
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EVRA SUSPENDED BY MARSEILLE

MARSEILLE - Marseille Patrice Evra has been suspended by Olympique de Marseille following a scuffle with a supporter before Thursday's Europa League game at Vitoria Guimaraes, the Ligue 1 club said on Friday.

OM said in a statement that the France international had been summoned to an interview that will lead to disciplinary action.

Video footage showed a Marseille player aiming a kick at a group of fans during a scuffle behind one of the goals but the club did not mention the kick.

Drop

France fullback Evra has been regularly targeted by Marseille fans since joining from Juventus during the close season and his poor performances have led coach Rudi Garcia to drop him from the starting line-up.

"As a professional and experi-



Patrick Evra kicking a fan during a scuffle before their Europa League match.

enced player, Patrice Evra could not react in such an inappropriate manner," the statement said after acknowledging that Evra was provoked by OM fans who insult-

ed him.

"Pat has experience and he must not react. It's obvious," Garcia said.

"Patrice is more than experienced and we can't respond, obviously,

to insults as low as they might be and as incredible as they might be because they come from one of our supporters."

Reuters

Nine-try Wallabies put Japan to the sword

YOKOHAMA - Injury-hit Australia crushed Japan 63-30 in Yokohama yesterday to kick off their northern hemisphere tour in impressive style.

The Wallabies ran in nine tries in a lopsided encounter as they followed up wins against world champions New Zealand and the Barbarians with a clinical display against the 2019 World Cup hosts.

Tevita Kuridrani muscled over for a hat-trick of tries and Samu Kerevi added two more, with utility back Reece Hodge a perfect nine from nine with the boot in his first test at flyhalf.

"We were really happy with probably about 60 minutes of our game," said Australia captain Michael Hooper.

"Japan's players fought hard and were really strong in the breakdown," he added.

"They turned us over too many times and put 30 points on us - we've got to be better than that." Kerevi's second provided the game's highlight, the bulldozing centre collecting a no-look pass from Kurtley Beale to cap a stunning move started by Henry Speight deep in Australia's own half.

Japan lost 47-27 to a world select side last week in a butter-fingered display but ill-discipline cost the Brave Blossoms against the Australians, who scored further tries through Speight, Tatafu Polota-Nau, Nick Phipps and Rob Simmons.

The Asian champions were left stunned when Speight burst clear to score Australia's second try after just 11 minutes as the floodgates threatened to burst open. AFP

Doping-French laboratory suspended from anti-doping activities

PARIS - France's main anti-doping laboratory, already under a provisional ban, has been suspended from carrying out anti-doping activities for up to six months because of analytical issues, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) said.

The new suspension, which took effect on Oct 31, prohibits the Chateaux-Malabry laboratory from all analyses of urine and blood samples, WADA said in a statement.

During the suspension, samples that have not yet been analysed by the Paris laboratory, samples currently undergoing a confirmation procedure and any samples for which an adverse analytical finding has been reported must be securely transported to another WADA-accredited laboratory.

The laboratory was provisionally suspended on Sept 24 due to issues self-reported to WADA by the laboratory.

Since then disciplinary proceed-

ings were carried out by an independent disciplinary committee, which made a recommendation on the status of the laboratory's accreditation to the WADA Executive Committee chair.

The laboratory, where disgraced American cyclist Lance Armstrong's samples were tested, may appeal this decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) within 21 days of receipt of notice.

If the laboratory addresses all non-conformities identified by the Laboratory Expert Group or WADA, it may apply for reinstatement prior to the expiry of the six month suspension period. Should the laboratory not address the non-conformities by the end of the six-month suspension period, WADA may extend the suspension of the laboratory's accreditation for an additional six months, WADA said.

Reuters

Nadal quits Paris to cast doubt on London

PARIS - Rafael Nadal pulled out of the Paris Masters before his quarter-final match with a knee injury on Friday which could also rule the 16-time Grand Slam champion out of the season-ending World Tour Finals. World number one Nadal, who has suffered from knee and wrist injuries throughout his career, decided to withdraw on Friday morning after having his right knee strapped during his third-round win over Pablo Cuevas. He did not say if he would be fit

for the Tour Finals in London later this month.

"For me it's not about London. For me it's about longer term," the 31-year-old, whose withdrawal allowed Serbian qualifier Filip Krajinovic to reach the semi-finals, told a press conference.

"Yesterday (Thursday), the pain was very strong but it was not the moment to stop. AP



Zaha ready for Ivory Coast do-or-die World Cup bow

YAMOUSSOUKRO - Crystal Palace striker Wilfried Zaha will make his long-awaited debut for Ivory Coast in a do-or-die World Cup qualifier against Morocco on November 11.

The 24-year-old has never played for the African nation which he left with his family when he was just four.

However, Zaha will need to hit the ground running as Ivory Coast have to defeat Morocco in the final qualifying game to ensure a fourth successive World Cup appearance after making the finals in 2006, 2010 and 2014.

"The Elephants" trail Morocco by two points in Group C with just the group winners assured of making the finals in Russia.

Ivory Coast coach Marc Wilmots has also recalled Gervinho, Max-Alain Gradel and Seydou Doumbia after being sidelined by injury.

However, Manchester United defender Eric Bailly will miss the game through suspension.

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Sylvain Gbohouo (TP Mazembe/COD), Ali Badra Sangaré (Free State Stars/RSA), Hortalin Blé Zadi (Africa Sports/CIV)

Defenders: Serge Aurier (Tottenham Hotspur/ENG), Wilfried Kanon (Den Haag/NED), Adama Traoré (Goztepe/TUR), Joris Gnagnon (Rennes/FRA), Ghislain Konan (Vitoria Guimaraes/POR), Franck Kessié (AC Milan/ITA), Simon Déli (Slavia Prague/CZE) Mamadou Bagayoko (OH Louvain/BEL), Ismaël Traoré (Angers/FRA)

Midfielders: Cheick Doukouré (Levante/ESP), Geoffroy Serey Dié (Basle/SUI), Seko Fofana (Udinese/ITA), Jean-Philippe Gbamin (Mainz/GER), Habib Maïga (St Etienne/FRA)

Attackers: Maxwel Cornet (Lyon/FRA), Gervinho (Hebei Fortune/CHN), Salomon Kalou (Hertha Berlin/GER), Seydou Doumbia (Sporting Lisbon/POR), Roger Assalé (Young Boys Berne/SUI), Jonathan Kodjia (Aston Villa/ENG), Wilfried Zaha (Crystal Palace/ENG), Max-Alain Gradel (Toulouse/FRA)

AFP

Crystal Palace striker Wilfried Zaha will make his long-awaited debut for Ivory Coast

DELE ALLI, HARRY WINKS TO BE WATCHED BY REAL MADRID

LONDON - Barcelona and Real Madrid have intensified their interest in Tottenham's young stars as the Spanish giants have kept a close eye on the progress of Dele Alli and Harry Winks.

Spurs leaped into the European football limelight after their 3-1 victory over Champions League holders Real on Wednesday night fired them into the last 16, but their impressive displays have come at a cost.

According to Spanish newspaper Marca, Real are 'paying close attention' to Spurs star Alli, who fired two past the La Liga side at Wembley earlier this week, and is seen as an ideal fit for the Los Blancos outfit.

Alli though, is not alone as the attention surrounding the former MK Dons midfielder follows the interest also shown in team-mate Harry Kane, whose goals have helped Mauricio Pochettino's side keep pace with Premier League leaders Manchester City and Manchester United.

Sportsmail reported following Tottenham's trip to the Bernabeu last month, Real President Florentino Perez officially asked his opposite number Daniel Levy for a price. To which Levy slapped a £200million price tag on the English forward.

Meanwhile, as Kane and Alli steal the



Dele Alli (left) and Harry Winks impressed with their performances against Real Madrid.

headlines alongside Danish playmaker Christian Eriksen, Harry Winks has also caught the eye of many admirers in recent weeks.

According to the Evening Standard, Winks 'impressed' Barcelona Sporting Director Robert Fernandez, who was at the Champions League clash with rivals Real, with his Wembley display on Wednesday.

While it is recognised Fernandez was present in the capital to keep tabs on

Eriksen, who netted Tottenham's third for a three-goal lead, Winks' composed performance in the heart of the Spurs midfield provided the Spaniard with another name to add to his list.

Speculation is just speculation though, and should either of the Spanish giants register official interest in one of Tottenham's star men, you can guarantee Levy will put up a fight, as well as a hefty price tag, to deter potential buyers. *Daily Mail*

'My career will finally come to an end'

BRASILIA - Felipe Massa will retire from Formula One for good at the end of the 2017 season.

The Williams driver, who announced his retirement last year only to return for one more campaign, will end his racing career after the final two races of the season.

The Brazilian said in a statement: "As everyone knows, after announcing my retirement from Formula One last year, I agreed to return this season to help Williams when the call came."

"I have now enjoyed four great years with the team, but my career in Formula One will finally come to an end this season."

The 36-year-old added: "Once more, I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported me throughout this time: my wife and my father, my whole family, my manager Nicolas and all my friends, colleagues and sponsors."

"I would also like to add a huge thank you to all of the fans who have been incredibly supportive and passionate over the years. I take so many great memories with me as I prepare for my final two races in Brazil and Abu Dhabi, and although they will be emotional, I am looking forward to ending on a high note and preparing for a new chapter in my career."

Massa, who as a Ferrari driver finished second by a single point to Lewis Hamilton in the 2008 World Championship, sits in 11th place

in the current drivers' standings.

He initially announced his retirement in Italy last year and was given an emotional send-off at his home race in Brazil and then the final grand prix of the season in Abu Dhabi, only to make a U-turn when Valtteri Bottas moved to Mercedes to replace Nico Rosberg in the wake of the German's shock retirement.

News of Massa's second retirement was widely expected.

Claire Williams, deputy team principal at Williams, said: "I would like to thank Felipe for all he has done for the team over the last four years."

"It has been an absolute pleasure to work with him. We are especially grateful that he agreed to postpone his retirement from Formula One for a year, after Valtteri joined Mercedes, which demonstrated the depth of the relationship we built during our time together."

"We appreciate that it wasn't an easy decision for him to return, after having such an emotional send-off at the end of last year. On behalf of Sir Frank, and all the team, we give our very best wishes to Felipe for the future."

Williams said in the statement they would announce their 2018 driver line-up in due course.

Paul Di Resta and Robert Kubica have both tested for Williams recently as the British team decide who will replace Massa and partner Lance Stroll next term.

Daniil Kvyat, recently axed by Toro Rosso, is also understood to be in the frame. *Daily Mail*

Bongani Zungu cleared for away clash to Senegal

JOHANNESBURG - South African international Bongani Zungu will miss the first 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifier against Senegal in Polokwane on Friday, November 10 2017.

However, the France-based midfielder will be available for the return leg against the same Senegal in Dakar four days later.

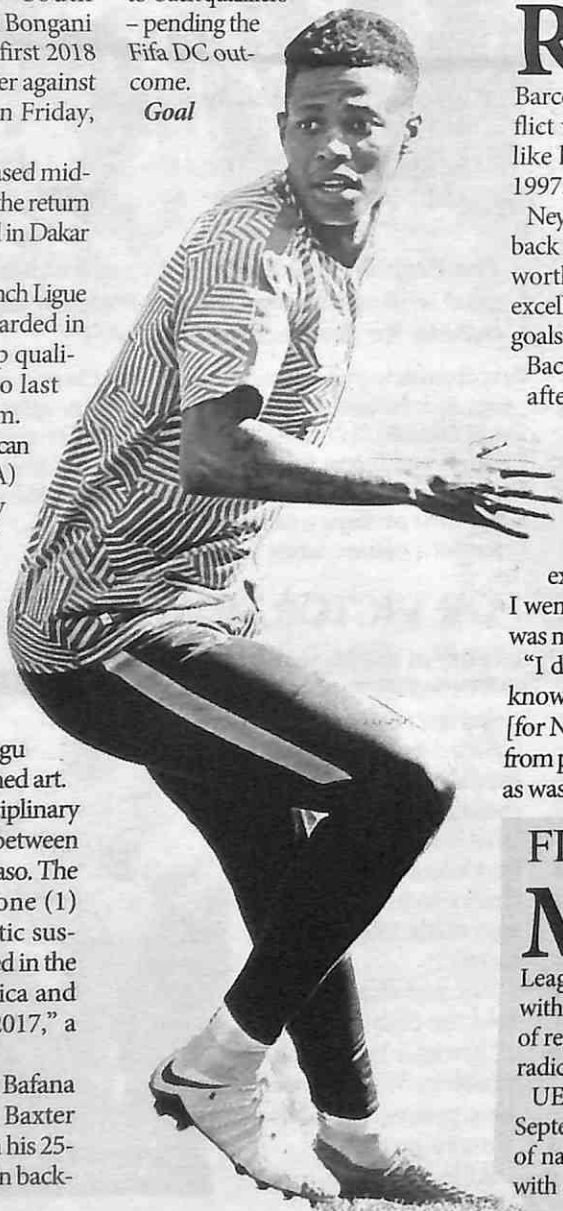
Zungu, who plays for French Ligue 1 side Amiens, was red-carded in South Africa's World Cup qualifier against Burkina Faso last month at the FNB Stadium.

According to the South African Football Association (SAFA) the matter was taken up by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee who decided against imposing a further ban on the midfielder - except to fine him an amount of CHF 5,000 (R71 070).

"The player Bongani Zungu is regarded as having breached art. 48 par.1 c) of the FIFA Disciplinary Code in the match played between South Africa and Burkina Faso. The player is suspended for one (1) match, including automatic suspension, which will be served in the match between South Africa and Senegal of November 10 2017," a FIFA statement read.

This will be good news to Bafana Bafana head coach Stuart Baxter who had included Zungu in his 25-man squad to face Senegal in back-

to-back qualifiers - pending the Fifa DC outcome. *Goal*



'Neymar may have left Barcelona for PSG after a fall-out with the club's board'

RIO DE JANEIRO - Brazilian legend Ronaldo has suggested that Neymar's departure from Barcelona came about because of conflict with the club's hierarchy - much like his own Nou Camp exit back in 1997.

Neymar moved to Paris Saint-Germain back in August in a world record deal worth £198million and has made an excellent start to life in France with 11 goals and nine assists so far this season.

Back in 1997, Ronaldo left Barcelona after just one season - in which he scored 34 goals in 37 matches - and joined Italian giants Inter Milan as the reigning FIFA World Player of the Year.

Ronaldo, 41, told Veja: "Neymar's exit from Barca was a bit like mine. I went to Inter when the Italian league was much stronger than France is now. "I don't have the details and I don't know what was behind the negotiation [for Neymar]. Maybe everything came from problems with the Barcelona board, as was the case with me. I'd do it again."



PSG playmaker Neymar.

There were suggestions around the time of Neymar's move that he had fallen out with the Barcelona board and wanted out of the Nou Camp.

Ronaldo, twice World Cup winner with Brazil, retired back in 2011 but hasn't moved into a coaching role, some-

thing he 'can't imagine' ever wanting to do.

He added: "I'm looking for a club to become [general] manager of. I want to have this kind of experience, in Brazil or elsewhere, while we run football academies." *Daily Mail*

FIFA and confederations look at expanding UEFA's Nations League

MANCHESTER - FIFA has confirmed it is considering ways to expand UEFA's new Nations League tournament on a global scale with ongoing talks involving a number of regional confederations considering radical proposals.

UEFA's Nations League starts next September and features four divisions of national teams, replacing friendlies with competitive fixtures.

While the format has yet to be tested, the idea of a similar style of competition has already been under consideration at CONCACAF, which governs the sport in North and Central America and the Caribbean. With UEFA's competition set to fill the international dates left for friendly games, teams in other confederations will find it difficult to get wins for games against European nations. Responding to reports that UEFA was

talking with other confederations, the global governing body said it was directly involved in the discussions.

"FIFA has been always involved from the beginning in the process. Thanks to the cooperative atmosphere FIFA will continue to have constructive discussions about the next steps together with UEFA and the other confederations," the global governing body said in a statement. *Reuters*



MORATA, LUKAKU SEEK RETURN TO FORM

LONDON - Alvaro Morata and Romelu Lukaku will be under pressure to fire their teams back into the Premier League title race when the misfiring strikers clash in Chelsea's showdown with Manchester United today.

Chelsea forward Morata and United front man Lukaku were the toast of their clubs after celebrating their close-season transfers with a barrage of goals.

But, with Chelsea and United battling to keep pace with leaders Manchester City, Morata and Lukaku have lost their midas touch at the wrong moment, putting them under the microscope at Stamford Bridge this weekend.

United Manager Jose Mourinho splashed out £75 million to sign Lukaku from Everton after persuading the Belgium international to snub interest from Blues boss Antonio Conte.

Lukaku was off to a fast start, netting 11 times in his first 10 games.

However, the 24-year-old finds himself in the midst of a barren spell stretching back six games to the end of September.

United fans have grown frustrated by Lukaku's lack of contributions outside the penalty area, prompting Mourinho



Romelu Lukaku and Alvaro Morata.

to chastise the Old Trafford crowd for failing to give the striker enough support in last weekend's win over Tottenham.

Lukaku responded to the doubters by admitting he is still a work in progress.

"You can't judge me as the finished article. I'd rather have a career where year after year I improve rather than going to the top and decline," he said.

"I know I have a lot of talent, but I want to have more assists, I want to make sure when my team is in difficulties they can count on me."

After missing out on Lukaku, Conte

settled for Morata as an expensive consolation prize. Morata hit the ground running with seven goals in his first seven games following his club record £58 million move from Real Madrid.

But, like Lukaku, the 25-year-old Spaniard has failed to score in his last six games, earning criticism for some lethargic displays. Morata also had to claim he had been misquoted after an interview in which he appeared to hint he wouldn't stay with Chelsea for long because he doesn't enjoy London's hectic lifestyle. **AFP**

Lloris, Alderweireld sidelined for Spurs

LONDON - Goalkeeper Hugo Lloris and centre-back Toby Alderweireld will both miss Tottenham Hotspur's home game with Crystal Palace today due to injury, Manager Mauricio Pochettino confirmed on Friday.

Lloris, the Spurs captain, sustained a groin injury and Alderweireld suffered a hamstring strain during Wednesday's stunning 3-1 win over Real Madrid in the Champions League.

The pair were due to undergo scans on Friday that will reveal whether either player has a chance of facing north London rivals Arsenal on November 18.

"They are now going to do a scan this afternoon. Tomorrow we'll have a better idea," Pochettino told a press conference at Spurs' training base in Enfield, north London.

"We can guess, but we must wait for information after scan and assessment from the doctor."

Michel Vorm is due to take over from Lloris in goal, while Eric Dier is expected to drop back from midfield to take Alderweireld's place in defence.

Top scorer Harry Kane came through the game against Madrid unscathed following some hamstring trouble, but midfielder Victor Wanyama (knee) and Erik Lamela (hip) remain sidelined.

Spurs received glowing praise for their demolition of reigning European champions Madrid, but with Manchester City eight points ahead of them on the Premier League table, Pochettino said there is still work to be done.

"We finished the game against Real Madrid and we were sitting with coaching staff in the manager's room," said Pochettino, whose side lost 1-0 at Manchester United on their last league outing.

"We knew it was a fantastic victory, but we started planning the next game and not only the next game, but the game against Arsenal. For us it's so important to reduce the gap."

"The game against United was very painful, to lose the way we lost. Now after that victory against Real Madrid, it's (time) to be focused on the game against Crystal Palace. It has the same value as the Real Madrid game."

With City hosting Arsenal today and United visiting Chelsea, Tottenham have an opportunity to steal a march on some of the teams around them in the table.

"Manchester City are doing very well," said Pochettino, whose side sit third in the table, sandwiched between second-place United and fourth-place Chelsea.

AFP

WENGER DOUBTS SANCHEZ TO MAN CITY DEAL IN JANUARY

LONDON - Arsene Wenger believes Alexis Sanchez will remain at Arsenal in January as speculation begins to mount over proposed renewed interest from Manchester City.

The Chile international looked set for a reunion with Pep Guardiola during the previous transfer window, but the Gunners' failure to land Thomas Lemar from Monaco reportedly persuaded Wenger to keep hold of his prized asset.

Arsenal run the risk of losing Sanchez for free at the end of 2017-18 with his contract due to expire, prompting many to suggest the club could cash in if City return with another bid in the new year.

Ahead of the teams' Premier League clash at the Etihad Stadium today, Wenger refuted suggestions Sanchez would be lacking the desire to perform and expressed his belief the forward would stay with the club beyond the January window.

"You say everybody thinks City will come in for Alexis - I am part of everybody and I don't think he will go," Wenger said.

"Do City need him? They have to decide that. But we need him here. I expect him to be motivated against City but that is always the case. One thing you cannot fault in Alexis Sanchez is his motivation. When he plays for Chile, he plays with passion that is in South America. It's the same for [previous

club] Barcelona and Arsenal. He is happy when he is on the pitch and that is all he wants. "Was he close to joining City? No. But at the end of the day, close or not does not matter. It does not have any influence. What is important is that, when you are somewhere and you have the opportunity to give your best, that is what you must do."

When asked if he thought Sanchez would sign a fresh Arsenal deal, Wenger avoided the subject, replying: "Before Sunday, certainly not." **Goal**



CROUCH EARNS SHARE OF SPOILS AGAINST LEICESTER

STOKE-ON-TRENT - Former England striker Peter Crouch came off the bench to rescue a point for Stoke City in a 2-2 draw yesterday, denying new Leicester Manager Claude Puel a second consecutive win of his young managerial reign.

The 2015-16 Premier League champions parted company with Craig Shakespeare last month after slipping into the relegation zone but have recovered strongly under caretaker boss Michael Appleton and ex-Southampton boss Puel.

Against Stoke they looked dangerous and pacy on the break with Jamie Vardy and Riyad Mahrez a threat and winger Demarai Gray earning another start just days after signing a new deal at the club.

Puel's side took the lead just after the half-hour mark when Vicente Iborra lashed home a half volley after the ball fell at his feet following a corner and had



The English striker Peter Crouch celebrates his headed goal with midfielder Darren Fletcher as Stoke came from behind for the second time. (AFP)

clear chances to pull further ahead.

First, Jack Butland saved superbly from Shinji Okazaki, in for the injured Ben Chilwell, and Iborra headed over from another corner. But Leicester were made to rue their profligacy six minutes after Leicester's opener when Eric Maxim

Choupo-Moting played an incisive defensive-splitting ball first time into the feet of Xherdan Shaqiri, whose left-footed shot from the right side of the penalty area found the net via the inside of the post.

AFP

CHELSEA MUST WAIT FOR VICTOR MOSES' RECOVERY - CONTE

LONDON - Chelsea Manager Antonio Conte has called for patience and more waiting time for Victor Moses' recovery from injury.

The wing-back suffered a hamstring injury against Crystal Palace on October 14 and has been out of action for three weeks.

Conte stressed on the

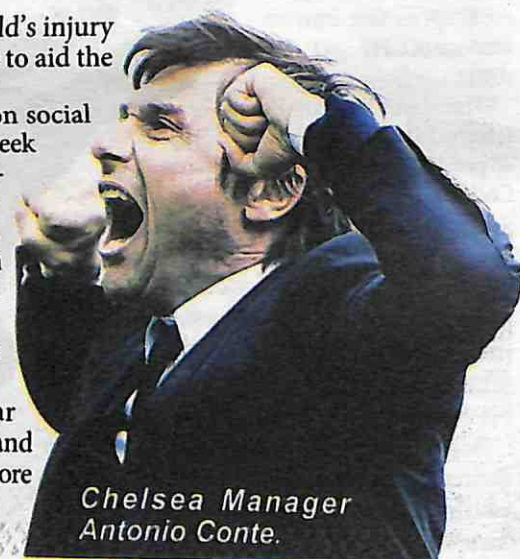
severity of the 26-year-old's injury and called for more time to aid the Nigerian recovery.

However, with series on social media posts during the week showing his workout routine, the Blues handler was asked if Moses has a chance to return to action against Manchester United today.

"No, zero chance," Conte told the club's website.

"It was a bad muscular problem. We must wait and have patience, he needs more time to recover."

AFP



Chelsea Manager Antonio Conte.



Yannick Zakri.

Downs handed Zakri, D Mogakolodi Ngele boost

PRETORIA - Mamelodi Sundowns have confirmed that the attacking duo of Yannick Zakri and Mogakolodi Ngele could return to the fray after the upcoming international break.

Masandawana recently returned to winning ways in the Premier Soccer League (PSL) on Wednesday evening against Orlando Pirates, and the club have been given a further boost with the upcoming international break looming.

Sundowns coach Pitso Mosimane confirmed that Yannick Zakri has recovered from injury while Mogakolodi Ngele has received his work permit ahead of the clash against Bidvest Wits on November 21.

"I think that Zakri will be back," Mosimane told the club's website.

"Mogakolodi Ngele got his work permit. Hopefully, he will also come. When I see a free-kick like the one Marc van Heerden scored, I know that I have someone who can deliver those balls," he added.

Meanwhile, Mosimane poured cold water on reports stating that Brazilian Ricardo Nascimento has left the club and lauded youngster Motjeka Madisha.

"[Cuthbert] Malajila has gone under the knife, I don't think that we should look at him. Rivaldo Coetzee has taken off the moon boot. Ricardo Nascimento is also coming back in January. Those are very good defenders. We haven't been playing well from the back," he explained.

Goal

KEKANA JOINS BECKHAM IN UNIQUE ACHIEVEMENT

PRETORIA - Mamelodi Sundowns midfielder Hlompho Kekana's two goals from inside his own half ranks him alongside David Beckham in terms of having the distinction of doing it twice.

His goal from distance against Orlando Pirates now puts him alongside the legendary English midfielder in terms of having the distinction of doing it on two occasions.

In 2016, he scored for Bafana Bafana from inside his own half against Cameroon in a 2017 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier, with a strike that saw him nominated for the Puskas award.

His second stunner against

the Sea Robbers was another spectacular hit as goalkeeper Wayne Sandilands was found wanting off his line.

Meanwhile, Beckham, who is now retired, did it for Manchester United against Wimbledon in 1996, and repeated the dose of magic for LA Galaxy against Kansas City Wizards in 2008. The duo are a rare few who have managed the unusual feat. Others to have scored from inside their own half during the course of their careers include Rivaldo for Barcelona, Mor Diouf for SuperSport United, Jose Luis Chilavert for Velez Sarsfield and Xabi Alonso for Liverpool.

Sport24



ALEXANDER TO GET BACK IN SUPERSPORT UNITED TEAM

PRETORIA - SuperSport United midfielder Cole Alexander is determined to force his way back into contention at the CAF Confederation Cup finalists.

Alexander has featured sporadically for Matsatsantsa since joining them at the beginning of last season from Polokwane City, with injuries not helping his cause, amid stern competition for game-time with the likes of Dean Furman and Reneilwe Letsholonyane.

The former Ajax Cape Town man, who last played in an MTN8 Cup win over Maritzburg United on August 26, hopes he can soon secure the favour of

coach Eric Tinkler. "I must look at what's best for me and my career also," Alexander tells KickOff.com.

"But I'm not saying I'm not happy, I am very happy. I've been working hard to get back into the team. I'm not complaining. Ja, you know any soccer player looks for game-time.

So I am at SuperSport now and I want to get back into the team.

But having said that I must also look out for myself and look at what's best for me. What's important now is for me to get back to the team and start playing. Injuries haven't been helping me also. I've been struggling

with injuries. I'm still working hard but now I'm good to go. "All I'm looking for now is to up my game.

The guys that have been playing in my position are doing very well. I think we have the best midfield in South Africa. I must work hard.

I must work my way up to the team because they also deserve to play. They've been doing very well. The team comes first, then it's the individuals.

"My last game was against Maritzburg in the MTN8. I've played against Chiefs also in the MTN8 and in the league. I have played like four games so far."

Chippa host cup kings Chiefs in TKO

PORT ELIZABETH - Chippa United will tackle Kaizer Chiefs in a Telkom Knockout Cup quarterfinal match at the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium today. Kick-off is at 3:30pm.

The Chilli Boys extended their winning streak to three matches in all competitions when they defeated Bidvest Wits 2-0 in an Absa Premiership match in Johannesburg on Wednesday.

Before taking on Wits, United had stunned Mamelodi Sundowns 1-0 in a last 16 encounter at home last weekend. United will be making their first ever appearance in the Telkom Knockout Cup quarterfinals.

Meanwhile, Chiefs extended their unbeaten streak to four games in all competitions when they drew 0-0 with Polokwane City in an Absa Premiership game in Limpopo on Tuesday.

Amakhosi, who have won the Telkom Knockout Cup a record 13 times, had thrashed AmaZulu FC 3-0 in a last 16 match at home last weekend, prior to their encounter with a stubborn Polokwane side.

Possible starting line-ups

Chippa United: Akpeyi, Macheke, Okwuosa, Konqobe, Maphanga, Mvelase, Mdlino, Mabaso, Mako, Lentjies, Manzini.

Kaizer Chiefs: Khune, Cardoso, Zulu, Mathoho, Gordinho, Katsande, Tshabalala, Maluleka, Molangoane, Ekstein, Parker.

Backpage TXT

ALL LEAGUE RESULTS

SEASON	RESULT	SCORERS
2012/13	Chiefs 2-0 Chippa	Mashamaite, Majoro
2012/13	Chippa 0-2 Chiefs	Motaung Jnr, Nkhalha
2014/15	Chiefs 1-0 Chippa	Parker
2014/15	Chippa 0-2 Chiefs	Masango, Katsande
2015/16	Chippa 0-0 Chiefs	
2015/16	Chiefs 0-2 Chippa	Sali, Manzini
2016/17	Chippa 3-1 Chiefs	L. Manzini 2, Bereng, Tshabalala
2016/17	Chiefs 1-0 Chippa	Lebese

Chiefs are one family - Khune

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs goalkeeper Itumeleng Khune says the club are united together as a family unit and that the players are determined to win a trophy to honour late goalkeeper coach, Alex Revoredo.

As a part of their commitment to being as one and paying tribute to the late Revoredo, the team wear a shirt just before every match when entering the playing arena bearing the words, 'One Team, One Family, One Voice, One Nation, One Africa.'

As such, Khune takes the view that it is an appropriate gesture and he expressed how determined the Glamour Boys are to win silverware in 2017/18.

He told Chiefs' official website, "It means that we, as players, technical team, office staff and supporters are united going forward. We are one family. The theme is about continuing to stick together on this journey and to stay steadfast.

"As a team, we also signed a contract to play every game in remembrance of Alex Revoredo, our former goalkeeper coach, who sadly passed away recently. It's about giving back to him, as he gave so much to us - we want to win a trophy for Alex. We owe it to him.

"We are one family, holding each other's hand. We go forward together as one strong unit."

Sport24



Kaizer Chiefs goalkeeper Itumeleng Khune.

MAHREZ BLOCKED FROM JOINING BARCELONA, ROMA - MONCHI

ROME - Riyad Mahrez was prevented from joining Barcelona or Roma over the summer by Leicester, according to Roma official Monchi.

The sporting director of the Serie A side says that interest from his club was knocked back by the Foxes despite their Algeria international forward expressing a desire to move on.

Mahrez made his intentions clear at the end of the 2016-17 campaign, claiming that he had fulfilled his promise to spend one more year at the King Power Stadium following their remarkable Premier League title triumph. Roma and Barca were among those to enter into talks with Leicester, but those discussions did not last long as the 26-year-old saw the transfer window slammed shut by his current club as several bids were knocked back.

Monchi told Gazzetta dello Sport "We wanted a left-footed winger to replace Mohamed Salah and put it all on Mahrez, but the only reason he didn't come was because the club wouldn't sell."

"It's not an excuse, they said no to Barcelona too."

"Once Mahrez was off the table, we looked around and decided it was better to go for Patrik Schick, who was not the ideal profile for that role, but would be an investment for the club."

"It would've been a mistake in my view to give up on Schick just for tactical reasons."

Schick has made just one substitute appearance for Roma so far, suggesting that they remain in the market for further attacking reinforcements in January.

Monchi, though, has moved to rule out more additions, with there no intention on the Serie A club's part to rekindle their interest in Mahrez. He added: "We won't do anything in January."

"Our new buys must be the improvements from Gregoire Defrel and Cengiz Under, the arrival of Schick and the return of Emerson Palmieri."

Mahrez has struggled to reproduce his form from Leicester's title-winning campaign since being crowned

PFA Player of the Year.

His goal return dipped to just 10 last season, from 18 the previous year, and he has just two efforts to his name so far this term.

He has, however, managed four Premier League assists in 2017-18, with that return already doubling his tally from 2016-17 and pushing him back towards the 11 goals he created on the way to capturing prestigious personal and collective crowns in 2015-16.

Goal

Riyad Mahrez.

Celtic break 100-year-old British record with 63-match unbeaten run

GLASGOW - Celtic have set a new all-time British record matches undefeated in all domestic competitions, having routed St Johnstone 4-0 yesterday.

Strikes from Scott Sinclair, Moussa Dembele and Olivier Ntcham - plus an own goal - gave the Hoops a comfortable victory in Perth, in which every one of their outfield players aside from Scott Brown had a shot at goal.

The Parkhead side have broken their own mark, which stood at 62 games, that was achieved when Tom O'Malley's side enjoyed an undefeated run that began in 1915 and only ended in November 1917.

The run of the current side actually began with the last game of Ronny Deila's reign, when Motherwell were hammered 7-0 on the final day of the 2015-16 campaign.

Since then, former Liverpool boss Brendan Rodgers has been appointed and has yet to taste defeat in Scottish competition since taking charge of the side.

Handful

Indeed, only on a handful of occasions have Celtic come close to being beaten. Motherwell held a 2-0 advantage over them in December 2016 but were defeated 4-3, while late equalisers were required this time against both St Johnstone and Hibs to salvage a point in a couple of home matches.

Their comfortable victory yesterday, means that they hold a four-point advantage over Aberdeen in the Scottish Premiership, with the Dons due to visit Hamilton later yesterday.

Their cup record has been even more formidable, with 12 wins from 12 outings in the League Cup and the Scottish Cup combined. Aberdeen ran them the closest on this front, having only succumbed to a very late goal from Tom Rogic in last season's Scottish Cup final.

They have scored 183 over the course of these games, with Moussa Dembele grabbing 33.

Hot on the heels of the France Under-21 international is Scott Sinclair, who has 30. Stuart Armstrong has contributed 20, while Leigh Griffiths has struck 19 times and Tom Rogic rounds out the top five with 14 goals.

Goal

'Ridiculous' talk of Chelsea exit for Conte leaves Hasselbaink stunned

LONDON - Criticism of Antonio Conte is ridiculous, says Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, who believes the Italian is doing a "magnificent" job at Chelsea.

The Blues boss has faced some uncomfortable questions of late after seeing his side stumble domestically and in Europe.

The reigning Premier League champions sit nine points off the pace in the defence of their crown, while dropping five points against Roma in their last two Champions League

outings.

Conte's position has now been queried, with Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich meeting with the Italian coach, but Hasselbaink is hoping to see the 48-year-old take in a lengthy spell at the helm.

Striker

The former Blues striker told Express Sport: "I think the rumours are just ridiculous. I think he's been doing absolutely magnificent."

"I think when you are a manager you always get ups and downs. He's

had a lot more ups than downs."

It's normal that he's going through a little bit of a difficult time. "I would like to see him at Chelsea for as long as possible."

Conte has fuelled the exit talk with comments of his own, having admitted that he intends to head home to Italy at some stage in the future.

For now, though, he remains committed to the Chelsea cause and the pursuit of more major honours. Back-to-back title successes will be a big ask for the Blues, but Hasselbaink

believes there are many more twists and turns to come in that particular battle.

He added: "It's still a long way to go. '[Manchester] City are playing absolutely magnificently, but a lot of things can happen in the year."

"These coming two months, three months - November, December, January - are going to be really important months of the season. "And from there, you'll be able to see in February, where everybody is."

Goal

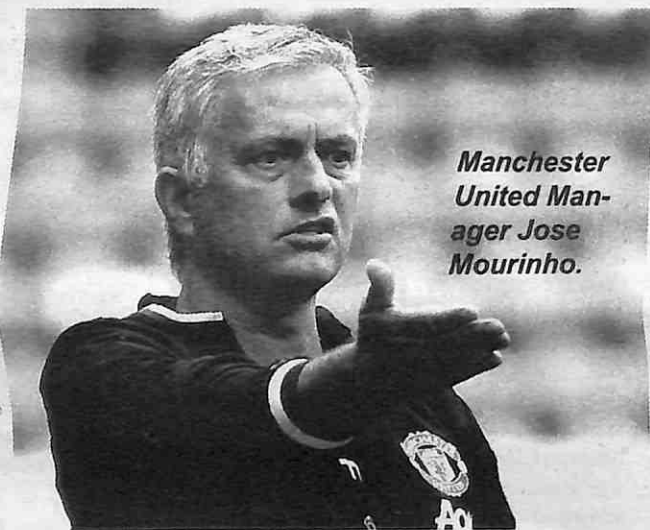
Mourinho refuses to address disgruntled United fans

LONDON - Manchester United Manager Jose Mourinho refused to meet the club's Supporters Trust (MUST), over concerns his playing style in some recent matches has been negative.

In last Saturday's 1-0 victory over Tottenham Hotspur, the Red Devils kept things very tight and created few openings before Anthony Martial popped up with a late winner at Old Trafford.

In addition, Mourinho employed what appeared to be a defensively-minded strategy in the 0-0 draw with Liverpool on October 14 in the Premier League. He told Sky Sports, "I cannot meet a quarter of the planet. I think a quarter of the planet is Manchester United red. I cannot meet them."

The Portuguese added he would not be surprised if he



Manchester United Manager Jose Mourinho.

was greeted with a hostile reaction today's clash with his former side Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, saying, "That's not a problem at all."

I walk in the street and outside the football 'heat' I get so many Chelsea fans, especially in the area where I live, and I

didn't have one single one that wasn't nice."

"What happened in the football stadium is a different thing. When I go to Stamford Bridge, I am the manager of their opponent so I accept every possible reaction with the utmost respect."

AFP

I will tell Griezmann to come to Barcelona - Umtiti

BARCELONA - Barcelona's Samuel Umtiti has promised to try and convince France teammate Antoine Griezmann to join him at Camp Nou if there is a chance of landing Atletico Madrid's star forward.

Umtiti arrived at Barcelona in the summer of 2016 from Lyon and has quickly established himself as a regular at the heart of the Catalans' defence.

That form has also seen him break into the France team, where alongside Griezmann the youngster helped Les Bleus clinch a place at the 2018 World Cup. Now, with Griezmann's Atletico struggling to reach the heights of previous seasons, Umtiti believes he would be a fine addition to the Blaugrana squad.

"We have already seen what he can do at Atletico, he is a



Samuel Umtiti and Antoine Griezmann.

world-class player," the 23-year-old signalled in an interview with Ara.

"If the opportunity to sign him is there I will tell him not to hesitate, and to come to Barca." The opening phase of Barcelona's Liga campaign has taken place in the shadow of constitutional crisis in Catalunya, with the region's parliament declaring independence and the national government led

by Mariano Rajoy responding with the imposition of direct rule. A controversial vote on separation was accompanied by scenes of violence in Barcelona, and Umtiti admitted that even as a foreigner he could not help but be affected by the upheaval - especially when Barca were forced to play a home game against Las Palmas behind closed doors due to the situation. AFP



Celtic players celebrating their second goal.

CELTIC DISPATCH DIKWENA, REACH TKO SEMIFINALS

JOHANNESBURG - Lantshene Phalane and Tshegoatso Mabaso ensured Bloemfontein Celtic are through to the next round of the Telkom Knockout Cup after beating Bloemfontein Celtic 2-1 in the quarterfinals at the Royal Bafokeng Stadium yesterday afternoon.

For the hosts, Bonginkosi Ntuli scored in the opening half, but it was not enough as Siwelele go through to the next round of the competition.

Victor Letsoalo had a glorious opportunity to make it 1-0 in the 25th when his deflected shot in the box went over the cross bar.

However, it was Ntuli who broke the deadlock five minutes later after receiving a long pass into the box, and the burly forward chipped the oncoming Tignyemb to make it 1-0.

It was the hosts who were leading at halftime.

Siwelele pushed for an equaliser in the second stanza and they levelled matters when Phalane netted with a fine left-footed set piece to beat Stars keeper Dino Visser in the 58th minute.

Ntuli missed a wonderful opportunity from a header after a great cross down the left flank, the goalscorer saw his effort going wide with just Tignyemb to beat in the 79th minute.

In the 80th minute, the visitors came back from behind to grab the lead through substitute Mabaso after brilliant play by Kabelo Mahlasela who beat three Dikwena defenders before setting up a cross.

Despite their efforts to find an equaliser, the hosts were not clinical upfront as they exit the competition they won in 2013.

Backpage TXT

RAPID REDS PILE PRESSURE ON BILIC

LONDON - Sometimes it is not the defeat itself that marks the end of an era; sometimes it is the manner of the defeat which is far more damaging than the score-line itself.

West Ham were abject against Liverpool at the London Stadium. By the end, a crowd of almost 60,000 had withered and thinned to around 15,000 hardy souls who saw it out to the bitter end to half-heartedly boo the team off. Most of those left by then were jubilant Liverpool fans.

This wasn't how it was meant to be when West Ham launched their brave new world in Stratford last year. Then, Slaven Bilic was riding high, having overseen an excellent first season at the club, full of passion and excitement. European adventures beckoned; new horizons were coming into view. West Ham might even set their sights hanging onto the coat tails of the big six.

That seems fanciful for now. Of



Liverpool won for the third time in eight days as they beat West Ham United in Stratford yesterday evening.

course, they will play better than this and they could yet recover some respectability. Yet when you concede so easily, defend so poorly and appear so utterly bewildered by a Liverpool team which, good though they are, always offer some hope, it's hard to see how any immediate improvement will come. Owner David Gold and David Sullivan have to ponder whether

to see out a season treading water at best and then head out for deeper waters in the summer or take the plunge now. Right now, West Ham have a League Cup quarter final to sustain them but precious little else.

Conceding goals to Liverpool on the counter attack is not necessarily a disgrace.

Daily Mail

Terriers hang on for win over West Brom

LONDON - Midfielder Rajiv van La Parra scored with a wonder-strike from distance as 10-man Huddersfield Town dug deep to beat West Bromwich Albion 1-0 for a second straight home win yesterday.

The Terriers got the breakthrough just before the interval when midfielder Aaron Mooy's quickly-taken free kick found its way to Van La Parra and the Dutchman curled the ball past West Brom goalkeeper Ben Foster and into the top right corner.

The home side were dealt a blow 12 minutes into the second half when Germany's Christopher Schindler, who was booked for impeding West Brom striker Hal Robson-Kanu in the first half, got his second yellow for a lunge on



Rajiv van La Parra.

defender Ahmed Hegazi.

Huddersfield defended with determination in the closing stages and Danish goalkeeper Jonas Loss pulled off two sharp saves in added time to ensure victory for the hosts and extend West Brom's winless run in the league to nine games.

AFP

VOKES ENDS SAINTS' UNBEATEN RUN

LONDON - Sam Vokes came off the bench to earn a stubborn Burnley side a third away victory of the campaign against struggling Southampton at St Mary's.

The Clarets, who were also indebted to goalkeeper Nick Pope's excellent performance, struck with just eight minutes remaining as Vokes expertly turned home Johann Berg Gudmundsson's pinpoint cross to send the travelling supporters into raptures behind the goal.

Pope, a former Charlton Athletic youngster, made a string of fine saves, denying Nathan Redmond on three different occasions on a blustery afternoon on the south coast.

Redmond, who was thrust back in from the start by Manager Mauricio Pellegrino after missing out against Brighton last week, was the Saints' most obvious threat during a first half lacking clear-cut opportunities.

The England under-21 international created the first half chance, bursting into Burnley territory before blasting high over the cross bar.

Redmond then turned provider picking out an unmarked Sofiane Boufal at the back post, only for the Morocco international to volley straight at Pope.

More stoic Burnley defending denied Ryan Bertrand with James Tarkowski throwing himself brilliantly in the way of the left-back's powerful low drive.

The attention soon reverted back to Redmond, whose endeavour was almost rewarded just before the break but Pope was on hand to expertly turn away his goal-bound effort to keep the scores level. Southampton's dominance continued early into the second half with Cedric's right-wing cross met by Gabbiadini, but the Italian failed to trouble the unshakeable Pope.

Bertrand was proving a valuable outlet and the England international linked well with Redmond to force a succession of corners.

But the Saints couldn't by-pass Pope, who pulled off another terrific one-handed save to keep out Maya Yoshida's dipping volley from the edge of the box.

Southampton were relentless but equally just as wasteful. Captain Steven Davis volleyed high over the cross bar when well placed as Pellegrino's side pressed by a decisive breakthrough.

Daily Mail

Cook wins game late on for Cherries after Gayle goal

NEWCASTLE - Rafa Benitez chose the eve of this game to refute claims that his Newcastle side are boring. The response was a fourth 1-0 defeat of the season as Bournemouth's Steve Cook stole a stoppage-time victory.

It was a deserved win for the visitors on the evidence of their second-half ambition, sensing that the hosts were a spent force and duly pressing for maximum points.

Indeed, Benitez's team did not register an effort on target in the second half and would have been fortunate to escape with a point, as had looked likely when the contest entered injury-time - but it was defender Cook who intervened to meet Andrew Surman's corner in the 92nd minute as he headed his first goal in 11 months.

It had been put to Benitez on Friday



Steve Cook powered in a header from a corner in the 92nd minute to earn all three points for the visiting side.

that his team is uneasy on the eye and, while he rejected that accusation, he did start with two in attack for the first time this season. It was

a tactic which worked, at least in terms of offensive intent.

It has been a frustration of home supporters this season that their

side are too conservative, even if results have justified the means, but here was all-out attack from the off. The problem was they failed to convert their dominance into goals.

Matt Ritchie was involved in everything good about the Magpies during an energised opening in which his low blast was tipped wide by Asmir Begovic. He then provided the cross from which Dwight Gayle flashed a header on goal, only for the ball to hit Cook inside the six-yard area.

Gayle - the man restored to the line-up to partner Joselu up top - appealed for a penalty. The effort, though, had crashed into the upper chest of the centre-back.

Christian Atsu, like fellow wide-man Ritchie, saw a lot of the ball early on and he twice went close, first seeing a rising drive flipped over by Begovic before a measured curler was deflected wide off the impassable Cook. **Daily Mail**

MTN Premier League 2017/18

PICTURES



Mbabane Swallows captain Tony 'TT' Tsabedze and Royal Leopard's Bongani Ndzimandze battling for the ball during the MTN Premier League match at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. Swallows won 2-0. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



Mbabane Swallows supporters celebrating one of their two goals.



Swallows players celebrating their first goal.



Leopard's Machawe Dlamini winning the ball from Swallows' Stanley Umukoro.



Sandile Hlatjwako challenged by Bongani Ndzimandze.



One of Leopard's scoring chances.



Royal Leopard goalkeeper Phephisani Msibi landed in this position after Mbabane Swallows' Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko (not in the picture) scored the team's first goal.



Swallows' Felix Badenhurst blocked by Leopard's Zweli Nxumalo and Sifiso Nkambule.



Swallows coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati issuing instructions to his charges.



Mbabane Swallows and Manzini Wanderers supporters occupied the same stand.



Swallows fans Gugu, Ngabisa and Nozwelo in jubilation.



Leopard coach Sifiso 'Nuro' Ntibane laughs after the referee punished them in favour of their opponents.



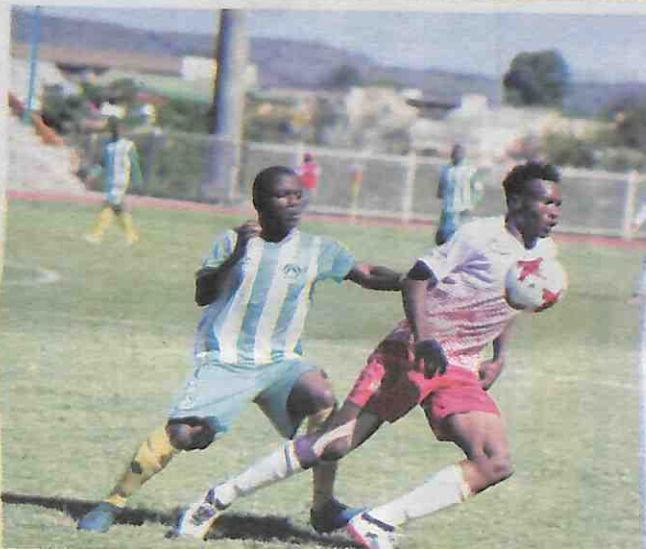
MTN Premier League 2017/18

PICTURES

RED LIONS VS GREEN MAMBA



Red Lions technical bench watching the game. They lost 2-0 to Green Mamba at Mavuso Sports Centre yesterday.



Red Lions' Sandile Mhlenga dashing away from Njabulo Tfwala.



Zulu and Green Mamba's Muhle Shiba fighting for the ball.



Green Mamba's Mcebo Mdluli and Mthokozisi Hlatshwako vying for the ball.



Red Lions' Thami Zulu and Musa Dlamini in a head and kick encounter.

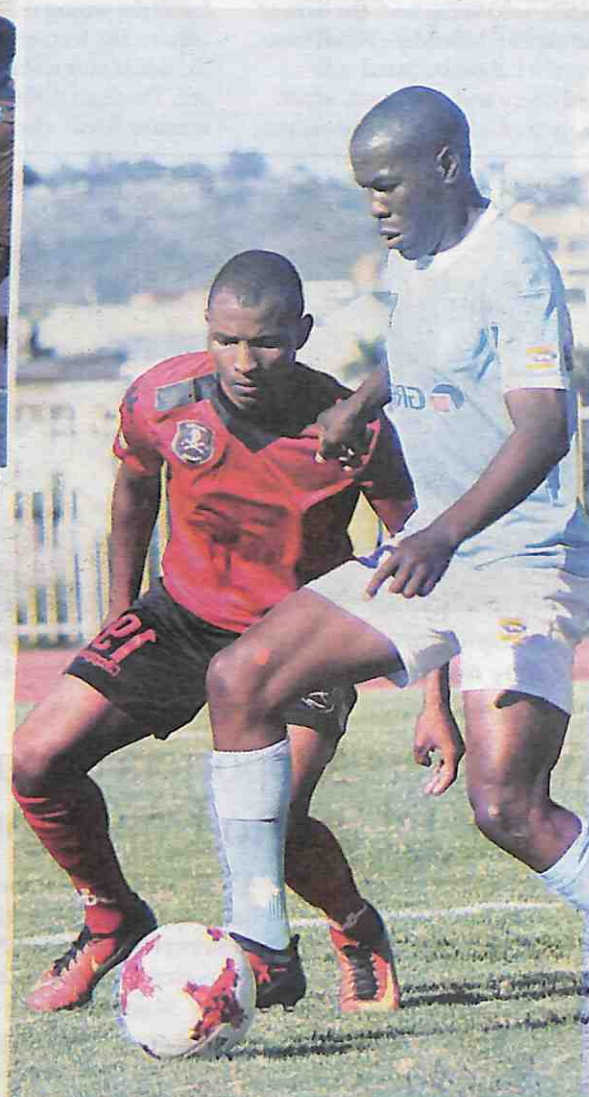


Matsapha United players celebrating their first goal that was scored by Jimmoh Moses. Matsapha beat Moneni Pirates 2-1 at Mavuso Sports Centre yesterday. (Pics: Sabelo Majola)



Mthobisi Mngometulu scoring Matsapha United's second goal with a header.

MATSAPHA UNITED VS MONENI PIRATES



Matsapha's Sidumo Shongwe negotiating his way past Samkelo Ginindza.



Pirates fans celebrating their lone goal.



Matsapha United fans celebrating their victory.



MTN Premier League 2017/18

PREVIEWS

CAN MALANTI CAUSE ANOTHER UPSET AT 'BUFFS' EXPENSE?

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

Malanti Chiefs vs Young Buffaloes
Somhlolo National Stadium, 1:30pm

Fresh from a crunching 0-2 defeat at the hands of Tambuti, Northern Hhohho side Malanti Chiefs bounced back in style in mid-week, stunning third-placed Matsapha United with a 2-0 defeat with two goals scored in 52 seconds.

The Christopher Tembolled side seemed to be motivated and capable enough to beat any team on their day.



Malanti Chiefs.

Burly forward Charles Molopo is currently the league's leading goal scorer with seven strikes in 11 matches.

The team is made up of talented and dedicated players who should not be taken for granted and will surely give Buffaloes a run for their money.

On the other hand, Dominic Kunene's charges have one goal in mind this season, which is to better their last season's performance where they played second fiddle to the swash-buckling 'Beautiful Birds'.

Thriller

This will be one thriller of a match as both sides boast confidence having won in mid-week, Malanti stunning Matsapha 2-0, whilst Buffaloes thrashed capital city giants Mbabane Highlanders 4-0.

'Downs looking to beat struggling Bull

Mbabane Highlanders vs Manzini Sundowns
Somhlolo National Stadium, 3:30pm

Today's match can either make or break Highlanders.

The once feared capital city giants are now seemingly headed to the very direction they took last year where they found themselves at the brink of being relegated, only to survive, thanks to the 14 team Premier League pilot project. But with the forever revolving doors in the management and technical team, the 'Black Bull' is now heading for the dongas and South Africa's Professor Ngubane watched in dismay as the team he is strongly linked with was outplayed by a dominant Young Buffaloes who trashed them 4-



taining football of late with their players understanding and complementing each other very well.

Sundown's coach Ernest Mavuso will also be facing-off against his former employers in the 'Bull' and supporters can be guaranteed a thriller as all the teams would be out to collect the needed points.

Xolani 'Chocco' Sibandze and Ndimiso Shongwe.

Bottom battle as Tambuti face City

Tambuti vs Midas City
Tambankhulu Stadium 3:30pm

Tambuti mentor Texan Phiri was fuming after his side suffered their seventh defeat of the season following a 2-0 thrashing from Malanti Chiefs.

Despite welcoming back the likes of skilful captain Mpendulo Ngidi from injury, the Lubombo based side looked jittery and disjointed, which sums up their story so far this season.

They have blown hot and cold as they perform gallantly in one match, only to then do the opposite in the next.

They are in desperate need of the three points.

The team faces another error-prone team in Midas City.

The team has been making history for all the wrong reasons though this season. The former Caleb Ngwenya-led side is now a shadow of its former self. The team suffered their 11th consecutive defeat when they were

thumped 2-0 by a relatively wasteful Manzini Wanderers on Wednesday evening.

The team's mentor Albert Dlodlu watched the clash from the stands, something that raised suspicions over his future with the team.

If Tambuti win this match, it will ease off the pressure and help them settle, but if City stun them, then its bad news because they might find themselves swapping places with City in no time. Kick-off is 3:30pm.



Manzini Wanderers supporters at the Hope House in Manzini where they donated groceries, clothing and blankets yesterday. (Courtesy pics)



National Supporters Committee Chairman Lucky 'Majaivane' Dlamini making his remarks during the event.

Wanderers supporters donate close to E4 000 to Hope House

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

Soccer - Manzini Wanderers supporters showed their charitable side when they donated close to E4 000 worth of groceries, blankets and clothing to patients at the Hope House. Over 30 supporters were part of

the donation made at the Centre based in Manzini yesterday.

Interviewed yesterday, National Supporters Committee Chairman Lucky 'Majaivane' Dlamini said the gesture was meant to give back to their community which also supports them as a team.

"As supporters we also have a

responsibility to help those who are less privileged, and that is why we are here today," he said.

He stated that the patients at the Centre requested that they be furnished with the team's membership cards so they can also attend games.

"Some of these patients are Wanderers supporters and they really wish to come and see the team in action.

We will go back to the elders to inform them of this special request

as we would also be happy for them to come and support these boys," he said.

Meanwhile NSC Secretary Sandile 'Ntofo' Dlamini thanked the supporters, the Hope House and all other stakeholders that contributed towards the success of the event.

"This is a start and we will continue to other regions. Supporters and others who wish to contribute can still do so as we have said this is just the start of the journey," he said.

Taekwondo pulls out of Moza games at the eleventh hour

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

TAEKWONDO - The Swaziland Taekwondo Association (STA) pulled out of the Mozambique Open competition scheduled for this weekend in Maputo.

The local association decided to pull out of the competition due to a technical meeting which was also slated for this weekend at the St Michael's Hall yesterday. STA Secretary Mbongeni Sibandze confirmed the developments when sought yesterday. "We have decided to skip the Mozambique competition and stage the strategic meeting on Saturday (yesterday) where the technical team will be sharing its long term plan for the national team. The Committee will be delivering a report and we felt this was important, hence pulled out of the games." "We also will be strategising on how we will approach the upcoming international competitions for juniors," he said.

Sibandze, however, mentioned that they would be taking part in the Korean Ambassadors Cup billed for Tshwane, South Africa, next month. "We are still going to take part in the Ambassadors Cup and the team is still preparing itself through the weekly training sessions. We are going to announce the final squad as soon as we get the correspondence from the organisers," he said.

'BIRDS' FLY AWAY WITH FIRST ROUND INCENTIVE

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

Royal Leopard..... (0)0
Mbabane Swallows..... (1)2

SOCCEER - The all conquering Mbabane Swallows continued to dominate local football circles after clinching the E350 000 first round incentive of the 2017/18 MTN Premier League.

The capital city giants continued with their unbeaten run, sending police side Royal Leopard packing, with a 2-0 victory in a highly anticipated league affair at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

The 'Beautiful Birds' bagged their second prize money of the campaign after winning the pre-season Swazi Telecom Charity Cup three months ago, at the expense of the same opposition.

Swallows nearest contenders Young Buffaloes will now play today's league game against Malanti Chiefs with high hopes of winning the title as Swallows have mathematically walked away with the carrot.

'Umkhonto ka-Shaka' sealed the deal through goals from their seasoned pair of Wonder 'Samba' Nhleko and skipper Tony 'TT' Tsabedze in each half, emphasising their dominance over 'Ingwemabalabala', who last beat them 3-1 two seasons ago at the same venue.



Royal Leopard goalkeeper Phephisani Msibi landed in this position after Mbabane Swallows' Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko (not in the picture) scored the team's first goal.

It was the tried and tested 'Samba Jive' that drew first blood in the 26 minute with a well timed volley taken from outside the box, leaving Leopard goalkeeper Phephisani Msibi bemused. The goal came after a slow start, especially from Swallows as they struggled to create meaningful scoring chances.

Leopard were unfortunate not to level matters when midfielder Zweli 'Mlilo' Nxumalo's powerful free kick bounced off the cross bar a few seconds before the break.

Leopard tried to force their way into the match in the second half, throwing all sorts of missiles to the opposition.

Striker Lungelo Tsabedze should have found an equaliser just before the hour mark when he directed his strike straight

into the hands of Sandile 'Nkomishi' Ginindza after benefitting from a Bonginkhosi 'Manyovu' Dlamini pass.

Swallows then dampened the opposition's spirits 12 minutes before time when skipper 'TT' Tsabedze slotted home a second half substitute Sizolwethu Shabalala's pass to extend his side unbeaten run to 34 matches.

The development product Shabalala came in for Felix Badenhorst who limped off the pitch in the second half after replacing Lazola Kunene about 15 minutes into the game.

Swallows supporters will now have to bring champagne to pop in their next league match against Malanti Chiefs where they will be officially handed their cheque next weekend.

not to register his brace five minutes before halftime when his stunner hit the crossbar with Vovovo goalkeeper Machawe Dlamini well beaten. Dombo eventually secured a brace two minutes into the second stanza when he connected a Kola Aladeon low cross with a sublime strike inside the sixes, beating the hapless goalkeeper. Wanderers second half substitute Allie Matse, who came in for Nkosiyazi Maphosa, should have done better in the 64th minute when he directed his effort straight into the hands of the goalkeeper after a break attack orchestrated by the hardworking Kola. The hub giants continued to squander numerous other opportunities in front of goal and were fortunate as Vovovo caused a little threat in the later stages of the stanza but failed to convert their chances. The hub giants are now on fourth position with 21 points.

deadlock six minutes into the match through trusted skipper Lwazi 'Shana' Maziya who tapped home his own rebound header that had hit the cross bar following a Sifiso Matse cross.

The visitors did not despair as they responded to the opener six minutes later when Ghanaian striker Sabela Mohammed headed home a Phinda Nkonyane corner to silence the home crowd.

The hub giants kept on pushing numbers and they deservedly regained the lead just after the hour mark and it was dribbling wizard Mike Dombo who blasted home a Lihle Shabangu floated cross at close range to bring back life at the 'Weslians' grandstand.

The DR Congo born star was unlucky

Resurgent 'Weslians' trash Vovovo 3-1

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

Manzini Wanderers..... (2)3
Vovovo..... (1)1

SOCCEER - Hub giants Manzini Wanderers are on a roll.

The maroon and white outfit recorded their third consecutive win at the hands of hoodoo side Vovovo whom they beat 3-1 at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday.

The 'Weslians', who started the season on a rather slow note, have amassed an impressive 21 points with only one match before the end of the first round and are sitting on position four of the log. Wanderers were first to break the

'Koki' dedicates first round success to 'Birds' family

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCEER - Mbabane Swallows coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati has dedicated their first round triumph to the Swallows family.

Vilakati said this soon after watching his charges clinch the E350 000 carrot following a 2-0 win over Royal Leopard at the Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. "I would like to congratulate the Board of Directors, Management Committee,

players and supporters for the success, which is a result of hard work from everyone in the team. Our ultimate goal is to win the League title and we will continue working hard until the end of the season," he said.

Control

"Coming to the match, we didn't start well due to the poor warm up session but managed to regroup after 15 minutes, took control of the match and eventually emerged victorious at the end," he added. Meanwhile, his Royal Leopard coun-

terpart Sifiso 'Nuro' Ntibane commended his players showing despite the loss.

"We tried our best on the day but were let down by conceding an early goal. We opened gaps at the back and got punished. We tried forcing our way back but were unfortunate," he said. The coach also noted that the team was inconsistent in the first round; something he said affected them a lot in the season. "We will not despair but continue fighting hard in the upcoming games to try and salvage something at the end of the season," he said.

Green Mamba bite 'Amabhubesi'

BY SIBONGISENI ZONDI

Red Lions..... (0)0
G. Mamba..... (2)2

SOCCEER - Green Mamba scored twice in the first half to brush aside a struggling Red Lions 2-0 in an MTN Premier League match played at the Mavuso Sports Centre yesterday afternoon.

Green Mamba made their intentions

clear as early as the 2nd minute when Red Lions star Solomon Oladele's shot was almost fumbled by Lions keeper Sicelo Dlamini.

That near costly error was a sign of things to come from the Red Lions goal minder and the trouble came five minutes later when diminutive midfielder Njabulo Thwala let fly, a shot from long range, which caught goalkeeper Dlamini way out of his line and sailed into the net. Dlamini seemingly didn't recover

from the error and looked nervy before being substituted for Jim Knowledge in the 27th minute. Knowledge was soon collecting the ball from the back of the net as Oladele whipped in a devilish cross from the right for Banele Mdluli to simply tap into the goal in the 35th minute.

Mdluli should have made it three in the 40th minute when he found space inside the box but his shot was well saved by Knowledge. Mdluli was at it again three minutes later, this time testing Knowledge with a long range effort which the Red Lions keeper tipped over the

bar. Red Lions started the second half the stronger of the two sides and should have found their first goal four minutes into the stanza when a long ball into the box found Gcina 'Kwere' Mazibuko unmarked but his ball control failed him and the chance was gone.

Two minutes later, the post saved Green Mamba as Sibusiso Mabelesa let fly from range, only for his shot to hit the upright with Mamba keeper Colani Mngometulu well beaten.

That was the last clear chance for Red Lions as Green Mamba regained con-

trol of the match and started to boss possession. Mamba should have added a third in the 81st minute but substitute Muhle Shiba missed a sitter from inside the box after being well set up by Musa Dlamini. That miss would not prove any costly though as Mamba held on to their advantage until the final whistle.

The win means new Mamba coach Caleb Ngwenya has collected seven points from a possible nine since his arrival after a victory over Mbabane Highlanders and a draw against Manzini Sundowns in midweek.

Matsapha bounce back after victory against Pirates

BY SIBONGISENI ZONDI

Matsapha..... (1)2
Moneni Pirates..... (1)1

SOCCEER - Matsapha United returned to winning ways with a hard fought 2-1 victory over Moneni Pirates in a pulsating MTN Premier League encounter played at the Mavuso Sports Centre yesterday afternoon.

Yesterday's win was Matsapha's first in three matches after consecutive defeats to Manzini Wanderers and Malanti Chiefs. Matsapha were up for yesterday's match and showed their intentions as early as the first minute when striker Sidumo Shongwe headed wide from six yards out. That miss would soon be forgotten though as defender Jimoh Moses rose highest to head in from a corner in the 3rd minute to give the Premier League rookies a 1-0 lead.

Pirates started to push hard for an equaliser, pressing Matsapha deep into their own half at times. In the 30th minute, young midfielder Lindani Matsenjwa's well-placed shot went just wide as Pirates continued to pile on the pressure on their opponents.

Matsapha were looking dangerous on the counter, however, and broke free in the 32nd minute through Mthobisi Mngometulu who burst into the box before unleashing a shot that hit the side net.

Pirates coach Zenzele 'Ace' Dlamini responded by pulling off young Matsenjwa for Nhlanhla Nkosi in the

36th minute and two minutes later his side should have levelled, only for striker Vusumuzi Mashaba to shoot over the bar from an unmarked position inside the box. Mashaba would soon make amends for that miss though as he tapped in the equaliser from close range after a long ball into the box had been flicked on to him five minutes from the interval.

The opening minutes of the second half went by without much incident until the 55th minute when the match was stopped for close to 10 minutes as Matsapha goalkeeper Khanyakweze Shabalala required medical assistance for an injury that ultimately saw him subbed off for reserve keeper Mxolisi Dlamini.

The match was back underway and in the 68th minute as Pirates' Fanelo Mamba went on a mazy run before unleashing a shot that was, however, straight at the goalkeeper Dlamini.

A minute later, Pirates came knocking again and this time it was Vusumuzi Mashaba who was slow to get his shot away when he found space in the opposition box and the ball was cleared away. In the 71st minute, Matsapha's Peter Mabaso found space but shot straight at Pirates goalkeeper Zwane as the action went end to end. A minute later though, Matsapha would get their second when Mthobisi Mngometulu headed in after a devilish cross from Mthobisi Mdluli on the right. Matsapha held on to their slender lead despite intense pressure from Pirates in the final minutes of the match to win 2-1.

Phoenix are NWL champions

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

BASKETBALL - Phoenix Alumni are the 2017 National Women's League champions.

The star-studded team comprising of former Waterford KaMhlaba students claimed the title after an emphatic 84 - 39 victory against Super Ladies. This was during their epicentre finale played at the Mavuso Sports Emporium yesterday.

The Andile Thwala-led Super Ladies started the match on a high, and they pressed high, but Phoenix were up for the task as they soaked in the pressure and attacked back with intention.

After the recess, Phoenix finished off the game on a high, and totally outpaced and outplayed Super Ladies with their transition and deadly finishing. The match

eventually finished off 84-39 in favour of Phoenix. Interviewed after the clash, Phoenix coach Tich Muyembo attributed his side's success to hard work. He applauded his side for their dedication and commitment throughout the season. "My players worked really hard for this. I am happy for them. "We won it by frustrating them in the first quarter when they came strong and after that, everything fell into place," he said.

Crumble

Meanwhile, the runners-up coach Robert Mehira said he had anticipated that his side would crumble in the finals. "Honestly, we expected a result like this. Phoenix are a very strong side with a lot of international players in their team. A lot of our players are currently writing their exams in South Africa so we didn't have our full-squad for this game," he said.

INGWENYAMA CUP REGIONAL GAMES

Today at Manzini Club

Kwaluseni Rebels	vs	Maliyaduma United	9.30am
Luvu Cosmos	vs	Boyane Young Aces	11.30am
Nsuka United	vs	Moyeni United	1.30pm
Stumbo IX	vs	Luyengo Foxes	3.30pm

Today at Prince of Wales

Sibuyeni	vs	Billy Ocean	1pm
Imbube	vs	Kupheleni	3pm

Today at Killarney

Mvuma	vs	Ndeva Galaxy	1pm
N. Swallows	vs	Manchester United	3pm

SundayObserver SPORTING

NOVEMBER 5, 2017



E350 000 IN THE BAG FOR 'BIRDS'

...Mbabane Swallows defend MTN League First Round Championship title after beating rivals Royal Leopard yesterday.

THE LOG

MTN Premier League log

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
Mbabane Swallows	12	10	2	0	23	5	18	32
Young Buffaloes	11	7	4	0	18	6	12	25
Matsapha United	12	6	4	2	13	8	5	22
Manzini Wanderers	12	6	3	3	18	16	2	21
Green Mamba	12	5	3	4	18	11	7	18
Malanti Chiefs	11	5	3	3	17	15	2	18
Manzini Sundowns	11	3	6	2	15	11	4	15
Royal Leopards	12	3	6	3	12	9	3	15
Moneni Pirates	12	4	3	5	13	16	-3	15
Mbn Highlanders	11	4	1	5	12	16	-4	14
Vovovo	12	4	1	7	11	18	-7	13
Tambuti	11	3	1	7	11	19	-8	10
Red Lions	12	1	2	9	7	21	-14	5
Midas City	11	0	0	11	7	24	-17	0

MTN PREMIER LEAGUE

MTN Premier League

Results			
Swallows	2	Leopard	0
Wanderers	3	Vovovo	1
Matsapha	2	M.Pirates	1
Red Lions	0	G. Mamba	2

Playing today

At Somhlolo National Stadium:			
Malanti Chiefs	vs	Buffaloes	1:30pm
Highlanders	vs	Sundowns	3:30pm
At Tambankulu Stadium:			
Tambuti	vs	Midas City	3:30pm

THE LOG

MTN National First Division

Position	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Citizens	8	8	0	0	21	5	16	24
Madlenya	9	7	1	1	19	5	14	22
Tinyosi	9	6	1	2	21	4	17	19
Sea Birds	9	5	1	3	20	13	7	16
Milling	9	4	2	3	9	9	0	14
Callies	9	4	1	4	10	13	-3	13
Sikhalo	9	2	3	4	9	15	-6	9
Bad Boys	7	3	0	4	7	11	-4	9
Hub Sundowns	9	2	1	6	7	11	-4	7
Amalanda	9	2	1	6	6	14	-8	7
Tycoons	9	2	0	7	12	16	-4	6
Mahlalini	8	1	1	6	10	19	-9	4

NATIONAL FIRST DIVISION

Results			
Hub Sundowns	1	Tycoons	0
Citizens	5	Sikhalo	1
Amalanda	2	Bad Boys	1
Tinyosi	3	Mahlalini	1
Milling	1	Callies	0
Madlenya	3	Sea Birds	1

PIRATES DUMPED OUT OF TKO

JOHANNESBURG - Polokwane City upset Orlando Pirates as they won their encounter 4-2 on penalties to book a Telkom Knockout semi-final berth.

City almost caught Pirates napping in the first minute when Thabang Klaas received a cross from Rodney Ramagalela until Justice Chabalala blocked the eventual shot.

Ramagalela was responsible for City's opening goal as he set up Rendai Ndou, who headed into an empty net to give his side a lead in the second minute.

Pirates slowly got back into the game and were pinning Polokwane back. Ntsikelelo Nyauza equalised for the home side in 12th minute with a



shot from 12-yards out.

Mpho Makola beat a defender before his attempted lay off for Thamsanqa Gabuza who was timeously cut out by George Chigova to keep his side in the game.

Theminkosi Lorch put in a low cross for Gabuza who missed an open goal from close range as his attempt sailed over the bar in the 23rd minute.

Pirates were awarded a penalty in the 30th minute and after a lengthy

injury delay, Makola took the penalty but was denied by a brilliant stop by Chigova, who was substituted just after his heroics as his injury forced him off.

Makola made up for his penalty miss as he ensured the scores were level at halftime with a headed goal into an empty net.

Pirates had a penalty appeal ignored by the referee after Lorch was brought down in the box but was unfortunately not awarded the penalty.

The hosts opted for a change after 58 minutes as Thabiso Kutumela replaced Justin Shonga.

Vusumuzi Mngomezulu had an opportunity to reclaim City's lead when he found space in the box but his effort went well over the bar.

The scores remained the same after 90 minutes as the teams went on to extra-time.

Polokwane City were the brighter side in extra-time after a headed effort at the near post was kept out by Sandilands foot in the second minute of extra-time. Substitute Bongile Booi missed a clear-cut chance as his effort sailed over the bar.

Polokwane City won the game 4-2 on penalties after Marc van Heerden and Nyauza missed their penalties while Walter Maponyane won it for his team.

Here's how they lined up:

Pirates: 30 Sandilands, 19 Chabalala, 34 Nyauza, 36 Van Heerden, 8 Matlaba, 5 Makola, 15 qalinge, 3 Lorch, 14 Nyatama, 7 Shonga, 31 Gabuza.

Polokwane: 1 Chigova, 2 Semenya, 19 Ravhuhali, 22 Mbonani, 5 Maponyane, 21 Seabi, 6 Vilakazi, 15 Klaas, 17 Ramagalela, 8 Maluleke, 35 Ndou. *Soccer Laduma*