



The Right Place

The Right Sunday



MAY 7, 2017

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GIRLS RULE THE FIREFLY!



Girls made it to the top 3 of the MTN Bushfire Firefly on Friday night. Winners Mandisa, Lindz and Symphony won a slot to perform at this year's MTN Bushfire Firefly stage during the Sound Storm Finale beating seven other hopefuls. They are flanked by Lady Dee and Ur-Gal Zee. SEE MORE ON PAGE 13. (Pic: Ayanda Dlamini)

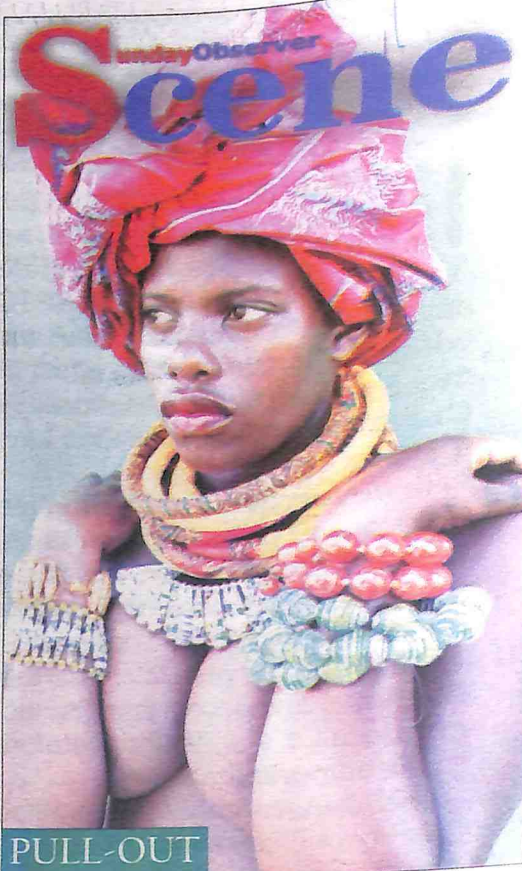
MARRIED

MEN

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'I CAN BRING BACK OLIVEIRA'

CLARIFICATION

In our article, JVA 'Null and Void', published on April 23, 2017, we stated that the Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) between SPTC and Swazi MTN should be null and void, if the coming into effect of the Swaziland Communications Commission Act of 2013 is anything to go by.

However, our headline (on the front page) gives the impression, to the average person, that this is an official pronouncement, despite our efforts to put this in half-quotes.

We therefore wish to correct this headline, and accept that it is inaccurate as it stands and therefore misleading to the public.

The JVA can only be annulled through official channels such as a court pronouncement or indeed the shareholders involved in the company. Any misunderstanding caused by this headline is regretted.

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MARRIED MEN SLEEPING WITH GAY MEN

BY ZWELETHU DLAMIN

There is a marked increase of married men engaging in extra marital affairs with gay men.

This is according to an on-going study which has to date surveyed over 40 gay men resident in the country.

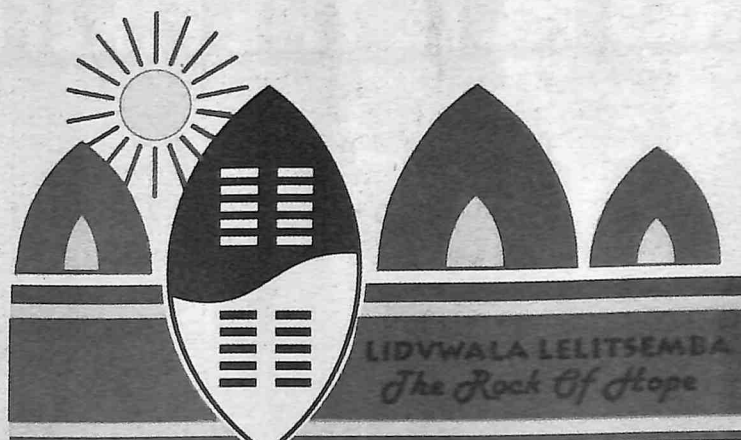
Although in its preliminary stages, the study has already come across findings to the effect that the exclusion of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex (LGBTI) community in government development programmes as well as society as a whole resulted in marginalised men soliciting or being solicited to engage in sexual relations with 'straight' men who in turn fund their livelihood. In fact, a majority of the 40 respondents cited marginalisation within the economy as reasons for engaging with married men who in turn fund their flamboyant lifestyles.

According to the researcher who is known and was vouched for by several organisations advocating for LGBTI rights, gay men were treated as mistresses, colloquially referred to as 'side chicks' or *makhwapheni* by married men who in turn gave them money or other expensive favours.

The researcher, who is part of the LGBTI community, revealed that he is a man who identifies as a woman and fancies to be referred to by his feminine name which he preferred withheld as he was yet to complete the study. "Happy said, "It is very true, we are being treated as side chicks by married men, but some people just agree because they want the money."

According to Happy, the study is meant to ascertain the reasons behind infidelity in married couples, as well as find the reasons behind the noted increase in male prostitution in Swaziland. In the report, there are several reasons stated as a cause for married men to turn to their gay men counterparts. "Some of the respondents revealed that the married men turned to them due to dull sexual relations with their wives," Happy said. On the other hand, respondents reportedly said some

...High profile men actually closeted gays married due to societal pressures



Rock of Hope Communications Officer Melusi Simelane.

of their high profile 'boyfriends' or benefactors were in fact closeted gays who, while living in denial, publicly led heterosexual lives while willing to pay a high price to keep their homosexual behaviour hidden, hence the financial favours granted.

Asked

When asked about the findings, Rock of Hope Communications Officer Melusi Simelane said although he was not personally aware of the

study, the findings could not conclusively define gay men.

Rock of Hope is an organisation based in Manzini which advocates for LGBTI rights as well as other marginalised organisations.

Simelane said even though it was true that homosexuality was associated with promiscuity, the truth was that infidelity was a choice and people choose what they want to do for one reason or the other.

Simelane said the truth of the mat-

ter was that many people engaged in transactional sexual intercourse.

"The truth is we all know one or two friends who have had sexual intercourse for a favour.

This is not specific to any sexual orientation. We must remember what prostitution is, and the merits of ethics must remain with the two persons on that deal.

Yes, I know of homosexuals who engage in sexual intercourse for favours, same as I know heterosexuals who do the same.

We need not ask who they have this with or why, because then it is no longer a question of two people engaging in consensual sexual favours, but an issue of profiling them," he said. Simelane also highlighted that a lot of work had been done in as far as engaging government and advocacy for the rights of the LGBTIs. "If you ask me, we haven't done enough. We are still in the process of engaging the state more earnestly on issues of healthcare policy that is conducive for all citizens, and also the issue of protection of basic human rights and dignity, as enshrined in the Constitution, for all Swazi citizens," he said.

Simelane stated that the LGBTIs community wants the very same rights that the state, through the Constitution affords every citizen and advocate for justice for all citizens. "We want equality for all Swazis; we want protection for all Swazis.

A very simple example, a male child cannot be raped, in accordance with our current laws. This is something we need to reverse by annulling the 1902 Statute or law called Sodomy Law," he added. He urged government to not only focus on developing the infrastructure of the country, which he said was a commendable, but also look after the citizens and protect them from any form of exploitation.

(Name withheld to protect him from stigma and victimisation)

CANGO SAYS A LOT STILL NEEDS TO BE DONE

Responding to exclusion of the LGBTIs, community from government programmes and society, Coordinating Assembly of Non-Governmental Organisations (CANGO) Advocacy Officer Lungile Mnisi said in terms of programmes non-governmental organisations NGOs do include LGBTIs.

She said this was mostly around HIV/AIDS programming; and government had in some sense done the same considering that Swaziland welcomed Global Fund financial support and amongst the programmes there were activities aimed

at Key Populations KPs.

"KPs are defined to include; truck or bus drivers, sex workers, people injecting with drugs, ex-prisoners, and men having sex with men.

Support

In this sense however, it does not encompass LGBTI, but only the gays," she said.

She pointed out that government's starting point for support of the community would be enacting a positive legislation recognising the LGBTI, which she said could open doors towards the realisation of their rights and dignity of being.



"I can imagine the group itself is affected as they will have no redress

in the law should they feel their rights are abused on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

They are deprived of many government services and their dignity as human beings is degraded," she said.

Responding to the question her awareness of the findings of the study that indicates some gays were treated as prostitutes by married men she said she wasn't aware of it.

"I am not aware of this; but I wouldn't be surprised," she said.

*Not his real name

I CAN BRING BACK OLIVEIRA - INYANGA

BY MLONDI MPANZA

Alternative means of getting Matsapha Businessman, Almor Oliveira, returned-home safely expire at the end of the day.

This is according to Nkosikhona Fakudze, son to infamous traditional healer, Elliot Fakudze from Mndobandoba in Big Bend who told this newspaper that his father had instructed him to find the businessman's wife and take her to their homestead within two days beginning from yesterday.

Nkosikhona, who works as a security guard in one of the security companies based in the capital, said this yesterday when he visited the Swazi Observer offices seeking for assistance on how he could meet Oliveira's wife in order to communicate the important message to her. He said he was at loss on how he could give assistance to the family of the kidnapped man.

When the Royal Swaziland Police (RSP) Service was informed of the offer of assistance through alternative means, Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba said that they could not accept such an offer as they were working professionally by means of investigations and could not dwell much on supernatural solutions.

When Oliveira's wife Audilia was also called, on hearing about the *Inyanga's* offer of assistance, she declined to listen further and asked that the call be ended.

In the interview, the keen to assist Nkosikhona explained that he had received the instruction from his father after he had called him and

21 days since Oliveira kidnapped

Today marks 21 days since Almor Oliveira was allegedly kidnapped from one of his company premises in scuffle which left blood stains in his car which was found abandoned several hours after he was last seen.

The police have reportedly been working tirelessly to crack the case as they, from the onset, offered E150 000 as reward for information leading to finding the missing businessman. Over and above conventional investigating methods, the police requested the assistance from men of God to pray for them as was witnessed last week at the Lobamba Police Station. During the said service, pastors prayed, not only for the businessman to be found but for the investigators to be guided in their quest.

Arrest

The prayer preceded a press conference where the National Commissioner Isaac Magagula revealed the arrest of two suspects with an additional person arrested a few days later.

During another briefing on Friday, Magagula revealed there was a fourth suspect located in South Africa.

The suspects, an Asian couple, Ping Ming of China and his wife Hau Dao of Vietnam have been charged with five counts and are currently



remanded pending their reappearance in court tomorrow.

The couple stands accused of the kidnapping and further charged with four counts for allegedly contravening the Arms and Ammunitions Act after being found in possession of a 9mm special revolver loaded with three live rounds of ammunition

would make means to get Oliveira back. In fact, Nkosikhona said his father had told him that as soon as the wife returned home from Mndobandoba, she would find her husband back in their Matsapha home safe and sound together with the kidnappers who would then be

arrested by the police. Further, Nkosikhona pointed out that before approaching the Swazi Observer offices, he went to Oliveira's resident in attempts to meet his wife. "I went to the family earlier today and tried to engage the family.

They were arrested while at Ezulwini by the Lobamba police on April, 28 and are allegedly linked to the kidnapping of the Portuguese property mogul.

However I was turned back and I

could not get my message across as I was told to seek a way of entering the homestead from people who had previously been granted permission. I then came to the Swazi Observer offices due to their close proximity to my workstation today," he said of his alleged encounter with security guards who have since over two weeks ago been limiting visitors to enter the family compound.

He said the guards, who seemed to believe his offer of assistance, asked him to alert the media so as to encourage the family to accept the offer of assistance. When asked whether he was aware that there were police investigating the matter and they were the only ones who could assist him approach the family seeing as this was a highly sensitive matter, he stated that whilst he had no problem with sharing this information with the police in order to bring back the businessman safe and sound, he could not go to the police station as his father had advised them from a young age never to set foot in any police station.

"I can meet the investigating officers at any venue of their choosing other than a police station as I live by my father's teachings of never setting foot at any police station as this will remove the balance of our existence," he said. Due to being on duty, he left after the first conversation and promised to return later during the day in the event he was not sought from his workstation.

"I am willing to abscond work tomorrow (today) in order to assist the family as this thing is really bothering me," he said adding how his father was capable of assisting them only if they were willing to be assisted.

Death

His father Elliot came to the public eye in 2013 after the death of his son who lost his life following injuries sustained due to alleged assault by several soldiers attached to the Military Police wing.

In the ensuing days of young private's death, the *Inyanga* threatened the Umbutfo Service Defence Force with all sorts of calamity to which it responded with an apology to Fakudze. The eight soldiers suspected to have meted out the alleged punishment were arrested after they surrendered to the police about 30 days after his demise, a week after a ninth committed suicide.

Doctor prescribed Cannabis for Cypriot farmer to smoke

BY LUNGELO NKAMBULE

Haorilas Origenis Nissiotis, the incarcerated Cypriot Cannabis Farmer was allegedly prescribed by his doctor to smoke weed two times a day.

According to information sourced by this publication, Nissiotis was diagnosed with bronchial asthma and anxiety neurosis; therefore he was advised to continue smoking cannabis as a form of treating his condition.

Making his recommendations in the doctor's note in possession of this publication back in 2002, Dr. James

Stephen stated that the drug in question was the cheapest and most effective form of treatment that Nissiotis could use for his condition.

Explained

The note explained that anxiety neurosis; a form of psychoneurosis happened among individuals of above average intelligence; it occurs from faulty adaption to the pressures and stress of life. It is brought on by over action in an attempt to meet these difficulties. He was also diagnosed with bronchial asthma. It is stated in the doctor's note that cannabis opens rather than restricts the airways.

Nissiotis was arrested for operating an illegal dagga factory in his compound at Mountain Drive in Mbabane. He was arrested together with five of his employees after the police busted him.

According to the charge sheet, his garage and backyard had been turned into a full-blown factory as they grew, manufactured and packaged the illegal herb there. It is further alleged that the illegal factory has been operating for almost seven years prior to the bust.

The farmer and his employees are facing three counts one of which is

being found in the possession of dagga weighing six kilogrammes and 915 dagga plants.

This therefore means they contravened the Pharmacy Act, the Opium and Habit Forming Drug Act. The 71-year-old Cyprian man and his five employees are currently out on bail.

Resumes

It is expected that Nissiotis will use his diagnosis and the doctor's recommendations in court when his trial resumes and this adds to the debate in political spaces where parliamentarians want the herb to be legalised

for medicinal purposes, amongst others.

The members of Parliament have further gone to the extent of selecting a committee that will do a thorough research on the pros and cons of the usage of the drug for both commercial and medical reasons.

This comes after some parliamentarians including the minister of housing and urban planning said it was time that this drug is legalised as it would not only boost the economy but present the country with a medication option.

Reports have also stated that Swaziland has the best dagga in the world and has also been labelled as the Swazi Gold.



NATICC Program Manager Henry Ndlovu (left) and NATICC Director Sisekelo Nzima having a chat during the GBV and Teenage Pregnancy Prevention launch at Bethesda Mission on Friday



Inkhosikati LaMagongo delivering her speech during the GBV and Teenage Pregnancy Prevention launch on Friday (Pics: Ntokozi Vilane)

GBV UNACCEPTABLE - INKHOSIKATI LAMAGONGO

BY NTOKOZO VILANE

Inkhosikati LaMagongo has noted there is no day that passes without disheartening reports of how women and children fall victims of abuse.

Inkhosikati LaMagongo was speaking during the official launch of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Teenage Pregnancy (TP) Prevention programme held at Bethesda Mission on Friday.

The Inkhosikati, who is also the patron of Nhlanguano AIDS Training, Information and Counselling Centre (NATICC) said the victims were mostly abused by their close relatives and as a result, a number of teenagers end up not continuing with their educa-

tion due to early pregnancy.

She stated that one in three women was a victim of abuse.

"Today more than twenty years after the UN General Assembly adopted the declaration of the elimination of violence against women, one in three women experience physical or sexual violence. This is unacceptable and reminds us of the need to redouble our efforts in fighting GBV," said the Patron.

She further said the approach adopted by NATICC to educate schools, churches and communities was an indication that the organisation was involved with communities and that they have acquired background knowledge of community structures as their

target group, young girls and women, were the most vulnerable. She added that child protection is a shared responsibility.

"Collective work between our community structure and families can improve the outcome. Building relationships based on principles of trust, respect and shared decision making, contributes to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people by protecting them from significant harm," said Inkhosikati LaMagongo. Churches, schools and communities have been encouraged by the NATICC Patron to collectively establish a unified voice in the counselling and support of survivors of GBV and TP. Explaining the pro-

gramme further, NATICC Director Sisekelo Nzima said the aim was to fight GBV and TP in the Shiselweni Region. Nzima stated that between the years 2012 to 2016, there were 1678 cases of GBV that were attended by NATICC.

Breaking down the figures, he said there were 340 reported in 2014, 387 in 2015 which is a marked increase of 13.8 per cent from the previous year.

He stated how over 38 per cent of the cases attended by the organisation were of teen mothers.

"Over 80 per cent have been found to have been perpetrated by close relatives," he said. The director said pregnancy was a leading factor for dropouts in girls doing Forms One through

Three which saw 27 per cent of pupils leaving schools prematurely in 2013. On the other hand, he said from Form Four through five cluster, 34.7 per cent of the dropouts were due to pregnancy.

Stating the overall goal of the programme, Nzima said they are all out to fight GBV and eliminate teenage pregnancy by the year 2021.

On another note, he emphasised that a school going pupil who falls pregnant should be permitted to resume her education after having her child. "Pregnancy is not supposed to be an obstacle in a child's education," he said, adding how they were looking forward to seeing societies where GBV will not be tolerated or accepted. Nzima said another objective of the program was to increase an individual's access to information and education about GBV and TP prevention as it has been noted that teenagers are failing to abstain from sex, hence the need to encourage condom usage from as early as 12 years of age.

Minister awards Motor-show 2017 winners

BY SUNDAY OBSERVER REPORTER

The Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Jabulani Mabuza yesterday presented awards to the Swaziland Motor-show 2017 award winners.

The event was held at the Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre. It began on Thursday and ended yesterday. The winners were Digit Vehicle Tracking

who won the award for best Non Dealer Ward, Hyundai Tucson for Most Exciting Vehicle and Tata 1518 X2 who won the Best Heavy Plant Award.

Ford Everest also won the Best SUV Award, Hyundai H1 Bus, the Best Goods Vehicle, Suzuki Celerio for the Best Passenger Vehicle (Sedan), Swazi Auto Truck Centre for Best Customer Services Stand and Mbabane Motors were the Best Motor Dealer Stand.





The Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Jabulani Mabuza posing with the winners of the exhibition.



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OVER 1 000 PARTICIPATE IN NDUNAYITHINI ROAD SHOW

BY SUNDAY OBSERVER REPORTER

Over a thousand people under Sigwe Inkhundla pounded different paths to participate in a road show held at Ndunayithini Sports Ground yesterday.

The major attraction was the 10 different companies who showcased different products and services including, providing public education on same and setting up a one-stop shop of sorts.

Some of the participating companies include Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVA), Swazi MTN, Nedbank, Swaziland Post and Telecommunications (SPTC), Premier Bakeries, Dups, and Population Service International (PSI), to mention but a few.

Swazi MTN proved to be one of the most popular stands as the public crammed their gazebo to access free SIM swaps, an upgrade that would enable them to access the 4G network currently available on the business corridor that runs from Oshoek through King Mswati III International Airport, into Siteki.

Mobile Money, MTN's secure money transfer platform, was the other interesting product that saw members of the queueing for registration ahead of Mobile Money Month scheduled to take place next month.

Mobile Money Month is a multi-sectorial campaign, to be run in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental agencies that increasingly use Mobile Money as a currency of choice in the implementation of development programmes.

Amongst other objectives, Mobile Money Month will include mass education, and mobilisation of churches, SME's, churches, and individual subscribers to register on the platform and enjoy the convenience of transacting in the comfort of their private spaces.

The national drive on Mobile Money will take place at national, regional and community level, alongside multiple promotions that will see active subscribers winning bonuses on the platform, up to 100 per cent.

Speaking on how the Ndunayithini Road Show fared Swazi MTN's Bheki Dlamini said the enthusiasm from the participating communities was heartwarming.

"One of the interesting observations was how people are not familiar with the concept of data bundles, and this road show could not have come at a better time than this.

We were happy to assist them buy data bundles, including converting airtime into data bundles," explains Dlamini.

Participating subscribers were additionally delighted that this road show takes place during the course of the Internet Festival (iFEST). iFEST is an on-going two-month internet festival which seeks to create awareness of the internet and the enormous benefits it offers to consumers and businesses. It allows customers to enjoy free bundles which they can use to experiment on different online platforms.

Within the Internet Festival is an Applications Challenge Competition which allows ordinary people who have the knack to develop applications to stand a chance to win a grand prize of E25 000, amongst many prizes.

Since its introduction in 2011, Mobile Money has worked well to improve financial inclusion in Swaziland. Mobile Money has about half a million subscribers serviced by over 2 249 total registered agents spread across the country.



Some of the participants queueing at the Swazi MTN stand where they enquired about the services offered.



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24% cooking oil levy protects one farmer one company

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

The contentious 24 percent levy on the importation of edible oils has over the last seven years protected one manufacturer as well as a single commercial farmer.

It has been seven years since the country was thrown into a heated debate concerning the protection of local edible oil production through an increase in import levies which was hiked from 15 percent to 24.

Despite the restriction of importation through the levy, the country still produces a shortfall of 11 000 tonnes as farmers shun sunflower with only one commercial farmer showing fervent interest.

The 24 percent levy on edible oil was first introduced in 2010 when Government won a court case where Southern Trading had taken the Ministry of Agriculture to court, challenging the then minister of agriculture Clement Dlamini's decision to amend regulations of the National Agricultural Marketing Board (NAMBoard) which enabled it to demand importers of edible oil and other related products to register and obtain permits from it. The minister also allowed NAMBoard to charge

importers a 15 per cent levy on sunflower, soya beans, ground nuts and cotton.

Later after complaints, mainly from SOMI, the

ministry further increased the levy from the 15 percent to 24 percent which makes edible oil levy the highest in the list of agricultural products sourced from NAMBoard's website.

This was reportedly done to protect SOMI which was said to be at its infancy stages. By 2014 the industry and ministry was still struggling to get farmers to venture into business of growing sunflower. One of the reasons stated was lack of expertise and farmer inputs for farmers who wanted to grow sunflower. In that year, SOMI said it was banking on financial assistance from the World Bank and Taiwan Technical Mission to support local farmers.

Levy still low - SOMI

Even though the levy of edible oil is the highest in the list on imported agricultural products the Swaziland Oil Mill Industry (SOMI) says this is still low.

"The 24 per cent levy is still low compared to other countries in the SADC region, for instance Mozambique, Botswana, and Zambia. Count out South AFRICA because their government subsidises the industry," said the SOMI Managing Director.

He said the 24 per cent was not enough to compel importers to source the products locally from his factory because they purchase it at very low prices in South Africa. He said the 24 percent did not stop importers who gave his company competition.

SOMI Director Mohamed Daud, during that period, said the two institutions' help would see local farmers getting farm inputs that would enable them to produce more and supply the edible oil making company. He said if farmers had all the necessary inputs, they would be able to plant the required amount of sunflower, cotton or soya to meet SOMI's demand, adding that the company would be able to make more oil for the local market.

A few months later in 2015, the ministry of agriculture reiterated its encouragement of farmers to consider sunflower due to drought that affected some parts of the country, especially in the Lubombo region which resulted in low yield in maize. During that period, the minister said they had been engaged in the sensitisation programme and that about 900 hectares of land is currently used while they require a total of about 10 000 hectares.

Fast forward to 2017, the country has a lone commercial farmer who supplies SOMI.

During an interview on Thursday, Daud said he only had dealings with one commercial farmer who supplied him with 1 000 tons annually while another 1 000 was the total

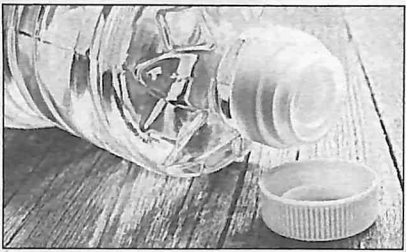
produce from the rest of the very small scale farmers who sell their harvest to NAMBoard from where he then buys for manufacture.

He said the initial plan was for the 1 200 farmers, engaged over the years through the ministry, to meet the demand of 13 000 tonnes of sunflower. He said his company is only able to get about 2 000 tonnes locally per annum.

When called about the edible oil industry, Ministry of Agriculture Principal Secretary Sabelo Masuku stated that sunflower farmers were faced with a number of challenges which discouraged them to venture into its production.

He also stated that the purpose of introducing the levy was to protect local supply and to create employment opportunities.

A source from the ministry of Agriculture who said the 24 percent was specifically introduced to protect SOMI while it was at its infancy stage. The source said the competition was necessary as per the market demand which requires that consumers are presented with a variety of products as they also have varied tastes on products. The source further revealed that the import figures indicated that the local production was not able to meet the demand of edible oil. "This also affects the consumers because they are the ones paying for the levy as the products then become expensive as retailers also will add markup, the competition helps control the prices which is an advantage to the consumers," the source said.



'MISSION TO DESTROY ME KILLING MUNICIPALITY'

BY MLONDI MPANZA

Ezulwini Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Vusumutiwendvoda Matsebula has alleged that there are people with serious motives behind the controversy and chaos at Ezulwini Town Board.

The CEO whose municipality has been clouded with a string of controversy minced no words when he said he knew all the people who were behind the troubles.

According to Matsebula, these people are hell-bent on seeing him go down although they were damaging the town's reputation which was a high price to pay for the municipality that has grown massively in eight years also attracting local and international investors.

He revealed this in a tell-all interview with the Sunday Observer, where he opened up that he had learnt that being firm, transparent, accountable and incorruptible as a person made people get very uneasy to be around him and that also made him become a threat; a hindrance to these people's corrupt practices and aspirations.

His sentiments come after numerous reports that have been published in local newspapers where different allegations which sought to taint the image of the organisation were made.

"If you give yourself time and follow the Ezulwini story as it has been unfolding you can easily tell that clearly there are people behind all this," he said.

However, the unfortunate part was that these people were in all the structures of the organisation and they have been relentless in their attacks.

He then addressed the numerous allegations that have been made against him from hiring people without certificates to being in a love triangle at work and further owing a labourer money to the tune of E2 000 which he said was just utterly outrageous.

To date, he said he was still perplexed as to how people can come up with such fiction.

He stated that just as he had submitted during the Commission of Enquiry, in the workplace there will always be gossip among the staff and management about certain members being engaged in relationships, taking drugs, being abused by a partner and a num-

...Bad publicity to impact on rate collection

The impact of the controversies surrounding the board and the CEO will be felt in the town's rate collection, according to the CEO Vusumutiwendvoda Matsebula.

He said this is because these allegations have had a serious impact on the image of the municipality as a brand and for people who only got to read the accusations and the allegations and never got to hear the explanations could have an impact on how they view the municipality and its leadership.

He said this could also result in ratepayers apprehension in which case they may not have confidence that their rates and taxes are used for service delivery and improving the town.

"Also this has had a negative impact on staff morale. It is not easy to work

● Says he is aware there are people targeting to destroy him behind all Ezulwini troubles at the cost of fast developing town's reputation



ber of unfounded lies, it is natural in any environment.

"I would never go and stand in front of people under oath and talk about a gossip that I do not have proof about. Just as I said, a lot of gossip has also come to my ears from sub-ordinates gossiping about their heads of departments. In such instances I use my discretion as an adult not entertain such," he explained.

Matsebula further stated that in cases

where he felt the issue had to be addressed, he would conduct his own investigations to find out the facts of the matter before jumping to conclusions and is therefore very disturbing when a respectable adult entertains gossip that has no proof. "My experience has taught me that the staff will always gossip about their supervisors always," he added.

He also said, "I have also learnt that corrupt people like to make noise and accuse the innocent of being corrupt thus turning attention away from their own corruption, nepotism and incompetence."

Matsebula said he was convinced that he was being accused of all these allegations because he has stood firm and defended the procedural awarding of tenders and abiding by the standing orders, procedures and legislation.

Lastly, he has learnt that there is a price to pay for being upright and honest and as a professional, he was more determined to do what was good and remain professional in his work.

Meanwhile, the troubles for the rapidly developing town allegedly began when the CEO wrote a letter to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Phiyayinkhosi Mabuza where he sought for his intervention on an impasse between him and the town's Councillors, according to our sister publication, the Observer on Saturday.

This, he allegedly did to avoid a situation whereby their relationship would be irreparably damaged, making it hard to work together for the town.

The minister responded by calling the councillors to the ministry for discussion of the matter where it was agreed that the impasse would be solved through a conflict resolution exercise and in the process the council was ordered to stop any business in light of the impasse.

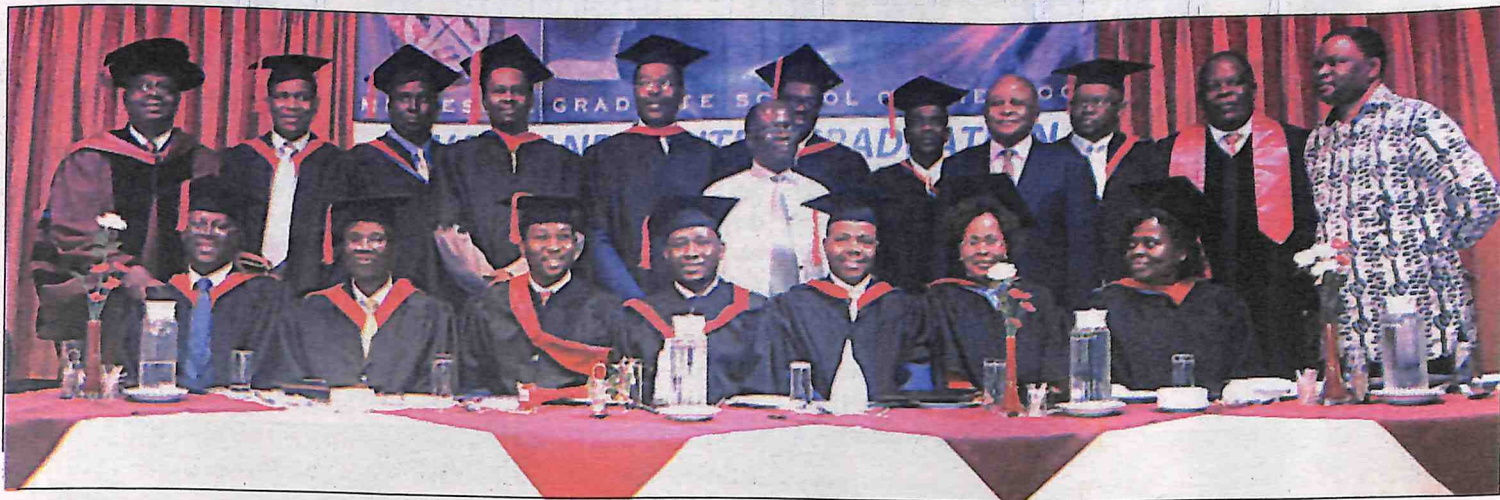
But before the exercise could commence, the Council moved a motion with 11 complaints against the CEO and called him to a meeting to answer to these which the minister unsuccessfully tried to stop. He later wrote a letter to the Council reminding them that their move was unacceptable.

development noticed its fast development.

"As we speak we are home to corporates like Swaziland Water Services Corporation, MTN, SWAKI soon to be joined by the Swaziland Revenue Authority.

"We are also home to the premier leisure resorts in the country like the Sun International Hotels, the plush Royal Villas, the Happy Valley Hotel, Sibane Hotel and Mantenga Cultural Village. We have the International Convention Centre and the Five Star Hotel, as well as that we will soon going to be a home to a multi-million Hotel to be built at the Boma. In the past years we have also won a number of awards on our ability to attract investment to being the cleanest town in the Kingdom," said Matsebula.

With regards to the SAMKHO report, he said it was implemented after being approved by council and as a result depending on when the labourers were employed, their salaries ranged from E2 432.56 (for the recently engaged labourers) to E3 536.79 and up to E4 003.11. This is gross which means it includes basic salary, housing allowance, medical aid (paid in full by the employer) and pension (contributed for by both the employer and employee).



Minnesota Graduate School of Theology Swaziland Centre pastors graduated with Degree and Masters in a ceremony held at Bethel Court. A total of 14 pastors graduated during the ceremony.

MNGUNI, 13 PASTORS GET DEGREES

BY SIMON SHABANGU

Former His Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS) Commissioner Mnguni Herbert Simelane was among 14 pastors who graduated from the Minnesota Graduate School of Theology Swaziland Centre during a ceremony held at Bethel Court yesterday.

Simelane, an ordained pastor, obtained Degrees in Theology while 11 others obtained their master's degree after four years of training at the Global Network of Associate Colleges that provides undergraduate and post-graduate qualifications to preachers.

The local centre, known as T-Net Swaziland, is under the direc-



Some of the graduates following proceedings during the event.

torship of Reverend Aaron Matsebula who is also President of the Free Evangelical Assemblies.

The graduates comprised of men of the cloth from different denominations such as the Evangelical

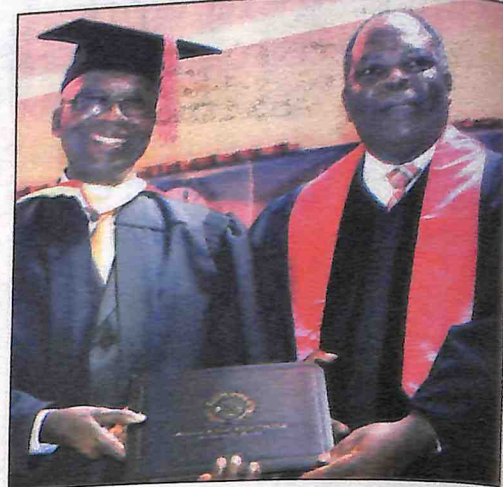
Church under Dr Nicholas Nyawo, Free Evangelical Assemblies as well as the Metropolitan Church.

The ceremony was attended by relatives and friends in support of their own. Also graduating was

a couple, Jethro Thwala and his wife Phindile who both obtained Masters' while Danger Nhlabatsi was also among the graduates.

Other graduates who obtained their Masters' were Sipho Mkhonta, Mbusi Anania Dlamini, Mbongeni Khumalo, Mhlonipheni Khumalo, Bheki Mabena, Sipho Mkhonta, Solomon Nhlengetfwa, Sipho Elliot Sithole and Lungile Angeline Zonke. Degree graduates were Sipho Polycarp Dlamini and Nicholas Dumsani Jele.

The ceremony was graced by the Director from Zambia Reverend Timothy Kashweka, T-Net Trainer Reverend Nason Phiri, Dr. Nicholas Nyawo and Reverend Mathew Mathunjwa from Metropolitan Church. Also present was the Director of the Swaziland Centre



Retired commissioner of HMCS Mnguni Simelane now serving in the Ludzidzini Committee also graduated with a degree.



Public Works and Transport Under Secretary Nanikie Mnisi and Zoda Gama also came through to support their relatives.



Mbusi Dlamini being decorated by Reverend Kashweka on his special day.



FEA President and T-Net Swaziland Director Aaron Matsebula announcing the graduates.



Reverend Nason Phiri T-Net Trainer addressing the graduates.



Masters Degree graduate Sipho Mkhonta receiving his certificate from Reverend Timothy Kashweka who is the Director from Zambia.



Jethro Thwala and his wife Phindile were both graduating on the day.



Swazi Observer's Luke Mkhonta and Tjengisile Mkhonta were also at the event to support Sipho who was also graduating.



Red Cross Executive Secretary General Danger Nhlabatsi receiving his certificate from Reverend Timothy Kashweka.

UNISA EXPERT GIVES VISION 2022 THUMBS UP

STORIES BY NATHI GULE

Swazi-born University of South Africa Governance Specialist Dumisani Hlophe has praised His Majesty King Mswati III's and Swaziland's Vision 2022 describing it as a brilliant roadmap.

The much sought after analyst was in the kingdom last week Sunday to host a session dubbed Kunjalo Live and Direct in which he allowed the audience a chance to interrogate him on development dynamics of South Africa.

Hlophe said the vision to become a first world country by 2022 was key for the country as it provided a target to work towards.

During the event the speaker was also applauded for always defending the country whenever he was called by the SA media to provide his opinion on issues happening in Swaziland.

Clad in traditional regalia the patriotic Sunday Independent feature writer also offered advice on how the vision could be made even more effective.

"I applaud Swaziland for embracing vision 2022 as it is a brilliant vision. This concept provides a vision for modernisation by year 2022. This plan heightens Swaziland's role in regional economic developments.

It however needs to be strengthened by a developmental framework and in my view it should be pegged to South Africa's National Development Plan Vision 2030. I also believe the vision should also emphasise the quest for regional long term plan

...Swazi-born Governance Specialist says Vision heightens country's role in regional development economics.



Swazi-born University of South Africa Governance Specialist Dumisani Hlophe.

integration," he said.

The event was held at Happy Valley Conference Area and also featured Guest Panellist Chairman of the Swaziland Editors Forum Mbongeni Mbingo, who interrogated Hlophe on his presentation much to the excitement of the crowd.

Questions

The event was hosted in a relaxed atmosphere which also allowed the audience a chance to pose questions to the analyst they normally see on eNCA and SABC

but never get a chance to ask questions on the topical issues he is normally called in to dissect or provide his opinions on.

Dr Gideon Mahlalela, who was part of the audience, agreed with Hlophe's view on vision 2022 and said it was also key that we work on the next vision now with a new target date that can be determined by the King so activity is continuous.

Njabulo Masuku was the master of ceremonies for the day and also provided a motivational speech encouraging people

Hlophe unpacks how SA's developments affect SD

The guest speaker Dumisani Hlophe says it is essential to follow the developments in South Africa as they affect Swaziland in different ways.

He noted that Swaziland's economy is pegged out to South Africa's economy and therefore the depreciation of the Rand directly affects the Lilangeni and the cost of living.

He however said Swaziland's subsistence economy should be able to absorb some of the impact of

South Africa's recent junk status rating. "Swaziland has all the resources to be sustainable both in terms of human and economical resources. When you look at some of the main people in SA's companies, they are Swazis so that proves that the country has a wealth of human resource," he said.

He said it was his wish that the Swazis in SA would be invited to share their views on how Swaziland could be further developed using their acquired experience in SA.



Pastor Emmanuel Dlamini poses a question to the guest.

to pursue their dreams.

Hlophe was born in Motshane and holds a Master's Degree in Political Science from University of Kwazulu Natal as well as certified in the Programme for Management Development from the University of Pretoria's Gordon Institute of Business

Science.

The event is a follow up to another he hosted in 2015 entitled 'Unpacking the Manager Leader, Strategies for higher performing organisations.' That talk attracted managers from the various companies in Swaziland and was held at Royal Villas.

Why Swaziland need not worry

Celebrated analyst Dumisani Hlophe says people need not worry about the leadership battle in South Africa too much as the country's foreign policy is not about to change.

He educated the audience that the policy was one that had a foreign policy of non-interference which allowed countries to deal with their own issues if any.

Questions

After his presentation Hlophe then responded to numerous questions from the Chairman of the Swaziland Editors Forum Mbongeni Mbingo.

The analyst was able to respond and also share insights



Luyanda from South Africa poses a question to the speaker.

on how he felt the relationship between SA and Swaziland could be better.

Interestingly last month Hlophe was among panellists at an international leadership

conference at GIBS and after the Sunday session flew to Durban for another session where he was to share the microphone with international speakers.

Hlophe turns preacher, economist, life-coach in event

Those who may have expected a gathering on politics may have been disappointed as the event turned out to be about economy and development and even at times preaching from the guest speaker.

Dumisani Hlophe is popular on social media for his light hearted tongue-in-cheek comments on various issues and he did not disappoint on the day.

Asked by Pastor Emmanuel Dlamini what people could take away from the event, Hlophe took the religious route to respond to the pastor.

"It is interesting you that you



Khula Mkhabela sharing a light moment with the speaker after the event.

are a pastor and you are asking this question, what would you do if your congregants asked you the same? Anyway what I hope people will take from this is to have self-belief and confidence to firstly contribute to their own personal develop-

ment which will also translate to developing the country's economy," he said.

At times Hlophe would quote scriptures like Genesis when illustrating the importance of having a large population for internal trade to succeed.

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4 WOMEN CHALLENGE MASTER'S RULING ON BUSINESSMAN MNISI'S ESTATE

BY SANDILE NKAMBULE

Four women have filed an urgent application at the High Court for the review of the Master of the High Court's ruling on the estate of the late Stanley Sikhumbuzo Mnisi and further set it aside.

The four pray for an order that pending the finalisation of the urgent application they have filed, liquidation and distribution of the estate of the late businessman be hereby stayed and further that the fund from the South African Road Accident Funds amounting to E6 million, be featured in the liquidation and distribution account. They have also filed prayers that the maintenance of the beneficiaries, each of their children, per month and the school fees as per the proposal raised by them stands at E24 000 per month and that the university fees for the beneficiaries be paid by the estate as it is sufficient fund to cater for the education of the minor children's education until they reach tertiary level.

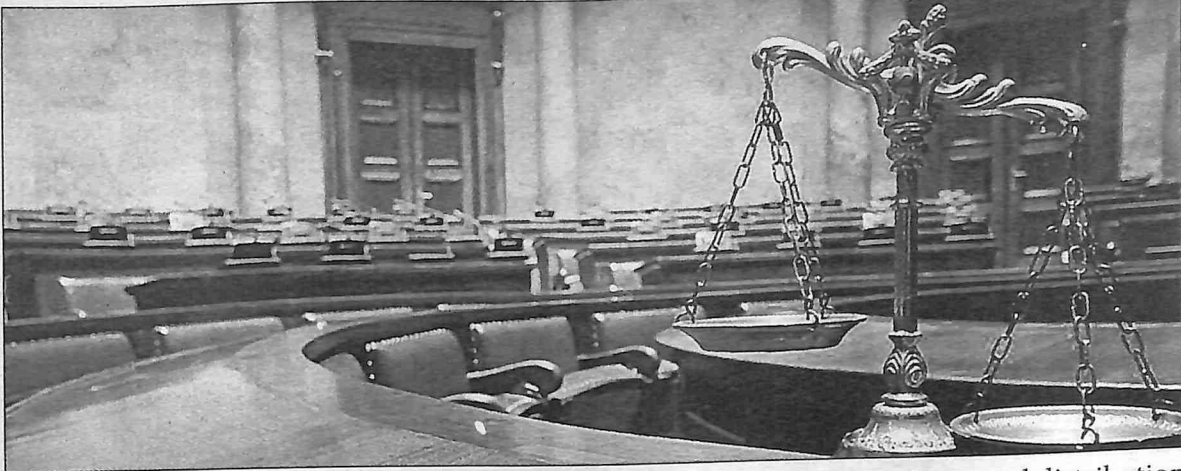
They have also prayed for the inclusion of Earth Quake Designs (Pty) Ltd shares in the liquidation and distribution account.

Mnisi died in a motor bike accident in Badplass South Africa when his bike collided with another motor vehicle in an incident that happened in 2015.

Cited as the first applicant in the matter is Edrika Kamugisha, Gabsile Nhlengetwa as the second applicant, Anele Sithole as the third applicant and Nokuthula Mdluli as the third applicant respectively.

The first respondent in the matter is Melusi Mnisi, Thembinkosi Mnisi as the second respondent, the Master of the High Court as the third and the Attorney General as the fourth

- Mnisi died in a bike accident in SA in 2015, the SA road accident fund paid out E6M which the four want to be included in the estate
- They argue that the Master of the High Court ruling was unreasonable, unfair and it's decision amounts to gross misdirection



respondents respectively.

According to the Edrika in her founding affidavit, on or about May 2015 Mnisi died in a road traffic accident in South Africa and the deceased at the time of his demise had eleven children from different mothers.

On about June 2015, a next of kin meeting was convened where Thembinkosi and Melusi were nominated and appointed executors of the estate and the two prepared a first liquidation and distribution account in the estate of the late businessman on January 27 2016.

A notice according to Edrika was published in the Swazi Observer in terms of the Section 51(2) of the Administration of Estate Act of 1902 in February 2016 and that the first and final liquidation and distribution account will lie open for inspection at the Master's Office and that any person who intends to object to the account was entitled to do so through the executor and the office of the mas-

ter of the high court.

"On or about February 25 2016, I filed a list of objections to the liquidation and distribution account, such objections were filed to the masters Office and to the executors as per the requirements of the Act, and I later received a ruling from the master in July and such ruling is unfair and prejudicial to the beneficiaries since some of them are still minors and need to be maintained and educated," she submitted in her affidavit.

She stated that the Master of the High Court made an error in law and misdirected herself in ruling against the applicants and that the error and misdirection was committed by directing and ruling that the maintenance calculations prepared by the executors and reflected in the liquidation account should stand as is.

Further she said the Master of the High Court erred in ruling that the South African Road Accident Fund claims should be featured in the sec-

ond liquidation and distribution account stating that the master's findings are unreasonable and unfair and amounts to gross misdirection in that it does not place the beneficiaries on equal footing since the advertisement of the estate indicated that it is a final liquidation and distribution account.

Edrika in her affidavit said the Master of the High Court failed to take the interest of the minor children in making such ruling and further failed to take into account the fact that all the children who are at school are still at the same different schools that the deceased left them in.

"The third respondent also failed to take into account the ages of the minor children vis-a-vis that of the older ones in terms of school fees and maintenance and also failed to take into account that the shares of the company from part of the estate and should be included in the liquidation and distribution account," Edrika submitted.

The Master of the High Court according to the applicant also misdirected herself by failing to take into account that the costs of living for the minor children will no longer be the same as compared to that of the older children.

Accordingly the applicants are left with no other alternative but to approach the court for relief before it and she submitted that applicants have a *prima facie* right to approach the court for the necessary relief since the ruling of the master is bias and prejudicial to the beneficiaries and such aspect needs to be adjudicated upon a court of law. She submitted that the prejudice which applicants stand to suffer in the event the court does not grant the relief sought, far outweigh that of the respondents, if there is any, and should the order not be granted, this would mean the beneficiaries will not have a proper upbringing and education.

Supporting Edrika's affidavit were the other three women who are also applicants who submitted that the contents of the her affidavit are true and correct and further submitted that the matter is urgent by virtue of the fact that the applicant will not be afforded a substantial redress at a hearing in due course by the time the matter is heard on the normal course, the harm they seek to avert would have long occurred, rendering the beneficiaries with an empty remedy.

Representing the Applicants in the matter is lawyer Innocent Motsa from Henwood and Company while the respondents are represented by CJ Littler and Company and the matter has been postponed.

High Court Judge Siphon Nkosi ordered that Motsa gets the relevant information on the educational expenses, maintenance and other relevant expenses in respect of the beneficiaries from the mothers of the children since they have different needs due to their ages and upbringing.

Bheki Makhubu to share table with Namibia President

BY MLONDI MPANZA

The Nation Editor, Bheki Makhubu has been invited to the World Press Freedom Day Commemoration and official launch of the Editor's Forum of Namibia Code of Ethics and Conduct where he will be the guest speaker.

The event is set for Wednesday, Makhubu will share a table with Namibian President, Dr. Hage Geingob who will be the keynote speaker on the day and also launch a revised Code of Ethics and Conduct for that country.

The event will be held in the Namibia capital, Windhoek and comes a week after the world commemorated Press Freedom Day on May 3. The day will be observed under the theme "Critical Minds for Critical Times: Media's role in Advancing Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies." In the country, Makhubu has been a vocal advocate for freedom of expression and this has in one instance seen him spending some time in jail after he had together with Human Rights Lawyer, Thulani Maseko written articles where they criticized the then Chief Justice, Michael Ramodibedi. When called, Makhubu said he was honoured with getting the invite and pointed out

that it was consistent with the support he has always been getting from colleagues in the region since his arrest after being accused of scandalising the country's judiciary. He was arrested together with Human Rights Lawyer, Thulani Maseko. He said that the invite was also recognition of what his misfortunes meant to journalism and this was a honourable thing one he had not received even in the country. Makhubu further revealed some of the recognition he has been getting since his arrest and amongst this is the award CNN Multichoice Journalism Award he won for Press Freedom where he was competing with 53 journalists from African continent. "After my release, we went to Uganda with Maseko where we were honoured by the Southern African Lawyers for Human Rights in an event that was held in Kampala," he said in a telephonic interview.

He added that in the same week of his release, he was also invited to dinner Johannesburg by the South African Editor's Forum where he was recognised for his bravery in journalism, which he said these were some of the recognition he has been getting and now he has been invited to share the table with Namibia's President.

WFP drought response food assistance phase out this month

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

World Food Programme (WFP) drought response food assistance ends this month. This has been highlighted in one of the country reports by the organisation.

As per the provisions of the National Emergency Response Mitigation and Adaptation Plan (NERMAP), drought response activities are to come to an end at the end of the lean season and hence, WFP's emergency operation is planned to phase out in May 2017.

As part of its implementation, WFP conducts community sensitisation sessions to regularly inform beneficiaries on all aspects of the assistance they receive, such as ration sizes as well as amount and duration of assistance.

In June 2016, the WFP launched an emergency operation in response to the widespread impact of the El Niño induced drought in Swaziland to provide emergency food assistance to vulnerable people affected by the drought in support of the national response. As per the report to date, more than 226 616 people have been reached by WFP with emergency assistance through a combination of food rations and cash based transfers.

According to the report, the project supports the government's response

We have sufficient food-NDMA

National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) Operations Manager Sihle Mzileni says beneficiaries of food assistance should not panic as the agency was aware of the pipeline support break and prepared for it.

He clarified that WFP was not the only partner that supported the government in the NERMAP, as there were other partners who had pledged different amounts and durations and of support depending on the availability of resources and funding.

Mzileni assured beneficiaries that the agency will ensure that they continue receiving the food aid as

under the National Emergency Response Mitigation and Adaptation Plan (NERMAP), to improve and stabilise household food consumption for drought-affected groups.

The report also states that the emergency response targets 250 000 people and has an overall time frame of 11 months up to April 2017, coinciding with the next harvest. However, assistance to beneficiaries receiving



government positioned standby arrangements to take over where other partners left in supporting the response.

"We do not decommission the food aid pending the outcome of the post needs assessment that we are currently working on. People will continue getting the food aid because we work according to the global humanitarian standards that require us to develop indicators that will inform whether or not to stop the emergency response," He assured.

cash based transfers will phase out in May 2017.

"WFP will closely monitor the situation, and if further assessments show increased needs, the scale and length of the operation will be reviewed. Gaps in funding could prevent timely assistance throughout the peak of the lean season when the drought-affected people will be most in need," reads part of the report.

'SRA'S FREEZING OF BANK ACCOUNTS UNLAWFUL'

STORIES BY MLONDI MPANZA

The act of freezing bank accounts by the Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA) is an unlawful one.

This was said businessman, Percy Frank Thomas popularly known as 'AG Thomas,' in his founding affidavit after he had approached the court seeking for an interdict for an order by the SRA to four banks where he holds accounts at that these should be frozen until he paid outstanding tax for two of his companies namely; Golden Bread Bakery and Mkhulu's Coffee Shop.

The four banks are Nedbank Swaziland, Standard Bank Swaziland, First National Bank Swaziland and the Swaziland Development and Savings Bank. They are Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Respondents, respectively.

Thomas said this was because the Act was based on the provisions of Section 38 of the Income Tax Order which merely speaks to the provision of information to the commissioner and did not clothe the respondents with powers of issuing instructions in the mould of the one in issue herein.

He explained that, "the heading of the Section 38 is itself dispositive of the issue as it unequivocally reads, 'Duty to furnish information on request'."

He was represented by Joseph I. Waring from Waring Attorneys in the matter, whilst the First and Second Respondents were represented by C.J. Littler Attorneys.

The businessman submitted that he had a *prima facie* right to access his bank accounts where there is no court order preventing himself from doing so and humbly reiterated that he was not refusing to pay tax that he was legally obligated to pay.

However, in the present circum-

● This was said by Percy Frank Thomas who runs businesses by the name of 'AG Thomas,' after the Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA) issued an order to four banks that his accounts be frozen until he paid outstanding tax for two of his businesses which he denies ownership of.

stances it appeared that unlawful tactics were being used to compel him to pay tax without a court order by attempting and or freezing all his bank accounts with total and wanton disregard to his personal circumstances or health.

Further, the businessman told the court that in light of the current stance on his bank accounts, he would suffer irreparable harm since he was a businessman engaged in a number of enterprises from which he uses his banking facilities on a daily basis in meeting his financial obligations.

Giving background to the matter, Thomas who is represented by Joseph Waring from Waring Attorneys told the court that the two businesses operating from a Catholic Centre did not belong to him but the church instead.

Pursuit

"On or about February, 9, 2015, I received a letter of demand for Outstanding Tax from the commissioner general of SRA (First respondent) and SRA (Second respondent). The said letter demanded the sum of E 1 577 313 04 as due and outstanding for the tax years being 2009 right up to the year 2013," stated Thomas.

This was only the first of many correspondences that continued for the whole of 2015 without yielding any positive results whilst the First and Second Respondents remained adamant in their pursuit for the alleged outstanding taxes.

Although he had facilitated the construction of the centre he disputed that he owned the two businesses. He was only collecting rent from it on behalf

of the church from which he then remitted the Catholics as well.

The businessman stated that the rent is in fact used to maintain the work of the church in Swaziland and he did not benefit from it in any way despite that he personally built the centre from his own coffers for the church.

In 2016, Thomas alleged his accountant received a communication which was in the form of an email which informed her that a previously closed desk audit had been reopened again.

This was also the beginning of another year full of communications where SRA allegedly made another demand based on the applicants amended income tax returns collected from the two tenants of the church which was followed by an objection from Synergy Consulting, Thomas' tax consulting firm.

Conduit

The base of the objection was that he did not own the centre and merely acted as a conduit in that he collected the rents from the tenants and remitted it to the church without any deductions and therefore these did not form part of his income hence he cannot be subject to tax.

Responding to this letter, SRA wrote back that he was liable for tax amounting to E232 617 24 from the rentals he had collected on behalf of the church. In the same letter, they admonished that the burden of proof was on him to prove that the monies were indeed collected on behalf of the church.

However, numerous efforts by the tax consultants hit a snag despite that

HE FAILED TO DISCLOSE THAT HE OWNS THE TWO BUSINESSES - SRA

In response to the businessman's affidavit, the SRA told the court on February, 22, 2016 that it was a material fact that Thomas owned the said businesses.

"The applicant has failed to disclose to the court material facts which would have enabled the court to decide whether to hear the matter ex-parte or not.

These facts are that the applicant is the owner of the two businesses which pay rent to him," explained the SRA.

He also failed to disclose that he received a 40 per cent share of the rentals collected and the church received 60 per cent with SRA claiming that this basically meant that the businessman was getting an income from the rentals collected and was therefore liable to tax in respect of the share.

Regarding the cheques he provided as proof, SRA claimed that they may have been part of the humanitarian gestures from the businessman to the church as he had said he offered support as a staunch Catholic member.

The SRA added that the instruction to Nedbank was clear that the bank was prohibited from allowing withdrawals from the applicants account if such withdrawals would leave the account with a balance below or less than the amount being claimed.

Thomas is also said not to have disclosed to the court his bank account balance which is information necessary in determining whether any prejudice would be suffered by the applicant if the bank froze the amount being claimed.

The First and Second respondents further state that the powers they were exercising were statutory and had been granted to them by Section 49 of the Income Tax Order No. 22 of 1975.

Tax

"I am advised that such an order would render a nullity Section 49 of the Income Tax Order which is undesirable as it may seriously affect the collection of taxes from tax payers who do not want to pay tax voluntarily.

The court, it is respectfully submitted, cannot issue an interdict against the lawful actions which are sanctioned by the Income Tax Order," states the first and second respondent.

Furthermore, the commissioner and SRA informed the court that they had been advised that an interdict, the actions or conduct complained of must be unlawful, whereas in this case SRA performed an act permitted by the statute, the Income Tax Order.

This therefore makes the conduct of the respondents lawful, they responded.

they had furnished SRA with cheques paid to the church as proof, instead they were advised to obtain bank statements from the Catholic church.

An exchange of letters once again took place and Thomas was told he would know his fate within 30 days, however he later received another correspondence that informed him that his continued failure to discharge the burden of proof meant that the objection to assessment remained in force.

Such an action saw the businessman concluding that the SRA was hell bent

to get payment for tax from him at whatever cost considering the somersaulting acts with regards to the matter.

Thomas alleges that he got a word from one of his banks, Nedbank Swaziland that they had been furnished with a notice allegedly in terms of Section 38 of the Income Tax Order of 1975 directing the bank to furnish SRA with information relating to any personal account he held with the bank and further proceed to freeze any amount that is found in the said account.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR A TV LICENSE

BY VUYILE DLAMINI

Television set owners who are unable to produce proof of purchase will have their payments automatically backdated to 2012.

According to the TV license team appointed by the Swaziland Television Authority (STVA) Board, customers who buy television sets from retailers are urged to enquire about buying a TV license as retailers are required to provide the license upon purchase.

STVA TV license Team Project Manager, Khanya Magagula, explained that customers who bought their television sets from reputable retailers are already registered as a license holder.

"There are people who bought their television sets as far back as five years ago who were unable to purchase a license and we would like to make it clear to them that, they were registered as license holders at the time of purchase," Magagula stated.

According to Magagula, customers should contact the Swaziland Television



Authority (STVA) with their personal identity number (PIN), television serial number and proof of purchase date/ proof of payment to query about their accounts.

"Customers who are able to produce their proof of purchase will have the arrears towards their account calculated from the year of purchase. However if the customer is unable to produce a proof of purchase, their payment will automatically be backdated to 2012," Magagula said.

Magagula added that it was important that people are informed that a TV license is paid for each television set. "Businesses, individuals and retailers which own more than one television set are required to pay for each television set," said Magagula.

SV Mdladla and Associates, in partnership with DataNet, was appointed as the consultancy firm in charge

of helping the public with queries regarding the purchase and payment procedure for TV licenses.

The TV License team will be launching various awareness campaigns between May and September 2017 to educate the public on the importance of paying their TV license.

Magagula said they hope that through these campaigns, members of the public will be well versed on the correct procedures in paying their TV licenses. He said members of the public in arrears have been given a second chance to settle their accounts as they were given a grace period lapsing in September to settle their accounts.

"Defaulters will have their payment backdated to 2012. We hope this will encourage them to settle their accounts so they are not in arrears."

The TV License Team Project

The TV License Team Project Coordinator, Nomsa Dlamini.



Coordinator, Nomsa Dlamini reminded the public that a TV license can be paid monthly at E15, or at an annual cost of E 180.

"We urge members of the public to take responsibility by complying with the law and taking it upon themselves to pay their TV licenses. This will in turn benefit the customer as the service provider will be able to produce quality content and ensure a worthwhile viewing experience."

Dlamini added that the team was further partnering with Swazi Post, which will be responsible for providing a payment service as it is readily available nationwide.

Members of the public with queries regarding the payment and registration of TV licenses are urged to contact the team's Project Coordinator Nomsa Dlamini (78022460) and Project Manager Khanya Magagula (78022860).

HERE IS HOW A E5.5M HOUSE LOOKS LIKE

BY MLONDI MPANZA

In case you were wondering how a E5.5million house looks like, here is how the only available house of that value on the market currently looks like.

This price is synonymous to the cost of a house that the taxpayer is set to pay for the benefit of the Prime Minister, Sibusiso Barnabas Dlamini.

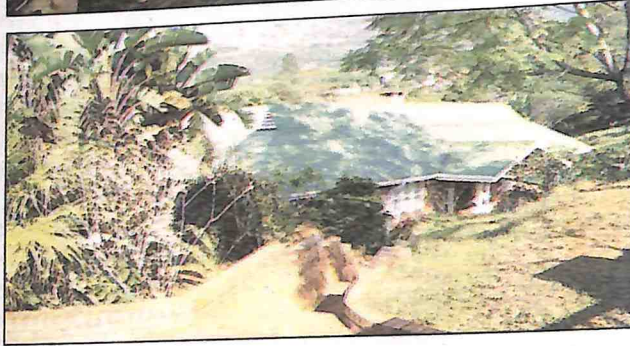
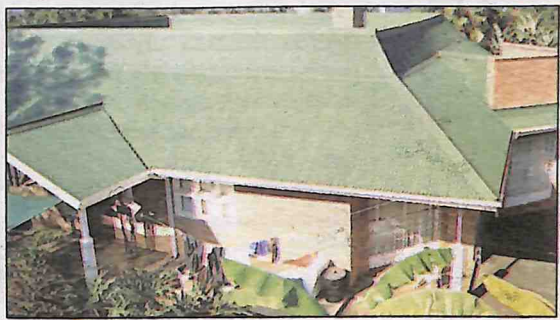
Sourced from one of the country's estate agents website, the house is located at Ezulwini Valley and is described as a, "beautiful mansion house with magnificent views in Ezulwini, the home consists of 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, living room, breakfast room, study room, hall, kitchen and cottage." The houses' exact price is E5 409 000.

However, this does not mean all E5million worth houses look like this, although this is the only available one of this value in the market presently.

With the current term of government coming to an end next year, the premier is expected to have a house in the region of E5.5 million built for him by the state courtesy of Circular No. 2 of 2013.

This newspaper also found another house which cost E6 million but according to sourced information it was later sold for E4.5 million.

The house located around the capi-



The houses worth E5 million which are listed on the website on one of the local estate agency. This however does not suggest that this is how the prime minister's house will look like.

tal's suburbs which will not be named has four fully fitted bedrooms with one en-suite, two bedrooms fully fitted cottage, sitting and dining rooms.

It also has a fitted kitchen, study room, television room, guest toilet, double garage, swimming pool, braai area, store

room/laundry and is on 4 000 square metres.

Status

The circular states that the state will have to build Dlamini a house, at no charge to him, that is expected to befit his status and this structure will be built

either on Swazi nation land or title deed property.

As a result this has been a thorny issue in recent times with parliamentarians going to the extent of attempting to freeze the Bill for the house's construction which however later failed.

Maduduza calls for God to end the world

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

The degeneration of morals had Maduduza Zwane calling for God to end the world last week.

Calling out several times last week during Bishop Mandlenkosi Zwane's Memorial Lecture held at the Roman Catholic Cathedral, Maduduza said evil characterised by corruption and immoral behaviour had engulfed the earth and the only solution was for God to end it all.

He said he was not the only one who wanted the end to evil as society made fervent calls to God to intervene regularly. Making an example of an increase in reports of rape cases, he cited a heart wrenching incident which reportedly occurred in neighbouring South Africa wherein a mother assisted her husband to rape her daughter.

He pointed out that there was no single day which went by without local publications revealing gory details and stories of brutality meted by humans against other human.

"Wives kill their husbands to get death benefits and for gain from the family estates. Not very long a 26-year old man stabbed a 15 year old girl coming from school for refusing to engage in a relationship with him," Zwane said.

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Rotary, Nedbank refurbish dilapidated school

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

The Rotary Club of Mbabane-Mbuluzi, in collaboration with Nedbank Mbabane, yesterday refurbished a total of ten classrooms which were left dilapidated by rains.

President of the club, Caroline Sullivan said they wanted to make a difference and the partnership with Nedbank enabled them to support the school through the project funded from the proceeds of the Sibebe Survivor walk.

"This is a community based sustainable project. We are rehabilitating the school by fixing the leaking roof, painting the walls and refurbishing chalk boards to ensure that the pupils learn in a conducive environment," said Sullivan.

On the other hand, Nedbank representative Veli Dlamini said as a bank they were committed to high involvement in the community and the environment which they serve.

"We are delighted to be part of the St. John's Primary refurbishment project which is done through the proceeds of the Sibebe Survivor which Nedbank is a major



Nedbank staff and parents painting one of the classrooms yesterday. (Pic: Zwelethu Dlamini)

sponsor," he said. **Appreciated**
The school grantee, Mbongeni Hlophe, said the mission of the United Apostolic Faith Church (UAFC) appreciated the donation because it had had more needs than resources available.

He thanked the sponsors and promised that the school's academic performance was going to improve as the children were now going to learn in an improved environment, free from disturbances such as leaks and rundown

walls.

He also commended community members for contributing their manpower as they came in their numbers to paint the school.

The school's deputy principal, Annah Matfunjwa, also extended gratitude to the club as she pointed out that funds the school received from government were not enough to cater for all their needs.

She said the rehabilitation of the school was going to cut costs as the leaks in the roofs used to damage books and school furniture.

GIRLS RULE THE WORLD!

...As Mandisa, Symphony and Lindz make it to the Top 3 winners of MTN Bushfire Firefly

BY AYANDA DLAMINI

House on Fire was ablaze on Friday evening at the MTN Bushfire Firefly: Sound Storm when the top 10 aspiring performers battled out to secure a spot for performing at the MTN Bushfire 2017. Only girls made it to the top three; Mandisa, Lindz and Symphony.

The winners were announced in no particular order by the guest South African artist Kyle Duetche with the help of the programme directors Ur Gal Zee and Lady Dee.

He first announced Lindz who serenaded the audience with her new single 'Free' and 'Russian Roulette' by Rihanna. She thrilled the crowd with Rihanna's song as she moved from the stage to the dance floor imitating Rihanna on the music video. Symphony was announced the second winner as she had performed her new song and 'I'm telling you' by Jennifer Hudson.

She nailed Jennifer Hudson's song with her high note voice and her energy on stage.

"No, she killed it. I'm sure Jennifer Hudson would be proud," said Sindi Dlamini, a reveller who was glued on Symphony's performance.

Mandisa served extra sauce not only with her voice but her performance was on another level.

She performed her hit song 'Hello America' and 'Fly'. She thrilled her fans with her well-choreographed dance moves alongside with her dancers. The moment she took over the stage, her fans knew she would kill it as one of them screamed "Beyonce".

Mandisa, after being announced a winner, said she could not believe that she would be performing at the MTN Bushfire Festival this year.

"I'm even lost for words. I just keep getting a lot of butterflies. I guess that is a feeling that could explain my excitement."



Top three winners Mandisa, Lindz and Symphony prove that girls run the world.

ment and joy. God came through hard on this one, I wanted it and he gave it to me" said the winner.

Dreams

She further thanked the official sponsors for the good initiative that allows them as artists to follow their dreams.

"I want to thank the sponsors Swazi MTN and House on Fire for giving us this opportunity, for believing in us, and allowing us a chance to live our dreams and do what God has put in our hearts as artists."

I am so thankful for everyone that supported me by voting me into the Bushfire Firefly top 10 as well as show-

ing up yesterday at The Sound Storm.

I also could not have gotten this far without the help of my dancers, choreographer and management team so I'm truly grateful to have them on my side," she said.

Most revellers were pleased with the outcome from the Judges. However, several felt like Lindz did not deserve to be among the top three as she was not good enough.

"Mandisa and Symphony deserve to win. Lindz was not good enough in her own song first of all."

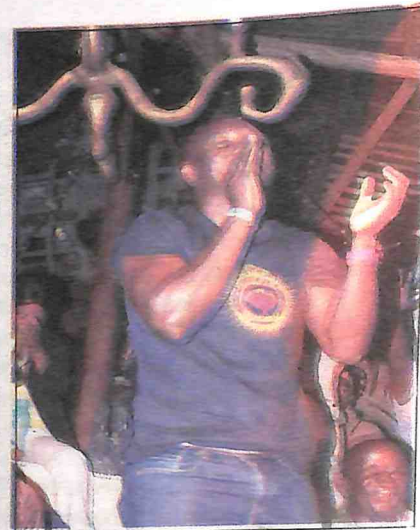
Yes she was the most favoured artist by the crowd," said Mduduzi, who was



Fans of Lindz who eventually came out victorious came prepared for the event as they brought posters bearing the name of the artist.



Hip Hop and RnB dynamic duo Smokey and Wigo performing 'Isithombe'.



MTN's Jordy Shiba applauding Symphony after her performance.



MTN Bushfire Firefly: Sound Storm contestants.

sitting in the VIP section.

Artists were given 15 minutes each to show their talent on stage. As Judges Landokuhle Dlamini, Anacondza, Fifi Dope Russell and Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini were observing and judging.

Busta Rigo was the first act on

stage as he rendered Reggae Pop music. His performance gave life to the show as he was the most favoured artist.

"He deserves to win, his music is original and the lyrics are dope," said Nomcebo who kept on singing along to Busta Rigo's songs.



The winners posing with guest artist Kylie and members of Swazi MTN's management who were part of the event on Friday.

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Launch of 'SRHR-HIV Knows No Borders' Project

BY VUYILE DLAMINI

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM), in partnership with Save the Children Swaziland (SC) and Witwatersrand School of Public Health, will officially launch a project identified as the 'SRHR-HIV Knows No Borders Project'.

The event will take place at the Pigg's Peak Hotel on Tuesday.

The launch will highlight the four-year project (2016-2020) which aims to impact migration affected communities and in the country; it will be implemented in Timphisini and Ntfontjeni constituencies.

The project will contribute towards improved sexual reproductive health (SRH) and HIV related outcomes among targeted populations. These include migrants, sex workers, adolescents and young people (AYP) in six SADC countries, namely; Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland and Zambia.

According to the 'SRHR Knows No Borders consortium', in the context of the HIV epidemic, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of migration affected communities is fundamental.

This is where targeted migrant populations interact with local communities in environments conducive to multiple concurrent partnerships (MCPs) and higher risk sex.

The long-term objective of the project will be to promote greater freedom of choice among migrants, adolescents and young people (AYP) and sex workers in migration affected communities about their sexuality.

The project will be instrumental in increasing the access of migration affected communities to local HIV treatment and support health systems, while ensuring coordination of services and information.

The project will contribute towards improved sexual reproductive health (SRH) and HIV related outcomes among targeted populations



Little Academy Primary School pupils with their teachers and pupils from another school.

TURKEY IS A SAFE PLACE - CONSULATE

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Turkey Ismail Olmez has assured the nation that Turkey is a safe place for tourism, trade, education, and cultural exchange.

This he said was evidenced by the positive feedback and the increase in the number of Swazis who visited that country from various reasons and the number of applications his office was receiving for Swazi students interested in pursuing their studies in Turkey.

"Turkey is becoming a popular destination for tourists from all over the world, more and more Swazis visit Turkey to study, to do business and cultural exchange. Since the country, just like Swaziland, has a strong cultural value based on its history and culture it is very important because it unites people and makes the nation strong," he said.

The consular also highlighted that presently there were 19 Swazi students who were pursuing their tertiary studies under the Turkish scholarship programme whilst 15 were self-sponsored. He stated that scholarships were advertised around

March every year for the September intake.

He also stated he was happy that the cultural exchange efforts between the two countries were being fulfilled.

This he said was through the continued participation of schools from the country who attended the International children's day celebration which commences April 23, every year in, Turkey.

Opportunity

The consular highlighted that every school had an opportunity to participate in this annual event which is held in almost every city in Turkey citing that there was a total of four schools that have made it to this event since it started as one school represented the country each year. He also stated that another school would be invited next year stating that more information regarding the event was available from his office to schools who may be participating in this event.

The consular expressed his happiness over the success of the recent trip of the school from the country that participated in this year's event which was held in Kocaeli, Turkey.

The organiser of the event Sandra

Earnshaw and the coordinator Fiona Fitz Patrick echoed the consular's words in a statement that expressed gratitude to the ambassador of the Republic of Turkey, Elif Ulgen Comoglu as well as the honorary consulate for making this trip a success and for their support and guidance.

"Little Academy School from Mhlambanyatsi had the honour of being the chosen school to represent the Southern African continent in 2017.

Stadia

"Together with learners from different countries, Little Academy learners participated in a week-long festival where 41 countries perform in large stadia and are watched by millions around the world," she said.

Earnshaw further stated that the sole purpose of exposing pupils to a rich cultural event was to contribute to the cultural interaction between nations, world peace, and fellowship.

"Apart from showcasing to people from around the world their traditional dance, complimented by their alluring Swazi attire, they also got visit Science centres and muse-

ums around Kocaeli.

The pupils were also given the opportunity to tour various parts of the city with learners from other countries where they further got to interact and learn about different cultures, and most importantly learn to appreciate them," she added.

Little Academy Principal, Mrs Miller expressed her heartfelt gratitude at having her school chosen to represent not only Swaziland but Southern Africa at the international children's festival which promotes holistic learning for pupils.

She said the children made friends in Turkey who plan to visit Swaziland for any cultural events like the reed dance.

"Tourism will benefit from you, Consular Olmez. Thank you for the big heart and work you have done for the Swazi people," she said.

Neo Alexander a teacher from the school also expressed her gratitude and said they had a wonderful experience and received warm welcome in Turkey.

"Our stay in Turkey was amazing, we loved every moment. We had activities planned for every day we were there, eighteen children were there and six teachers partic-

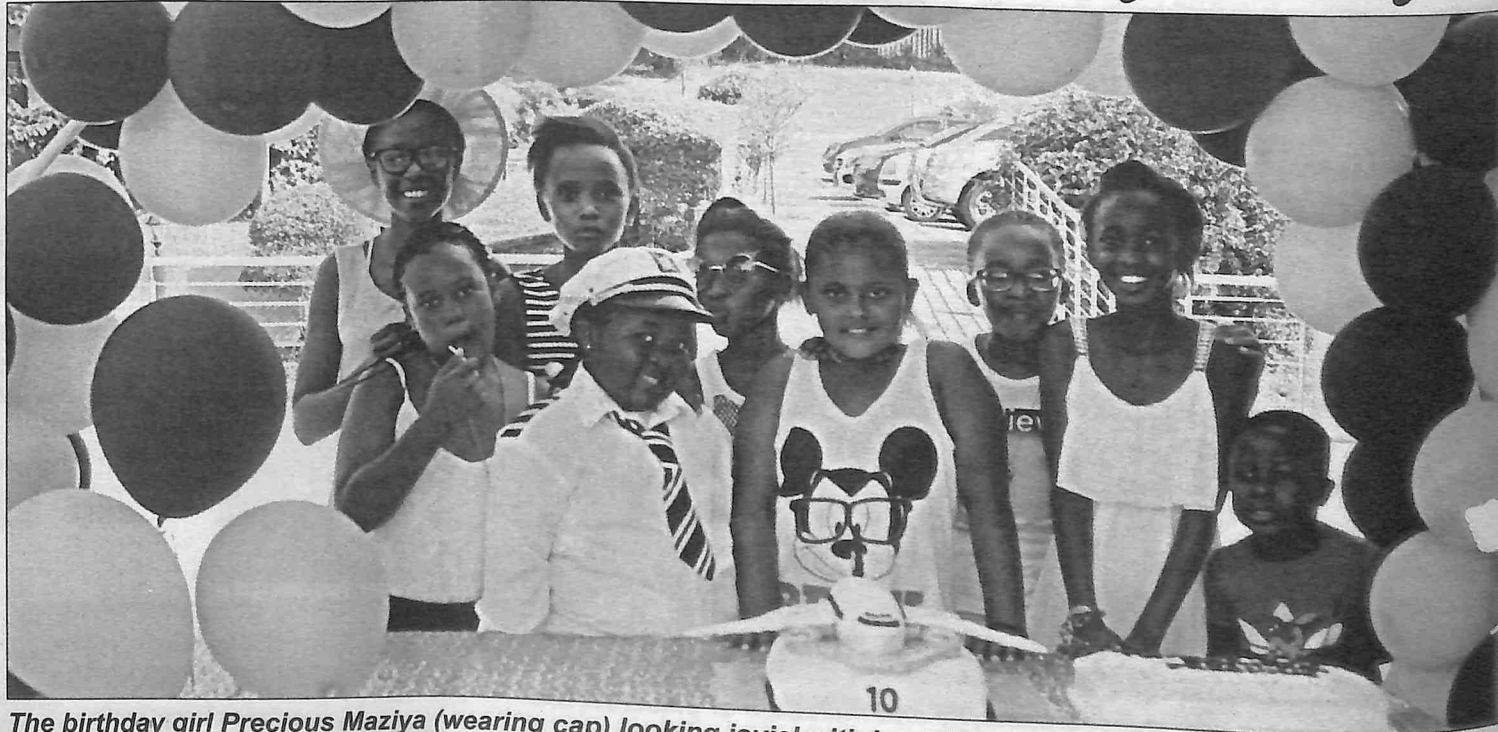
Aspiring pilot celebrates 10th birthday in style

BY VUYILE DLAMINI

A young girl's aspirations of becoming a pilot were encouraged yesterday during her 10th birthday when she adorned a pilot's uniform during her party.

Precious Msekeleni Maziya, who has for the longest time dreamed of cruising the skies, settled into the uniform which she said is a step in the right direction as she intends to one day captain her own plane.

"I am so excited that my mother supports me in this as this is the only profession I love," she said. "The dream come true birthday was celebrated in style at Sibane Hotel in Ezulwini in the presence of family and friends. "The birthday celebration was embellished with black, white and gold décor, the colours of a pilot's uniform whereas the airplane themed birthday cake showcased her boundless aspirations to be a pilot when she grows up.



The birthday girl Precious Maziya (wearing cap) looking jovial with her VIP guests.

CENSUS AIDS COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

Information gathered during the Housing and Population Census is used to improve services rendered by government.

Following dissent from members of the public concerning the on-going census, Director of Statistics Amos Zwane explained that entire development one can think of or improved services that people may want the government to deliver were dependent on the information that will be collected by enumerators.

"Such information is used by government, planners, researchers and donors for evidence based socio-economic and development planning such as creating jobs, construction of roads providing health facilities building houses and opening of schools," he said.

Zwane explained that donors, before they can give aid, first seek data on the livelihood of the people in general where socio-economic issues are concerned while some require specific characteristics of the people in need of assistance.

He said the census helps provide information on the demographics of the communities and this in turn enables donors to know how they can assist those said to be in need.

Zwane likened the census to the examination or consultation of patients in hospital since it gives an understanding of the sickness and therefore informs doctors on treatment or prescription that is needed.

"On this basis, it is crucial that the information presented be accurate as this gives the development agencies a picture of the status of the country in various aspects.

"This goal can be achieved if the people that will be found in the various homesteads will be knowledgeable about the family members who are usual residents.

"This exercise also helps in the measurement of the development of the country, for instance, educational level

● Chief Gija, the Elections and Boundaries Commission Chairman, said this data was useful to the commission as it will give data on the electorate and will be used in measuring voter percentage. He said without this data it would be difficult to ascertain the number of people who are eligible to vote and the fraction of those who participated in the elections



EBC Chairman Chief Gija.

or literacy rate and classification of professions in the country," he said.

Enumeration began April 29 and will end on May 15, 2017.

He said enumeration was divided into two parts.

The first being the main enumeration lasting for 14 days while the second part will be the revision round lasting for three days; which means households will be visited twice. Zwane requested that respondents keep a record of individuals who sleep in the household during the census night as this information will be required not only for the enumeration but also for the post enumeration activities.

"May 12 has been scheduled to be the census night or the point of reference. This is a special night in the country as it comes once in a decade and data collected on this day remains useful in the

development of the country for the next ten years. This data is revised through projections until the next population and housing census is conducted," he said.

Chief Gija, the Elections and Boundaries Commission Chairman, said this data was useful to the commission as it will give data on the electorate and will be used in measuring voter percentage. He said without this data it would become difficult to ascertain the number of people who are eligible to vote and the fraction of those who participated in the elections.

The chairman said this census came at the right time as it will assist them in budgeting and planning for the coming elections next year. He revealed that in the past they relied on estimates but now they will be able to get a clear picture on figures of the electorate.

Census enumerators cause upset

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

The questions and manner of approach by census enumerators are angering people to the extent that they are giving incorrect information to quicken the questioning process.

Taking to social media, several members of the public from various places shared their disappointment at not only the questions which they deem invasive, but the way enumerators seem unable to explain reasoning for the line of questioning. "Are they not oriented in people's skills before being let out to engage people," was a question asked in different forums this week. One user revealed how he was called by an enumerator who asked when he would be home as they wanted to do their duties this past Tuesday.

"She called me and asked me so rudely stating seeing as they were involved in the census, they were perplexed by my continued absence from home as they have been there several times," *Nhlanhla wrote. The user questioned the audacity of the enumerator who made it seem as though people should be home at all times waiting for their unannounced visits.

"I don't understand why they don't request to see us during the weekend," he said.

Another user complained that despite explaining that she was a guest at the homestead visited by enumerators, they insisted that she

furnish them with contact details of the owners.

"I could not avail contact details without assuring myself that they were who they said they were. First of all, they did not bear identity documents yet they wanted personal details," she complained.

Despite stating the time when residents would return, the enumerator reportedly did not show up but resurfaced again during working hours. "This thing is going to expose us to criminal elements as we have uncooperative people coming to our homes and demanding entry at will," she said.

On the other hand, *Fanelo stated that her helper, despite telling an enumerator that her boss was not around, was asked to provide details such as education level as well as ages. "I am shocked that they would accept information from a helper who comes in to do the washing on odd days as she does not know anything about me save for my cellular number and my surname," she said.

"As a result, the helper told them the wrong age and said I have four children instead of two," she said adding how she was incensed by the whole debacle. "Whoever planned this is not serious."

Another user, *Monalisa said an enumerator called her to confirm her date of nuptials, "She said all she wanted was the date as she had all information she needs. When I asked her where she got it, she said my helper."

Some refuse to respond

Several Facebook users have admitted to not only refusing to speak to enumerators, but further going to extreme means frustrating their efforts of getting information.

"A man came to the gate and I set the dogs on him," a user wrote stating that she was incensed by him approaching her home when she was alone, while her husband was absent. "My husband does not take kindly to strangers," she justified adding how she was disturbed while bathing by the incessant pressing of the intercom and by the time she went outside to see what he wanted, she had run out of patience. "I just pretended to be deaf when they entered the yard and walked away after being dissatisfied by the way the woman spoke to me in my own home," *Lomaswati said whereas *Sindi said she felt the questions invasive to the point that she gave inaccurate information concerning her education status.

"I was very irritated when she asked for my level of schooling, I just responded JC (Form three) and told her that I inherited the house I live in from a former boyfriend. I mean the way I was asked about it, I felt not inspired to tell her about my real circumstances," she said.

"I told him that the residents of this home were away on holiday and would return in two months' time. When he asked how many they were I feigned ignorance and said I was hired by an agency to look after the home," Themba said.

On the other hand, an expat said

he was shocked about having to avail a copy of his identity document and residence permit.

"In this age of fraud and cyber-crime, how on earth am I expected to give my personal details to a stranger, who does not seem knowledgeable on how this information will be used, with confidence," *John posted, further explaining how on hearing that he was from England, the enumerator asked him to furnish these important documents. On the other hand, *Susan stated how, having responded to questions from the enumerator through the gate, he requested entrance stating he wanted to count the fruit trees in the yard. "What do my trees have anything to do with the census," she asked. A professional based in Siphofaneni said she clammed up after she was asked whether she fished for a living whereas she had clearly stated that she was engaged by a nongovernmental organisation. "I did not understand why he kept on insisting that I could be a fisherman whereas I have never even been to the dam due to being so busy with work," she said.

While another, *Zolile said she was incensed after being asked whether any member of her family had a disability like her, "I chased her out of my house after she asked me with disdain whether any of my family members had the same disabilities as I do. I felt she was being insensitive as I am wheelchair bound after being involved in an accident and I am recovering so it is hereditary."



The birthday girl sharing a sweet moment with her doting mother. She also took time to pose for a picture with her pilot inspired birthday outfit designer Tengetile Dlamini of Mezzo Designs.



Big Bend Correctional Services Officer Melusi Magwaza paid lobola for his sweetheart Nozipho Tsabedze in a colourful ceremony at Mndobandoba.

(Pics: Mduduzi Ndzinisa)

MELUSI DOES RIGHT BY HIS



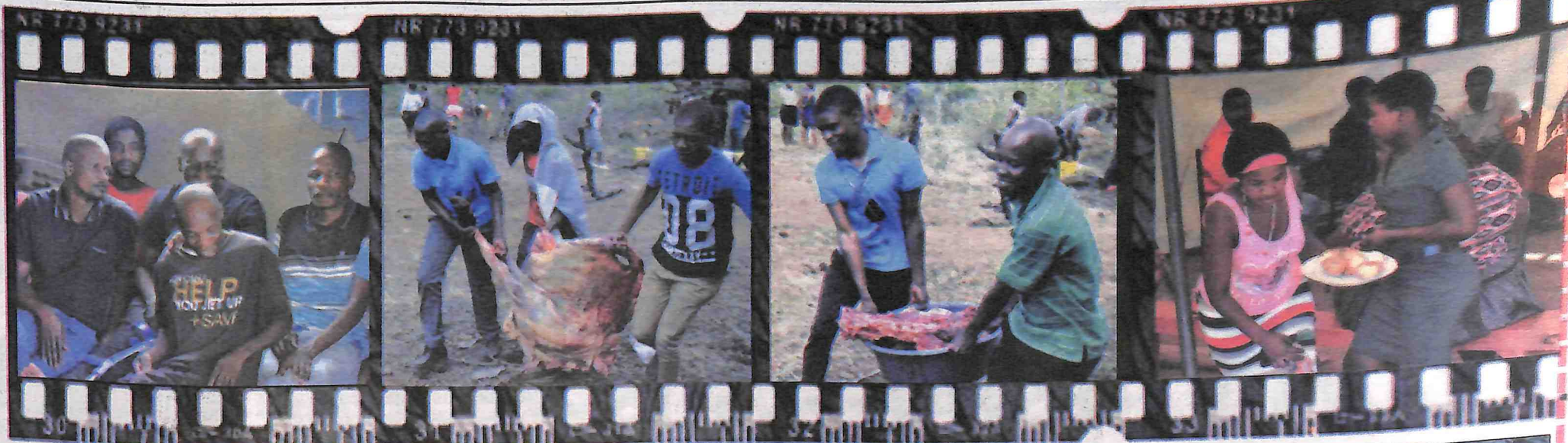
Nkosinathi, Samkeliso and Sihle (gozolo) roasting meat.



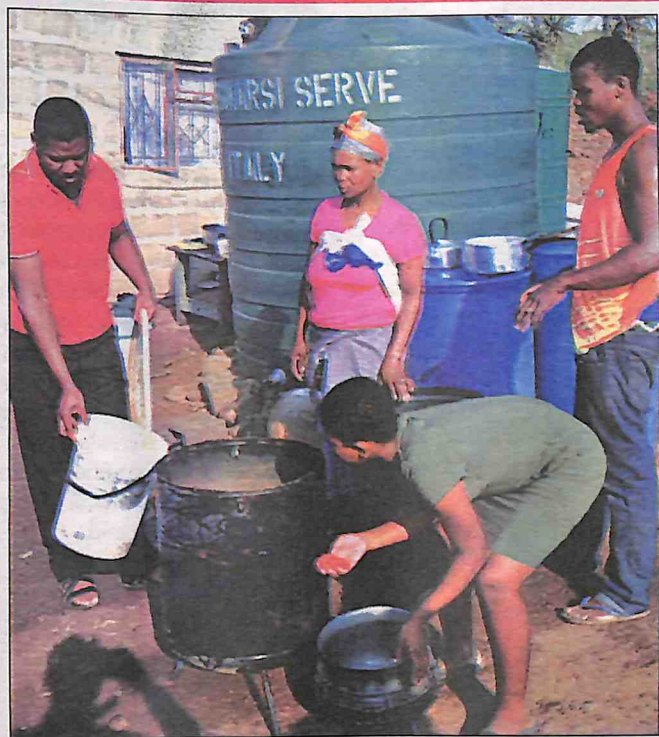
Thabo Gumbi with his sisters.



Some family members who were present during the ceremony.



LOVE - PAYS LOBOLA



Some of the family members who were present during the event.



Meshack, Moses and Thabo listening attentively to the elders.



The Magwaza family having a good time with the couple.



Magwaza flanked by Nhlakanipho and Thembele.



The bride's mother with the happy couple.



The Matsebula family with the bride and groom.



Melusi with the Shiba family (bekhabomake) after the ceremony.



Umbutfo Mhlonishwa Zwane enjoying his meal.

Focus on SA scene

COURT'S RULING ON ZUMA RESHUFFLE IS 'WORRISOME' - ANC

CAPE TOWN - The African National Congress says it is concerned by the North Gauteng High Court's ruling that President Jacob Zuma must disclose his reasons for his latest Cabinet reshuffle.

Judge Bashier Vally on Thursday ruled that Zuma must hand over all records explaining the reason why he made changes to 20 positions in his Cabinet at 00:00 on March 30.

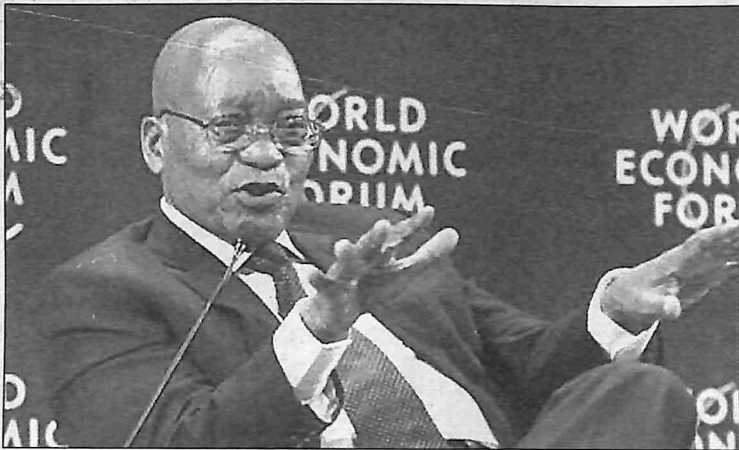
Vally said he would give reasons for the ruling next Tuesday.

"This judgment signifies unfettered encroachment of the judiciary into the realm of the executive - pandering to the whims of the opposition who want to co-govern with the popularly elected government through the courts," ANC national spokesperson Zizi Kodwa said in a statement on Friday.

"The Constitution confers upon the president powers to constitute his Cabinet without imposing an obligation upon him to consult opposition parties in the exercise of this discretionary function."

Kodwa's statement was much stronger than comments he made immediately after the ruling on Thursday.

"The appointment of ministers and deputies, as well as reshuffling of Cabinet, is a discretionary and political decision of the president of the Republic derived from the Constitution."



South African President Jacob Zuma.

He told News24 on Thursday that the ANC respected the independence of the judiciary and the doctrine of separation of powers, and it was up to the Presidency to decide to appeal the ruling.

On Friday, Kodwa said that reading into the Constitution that the president must explain his Cabinet decisions was "to use the judiciary

to police political decisions and sets a very worrisome precedent".

"The appointment of ministers and deputies, as well as reshuffling of Cabinet, is a discretionary and political decision of the president of the republic derived from the Constitution."

He urged Zuma to appeal the judgment. **News24**

Bhanga to head up DA's Eastern Cape leadership

EAST LONDON - Nqaba Bhanga will head up the DA's Eastern Cape leadership.

The announcement was made at the DA's provincial elective conference in East London yesterday.

Bhanga who was recruited by Nelson

Mandela Bay Mayor Athol Trollip was considered the favourite among the party's provincial leadership.

Party

Bhanga joined the party when he left Cope in 2014.

It is believed that Bhanga will help

strengthen Trollip's power in the national elective congress which will be highly contested.

His detractors have called him a "Mafikizolo" in the party.

During his speech, Trollip told delegates that they should not underestimate a new comer.

News24

Maimane lauds Trollip's 'incredible list of achievements' in PE

EAST LONDON - Nelson Mandela Bay Metro Mayor Athol Trollip and his team have achieved much in a very short space of time, Democratic Alliance leader Mmusi Maimane said yesterday.

"Mayor Trollip and his team inherited a metro in critical condition [after the August 3, 2016 municipal elections]. From housing lists, to the roll-out of services, to corruption and unemployment, Nelson Mandela Bay was handed over in a terrible state," Maimane told the DA's Eastern Cape elective congress in East London.

"It is now our job to fix it - to build a metro that can offer a better life for all the people who live there. Our job is to waste no time in undoing the damage caused by decades of corrupt, uncaring government in Nelson Mandela Bay. Eight months into the job it feels like Athol Trollip and his team have been at it for years. The result is an incredible list of achievements in a very short space of time," he said.

For years Nelson Mandela Bay was the only city without a metro



police force. "Well, now they have one. The DA-led government there has recruited 100 new officers to fight crime and drugs on the city streets. We've already improved the lives of the poorest residents of the city. There is a long way to go, but already 30km of gravel roads have been tarred and R100-million has been budgeted for more road improvements. We've launched a brand new anti-corruption hotline that has already led to 38 investigations," Maimane said.

ANA

EFF refuse to engage in national dialogue with de klerk

JOHANNESBURG - The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) says it will only attend the national dialogue if it's led by former presidents Thabo Mbeki and Kgalema Motlanthe with the exclusion of FW De Klerk.

The red berets say Mbeki and Motlanthe have the potential to unite the country but add that including de Klerk in a dialogue about the future of the country is an insult.

Speaking outside the Newcastle Magistrates Court, EFF leader

Julius Malema says de Klerk presided over the mass murder of black people in the early 90s.

Malema says the former apartheid president should rot in jail for the crimes against humanity he committed during the apartheid era.

"Thabo Mbeki and Kgalema Motlanthe had a meeting with de Klerk, a man who presided over the murders of black people during the early 90s can never find solutions. De Klerk deserves to be in prison."

EWN

Ramaphosa apologises to voters

JOHANNESBURG - Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa has apologised to voters that boycotted the 2016 local government elections to teach the party a lesson.

"People that stayed away from voting for us in 2016 because the ANC must listen, we must listen to what our people are saying. Because if we do not listen, we will lose."

"In 2016, they stayed away and did not vote for us, they said they will teach us a lesson because we see you acting in a corrupt manner, wasting resources, stealing money and said they are going to punish us and indeed, they did punish us."

"We must reverse that, we have heard you [the voters] and we don't want our people to punish us anymore and therefore must reclaim the

ANC of [Nelson] Mandela, Oliver Tambo, Albertina Sisulu and we want it back, and want it back now."

"That was the ANC of integrity and great respect, when we have that ANC, then we will be able to change this country. We will be able to reduce poverty, unemployment and inequality," said Ramaphosa.

He was addressing the members and leadership of the region, who were joined by Dr Mathole Motshekga, his wife Minister Angie Motshekga, and Reverend Frank Chikane at the launch of the ANC's OR Tambo Friday's by the ANC's Greater Midrand Zone 15 at the Ivory Park North Hall on Friday night.

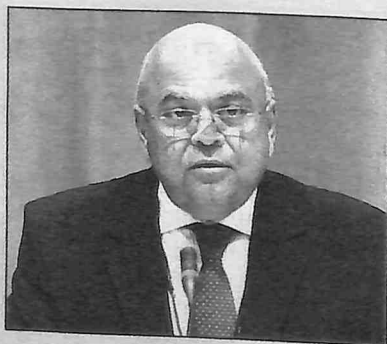
He said the party did not exist to enrich anyone and did not exist to do "funny things". **News24**

Gordhan urges businesses to 'board the transformation train'

JOHANNESBURG - Former Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan on Friday, called on business leaders in the retail motor industry to take collective ownership of the country's economic future while speaking at a Motor industry Staff Association event (MISA).

Gordhan said the motor industry needed to educate their staff on the scourge of state capture, promoting integrity, fighting corruption, and driving transformation.

"State capture is unacceptable and it is a matter of national importance that we must rid our country of this disease, as it is undermining not only our sovereignty, but also our fiscal sovereignty," he was quoted as saying.



Former finance minister Pravin Gordhan.

MISA is a trade union that represents over 42 000 workers in the motor retail sector.

Gordhan said South Africa held an

enormous amount of potential and hope, but urged business leaders to take collective ownership and 'board the transformation train' for the long-term economic sustainability of our country. "South Africa is still one of the countries with the highest inequality in the world," he said.

"Business leaders must continue to work together with government to rid our country of this economic and social hindrance to growth."

Gordhan said that business leaders and their staff should also be educated on what the long-term implications of state capture were, and what any further credit rating downgrades would mean to the man in the street, and especially the poor. **ANA**



SUNDAYOBSERVER AFRICA NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday

MUGABE 'SECOND TO SA' QUOTES 'A SIGN HE IS SUFFERING FROM OLD AGE'

HARARE - Former Zimbabwean finance minister Tendai Biti says President Robert Mugabe, 93, is suffering from old age after the nonagenarian suggested his country was the second highly developed nation in the continent.

Mugabe told the World Economic Forum on Africa on Thursday that Zimbabwe was the most highly developed country in Africa after South Africa, pointing out that the country had universities and the highest literacy rate on the continent at 90 per cent. "Zimbabwe is the mostly highly developed country in Africa. After South Africa I want to see another country highly developed," said Mugabe.



Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe.

His remarks, however, sparked outrage and ridicule worldwide, with Biti, who served as Mugabe's finance during the government

of national unity between 2009 and 2013, telling News24 Mugabe was "mad". Describing Mugabe's remarks as far off the mark, Biti

said Mugabe's remarks gave credence to assertions the Zanu-PF leader was clueless on most state issues, particularly the economy.

"The suggestion that Zimbabwe is Africa's second economy is pathological and reflective of exhaustion, cognitive dissonance and dementia," said Biti.

Reports indicated that an estimated three million Zimbabweans were economic refugees due to Mugabe's failed policies.

Economist and banker, Bhikithemba Mhlenga pointing out that that most people thought of fragile states in terms of countries such as Somalia a few years ago - but Zimbabwe was now a caricature of a similar state by most comparisons. *News24*

Boko Haram 'planning foreign kidnaps' in NE Nigeria

LAGOS - Britain and the United States on Friday said Boko Haram was preparing to kidnap foreigners in remote northeast Nigeria, which is in the grip of a food crisis caused by the conflict. The Foreign Office in London said it had received reports the Islamist militants were "actively planning" to seize foreign workers in the Bama local government area of Borno state.

Both said in travel advice that the affected area was "along the Banki-Kumshe axis", which is near the border with Cameroon.

The US embassy in Abuja said in a message to its nationals that the report was "credible". Boko Haram has kidnapped thousands of women and children, including more than 200 schoolgirls from the Borno town of Chibok in 2014, which brought the conflict to world attention.

At least 20 000 people have been killed since 2009. But abductions of foreigners have been rare.

There was a spate of kidnappings of foreign workers in the wider north from 2011 to 2013, claimed by a Boko Haram splinter group, Ansaru, which was more ideologically aligned to al-Qaeda.

The leader of Ansaru, Khalid al-Barnawi, has been charged with the abduction and murder of foreign workers, among them an Italian, a Briton, a German, Greek, Lebanese and Syrians.

Most were engineers or construction workers. International aid workers now account for the majority of foreign nationals in northeast Nigeria. Most are based in the Borno state capital, Maiduguri.

Hundreds of thousands of people in the Lake Chad region require urgent food aid as a result of the conflict, which has made more than 2.6 million people homeless and ravaged farmland. *AFP*

Nigeria's Buhari seen in public for first time in weeks

ABUJA - Nigeria's president Muhammadu Buhari on Friday made his first public appearance in weeks, re-emerging amid mounting concerns about his health. The 74-year-old, who spent nearly two months earlier this year receiving treatment in London for an undisclosed illness, was at Friday prayers at a mosque in the presidential villa in Abuja.

Video posted on Twitter by presidential aide Bashir Ahmad showed Buhari dressed in white, shaking hands with fellow worshippers and waving after the service.

The former military ruler has missed the last three weekly meetings of his cabinet, Friday prayers last week and his grandson's wedding at the weekend.

He had been due to meet his counterpart from neighbouring Niger, Mahamadou Issoufou,



Nigeria's president Muhammadu Buhari.

for talks on Friday but the meeting was cancelled, Buhari's office said in a statement on Thursday evening.

"The rescheduling is at the instance of President Issoufou who has another domestic engagement," presidency spokesperson Femi Adesina said.

Aides have maintained Buhari is working from his private residence and resting after "a long period of treatment" in the British capital.

They have publicly rejected media reports that he is unable to eat or drink and is being fed intravenously. *AFP*

Former Burkina Faso president named UN Burundi envoy

NEW YORK - Former Burkina Faso president, Michel Kafando, has been appointed the new UN envoy for Burundi, where efforts to end a political crisis over President Pierre Nkurunziza's rule have stalled.

Kafando, 74, has "more than three decades of extensive experience in high-level international diplomacy and politics", the UN spokesperson

Stephane Dujarric said Friday in announcing the appointment.

Transition

A former foreign minister and UN ambassador, Kafando was president from November 2014 to December 2015 during Burkina Faso's transition to civilian rule following a military takeover and the resignation of long-serving leader Blaise Compaore.

Kafando will replace

Jamal Benomar, who held the post since November 2015 and who had come under heavy criticism and calls to resign from the Bujumbura government.

Relations between Burundi and the United Nations nosedived after a report by UN rights experts in September blamed state police and security forces for the violence tearing the country apart since April 2015. *News24*

BRIEFS

Zuma extends deployment of soldiers to DR Congo

JOHANNESBURG - President Jacob Zuma on Friday announced the extension of the deployment of the National Defence Force (SANDF) for service in fulfilling the international obligations of South Africa towards the United Nations in the Democratic Republic of Congo. *African News Agency*

Egypt court cancels death sentences for tribal clashes

CAIRO - An Egyptian appeals court overturned on Thursday death sentences for 25 people over deadly tribal clashes in the country's south and ordered a retrial, a judicial official said. The men had been convicted of taking part in 2014 clashes in the southern Aswan province that killed 28 people, in some of the deadliest tribal violence in years. *AFP*

Aid groups in Central African Republic retreat amid threats

GENEVA - The UN humanitarian aid co-ordinator says four international aid groups will temporarily withdraw their workers from parts of northern Central African Republic because of increasing attacks targeting them. spokesperson Jens Laerke says the country is one of the world's most dangerous and difficult for humanitarian work, particularly in the northern province of Ouham. *AP*

Egypt reopens crossing with Gaza strip

CAIRO - Egypt reopened the Rafah border crossing with the Gaza Strip for three days which started yesterday to allow hundreds of stranded Palestinians to return home, officials said. The move, described by Palestinian border officials as a "humanitarian" gesture, will allow Palestinians stranded in Egypt and elsewhere, including students and sick people, to return to Gaza. "Egyptian authorities reopened the Rafah crossing for three days only, from yesterday until tomorrow, and only in one direction to allow those stranded on the Egyptian side to return home," a statement said. *REUTERS*

'I am having suicidal thoughts': Nigerian pastor

PORT ELIZABETH - A Nigerian pastor, charged with human trafficking and sexual assault, was having "suicidal thoughts" as he sits in prison day-after-day pending the outcome of his bail application, the Port Elizabeth Magistrate's Court heard on Friday. Defence advocate Alfonso Hattingh, read out an affidavit made by the father of three who claimed that he was traumatised by events leading up to his arrest on April 20, at the Port Elizabeth airport. "I am traumatised and I am struggling to sleep at night. I am having flashbacks, and I am having suicidal thoughts. I have requested to see a psychologist, this is having an impact on my physical and mental health," the affidavit read. *African News Agency*

BRIEFS

Turkey fires 100 more judges, prosecutors in anti-Gulen purge

ISTANBUL - Turkey's judicial authorities on Friday announced the sacking of over 100 more judges and prosecutors deemed to be followers of the alleged mastermind of the July 15 failed coup, in a purge that shows no sign of letting up. The Supreme Board of Judges and Prosecutors (HSYK) said that 107 judges and prosecutors were being fired in the latest wave of the purge against alleged supporters of the US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen.

AFP

South Korea to draw line under Park scandal with vote

SEOUL - With their last president detained and awaiting trial for corruption, South Koreans go to the polls on Tuesday to choose her successor, but the economic and social frustrations that fuelled anger against Park Geun-Hye remain.

The May 9 vote takes place under the shadow of North Korea's growing nuclear threat, but voter sentiment is squarely focused on inequality and unemployment echoing the forces that have seen political storms upended in Britain and the US.

AP

Trump signs spending measure keeping government open

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump has signed his first piece of major legislation, a \$1 trillion spending bill to fund the government through September. The bill cleared both houses of Congress this week and Trump signed it behind closed doors at his home in central New Jersey, well ahead of a midnight Friday deadline for some government functions begin shutting down.

Other battles over government spending lie ahead. Among those are the border. Trump has vowed to build on the Mexico border to deter illegal immigration, as well as a promised military

France ordered not to publish content of messages

PARIS - France's electoral commission has ordered media not to publish contents of Emmanuel Macron's leaked campaign emails to avoid influencing the election.

It warned news outlets in France that journalists could face criminal charges for publishing or republishing the material, under laws that came into effect at midnight forbidding any commentary liable to affect the presidential race.

Independent

Food insecurity increases global migration - UN

ROME - At a time of a record-high number of people fleeing their homes due to violent conflicts, the UN food agency said on Friday a global crisis in food supplies is causing even more migrants to cross borders. "Each one percentage increase in food insecurity in a population compels 1.9 per cent more people to migrate," a new report by the World Food Programme (WFP) said. AFP



SUNDAYOBSERVER WORLD NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday

MICHELLE OBAMA RESPONDS TO TRUMPS FLAGSHIP POLICY

NEW YORK - seemed to take her own advice to "go high" in response to rumours that President Donald Trump would end her signature 'Let Girls Learn' Initiative.

Reports surfaced recently that the Trump administration would be cancelling the initiative, which advances education for young women around the world, as part of their rollback of several Obama-era programmes.

CNN reported that Peace Corps Acting Director Sheila Crowley had sent a memo to staff announcing the end of the stand-alone programme. A spokesperson from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) told The Independent that the agency is "committed to empowering women and girls around the world" and are "continuing to examine the



Former First Lady Michelle Obama.

best ways to do so."

A spokesperson from the White House and USAID later clarified that the 'Let Girls Learn' initiative still stands. But Michelle Obama seemed to feel the need to protect her signature programme, which she did through

an understated tweet.

"Excited by the potential of the Obama Pres. Centre," she wrote. "Barack & I will continue to champion the issues close to our hearts, including girls' ed."

The former first lady expanded on the tweet at an event for

College Signing Day on Friday, saying that her and the former president's belief in the power of education is "going to be at core of everything that we do going forward."

"I might not live in the White House anymore, but Barack and I are going to keep on celebrating you all and supporting you and lifting you up no matter what house we live in," she said.

Both Michelle Obama and her husband both announced their intentions to work with young people in their first public appearances since taking office. Mr Obama said at the University of Chicago that he would be looking for more ways to get young people into leadership roles. Michelle said she would focus on girls' education and health care, as well as violence against women.

Macron team furious at hacking attack before French election

PARIS - French presidential candidate Emmanuel Macron's team blasted a "massive and coordinated hacking attack" against his campaign after a flood of internal documents were released online barely 24 hours before the election.

The centrist candidate's furious staff said the release late on Friday of thousands of emails, accounting documents and other files was an attempt at "democratic destabilisation, like that seen during the last presidential campaign in the United States". The documents spread on social media just before midnight on Friday -- when 39-year-old Macron and his Far-Right rival Marine Le Pen officially wrapped up campaigning for Sunday's decisive runoff vote -- with his aides call-



French presidential candidate Emmanuel Macron.

ing the leak "unprecedented in a French electoral campaign".

Hillary Clinton has alleged Russian hacking of her campaign's emails was partly to blame for her defeat in last year's US presidential election to

Donald Trump.

The leak, posted by someone calling themselves EMLEAKS, came as an 11th-hour twist in what has proved to be one of the most drama-packed elections in French history. AFP

North Korea accuses CIA of plot to assassinate Kim Jong-Un

SEOUL - North Korea on Friday accused the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of plotting with South Korea to assassinate leader Kim Jong-Un, amid soaring tensions in the flashpoint region.

The CIA and Seoul's Intelligence Services had "hatched a vicious plot" involving unspecified "biochemical substances" to kill the hermit state's young leader during public ceremonial events in Pyongyang, the Ministry of state security said.

For the CIA "assassination by use of biochemical substances including radioactive substance and nano poisonous substance is the best method that does not require access to the target, their lethal results will appear after six or twelve months", the ministry said in a statement carried by state media.

The accusation came as Pyongyang issues increasingly belligerent rhetoric in a tense stand-off with the administration of US President Donald

Trump over its rogue weapons programme.

The war of words between the West and the reclusive regime has spiked in recent weeks, and Pyongyang has threatened to carry out a sixth nuclear test that would further inflame tensions.

The CIA and Seoul's Intelligence Services (IS) have "ideologically corrupted and bribed a DPRK citizen surnamed Kim" to carry out the attack on Jong-Un, the statement said. AFP

Looting ravages Venezuela as unrest death toll hits 36

VENEZUELA - A young man died Friday after he was injured in violence as looting broke out in impoverished Venezuelan cities, an official said, bringing the toll from unrest in more than a month of anti-government protests to at least 36.

Hecder Lugo Perez, 22, died after he was hit in the head by a projectile in the northwestern city of Valencia, sources at the Valles de San Diego medical clinic said. City Mayor Enzo Scarano confirmed his death.

Mass protests erupted on April 1 by demonstrators demanding elections to remove President Nicolas Maduro. They blame him for an economic crisis that has caused shortages of food, medicine and other basics.

Anger boiled over Friday in the western municipality of Rosario de Perija, where young protesters burned, pulled down and then smashed a statue of former president Hugo Chavez, Maduro's late predecessor and mentor, according to video posted on social media showing the incident in a public square.

Looting broke out this week in cities such as Valencia, which looked like a disaster zone with bars on shop windows bent and windows broken.

"There was a crowd of them. They broke through the walls and took everything. They destroyed everything" before police came and fired tear gas to disperse the looters, said Nuvia Torrealba, 42, who worked in a bakery. AFP

COLOUR ME ACCESSORISE ME

Ayanda Dlamini

WRITER'S NOTE:



Everybody wants to dress better, but a few know how to go about it. It is not about going shopping more often, (though that would help!) and it's definitely not about having more clothes. It's all about the accessories. Accessories dress up an outfit and can make a world of difference to your look. You could wear the simplest of clothes and yet look like a million bucks. All it takes is a little planning. However, accessorising in winter can be very challenging, because we are just glued up in tanked tops, jackets, heel blazers and the likes. Basically we don't care much on how we look in winter.

So recently I've been attending prestigious shows and events and seeing few personalities looking all sorts of gorgeous and well accessorised in winter amaze hence today we came up with the accessories ISSUE. Accessories further emphasise your personal style, taste, and preferences. The word accessory almost sounds like it could be an afterthought. However, as you create the perfect look, nothing could be further from the truth. Accessories are important and powerful readers.

They allow your personality and distinctive style to shine through. They are like the punctuation on the end of a sentence; whether it's a classy period that completes your outfit, a bold exclamation point that makes a lively statement, or maybe you like to keep people guessing with a little question mark.

So today we have Lihle; the owner of Lady Bar, she talks about the importance of accessories and how to accessorise through the season. She is also a stylist by the way. So have few models styled by her with her accessories. Her style is simple chic. It's not too cliché but very unique. Indulge on page 4.

We also went down to Msunduzi at Divine Artist handcraft workshop; where they make beautiful accessories using recycled materials. I mean amazing pieces; handmade pieces. Lungile on our cover today is wearing the pieces. See more on page 5. On the Opposite page, we have Thembelani Nthlambatsi; young Fikile Mbulula so they call him. He always accessorises best, come Monday to Friday, he has his beautiful lapel pin on. Read more about how to accessorise and why we think he accessorises best. On the very same page, we have Nosipho Kazi (sister to Inkhosikati Make LaDube) on self taught make-up.

Enjoy this beautiful read!
Yandie.

She started her career as a make-up artist two years ago.

Her training and experience in the industry has made her an expert in creating a flawless look for any special day. Mind you, she taught herself on how to apply make-up and how she has become an expert. Make-up is an accessory too; it enhances your look on that specific day.

Nosipho Kazi feels that getting your makeup done on your wedding day especially should be an experience in itself.

She enjoys prepping the skin and uses the highest quality products to make people look like the best version of themselves!

She is well known for her attention to detail and likes to work with each one of her clients to create a customised look that will bring out their best features.

The whole process is definitely collaboration and the end result is a gorgeous face. So today, she invited SCENE for her make-up tutorials in her house. So we geared up and sat down as she offered me a coffee.

"A great skincare routine suited to the weather can really help your makeup go on smoothly and stay on. For summer choose a primer that can mortify your skin as well as has sunscreen in it," she says as she grabs her make-up tools.

"This will protect you from the damaging sun rays and help keep your make up from sliding off your face. It will help control the shine. Try some of these primers for summer!

I'm using a glowy primer to add some radiance to my face!

In winter your skin can get so dry and flakey! This can cause makeup to catch on the edges of your dry skin so try a hydrating primer to help keep your skin moisturised and your make-up moist looking. I'm using this moist pore balm as my base so the makeup goes on so silky smooth," she says showing us one of her products as she opened the tiny round edged bottle.

"I'm applying my foundation from the centre of my face then blending it out.

There's no need to apply the same thickness of foundation all over your face. This keeps your foundation light but covers the priority areas like your T-zone allowing your natural skin to shine through.

I'm using this long wear cushion foundation that is perfect for summer.

You can even skip the concealer if you can but if you really need it apply the thinnest layer to your problem areas to prevent creasing. I'm using a waterproof concealer formula to help it stay on during the heat.

I'm using a moisturising full coverage foundation.

Hydrating formulations are perfect for winter and clean flawless skin looks perfect with the winter makeup hues.

A light matte powder contour is the perfect texture for summer contouring because it creates a great chiselled look underneath the warm bronzes!

I'm contouring underneath the cheekbones, the forehead and my

NOSIPHO ON SELF TAUGHT MAKE-UP



"A great skincare routine suited to the weather can really help your makeup go on smoothly and stay on. For summer choose a primer that can mortify your skin as well as has sunscreen in it,"

nose! Forehead contours are great if you're going to wear your hair up. Using a stick cream formulation works so well in winter.

I'm using a slightly warmer contour shade to warm up the skin tones for winter. I'm blending the lines with a beauty blender into your skin. You don't want a harsh contour so use your cushion foundation to blend the contour lines in to create a subtle look. Gel formulations are perfect for summer brows as they don't budge in the heat! I'm using my favourite eyebrow pomade for this step. Apply this naturally to your brow shape and finish off with a brow gel to keep your hairs in summer. You really can't go wrong with this combo so I'm doing the same for my winter makeup!" she beams as she continues enhancing her face with lots and lots of brushes. Trust me when I say make-up is art. "This is also the perfect time to play with bold arched brows if you like but I like to keep my brows nat-

ural and straight all year round. Apply an eyelid primer to keep your eye shadow in place through the heat! I'm then using this bright orange gel all over my lids.

This is actually designed to be used as blush but the colour looks so good on the lids.

Brighten your eye with a beige pearl gel pencil in your waterline. Beige looks much more natural than a pure white and gel formulas are so long lasting through the summer heat. I'm also using this pencil to highlight my brow bone. Finish off your eyeshadow by using your bronzer on the outer-v and along your lash line. This will add some natural dimension to your eyeshadow. Now use a black gel liner to line your upper waterline for some natural looking definition. Finish off with a brown gel liner on the outer third of your lash line extending out slightly. Apply a slight amount of this on the lower lash line.

Finish off by curling your lashes and applying dark brown waterproof mascara! Eyelash extensions are also a great way to take you through the summer as you can avoid applying mascara and have it smear on you. I have them on now but half of them have fallen off as you can see." Within 15 minutes, she is done with her face and looks flawless. A good makeup artist knows what's happening right now, but a great makeup artist knows what will happen next. "Not only do you need to be all over what's happening in the industry, but you need to know the trends and be the trend-setter.

After all, your clients are a more likely to pick up the phone and make that next appointment if they know you'll be clueing them into the latest looks and helping them find the hottest new brands and products. Even better, they'll be more inclined to talk positively about you," she says.



"People argue that the pin to the lapel flower is not supposed to show but I honestly think that it's up to you how you want to wear it," says Terry.

WHEN AND HOW TO ACCESSORIZE MEN'S FASHION

With Yandie

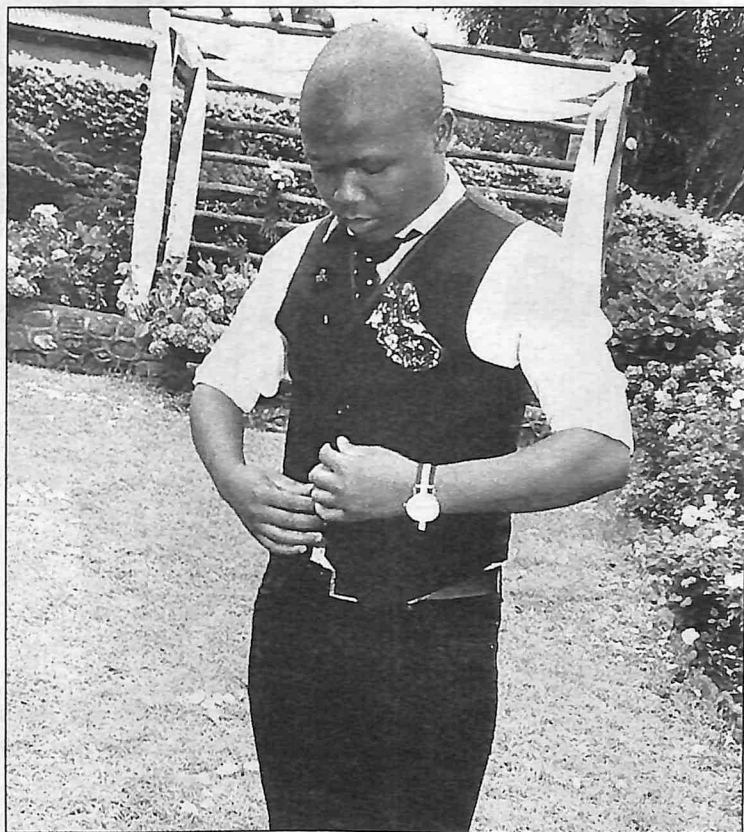
By now, we should all know that the suit undoubtedly makes the man. But have you ever wondered what makes the suit?

Sure, granted your suit should be tailored and crisp, but a blazer and a pair of pants aren't really going to make you stand out in a crowd. It's the accessories that will not only personalise your look, but further your suit's dapperness.

Ever see a sharply dressed man and wonder if he used his Black Card or his Platinum one... but only to find out that he paid little for his suit? Well, ask any fashion-savvy individuals, and they will tell you that one of the secrets in the fashion world is: a poorly put together outfit can make even the most expensive suit look terrible. But, a person can take a suit that cost them next to nothing and make it look like a million dollars. And that's not only for suits; it's the hymn in fashion. So today we have Thembelani Nhlabatsi aka Terri-fic; young Fikile Mbalula so they call him. Come to think of it, don't they look alike? They actually do. He always accessorises best; he is one of the guys who pays attention to accessories.

This should really be a no-brainer for most as neckwear is synonymous with suits. Whether you are wearing a black (or navy) suit with a white dress shirt or attending work environments that are more conservative, a solid black tie shouldn't always be the number one choice. Be more open to other patterns as the detail of your necktie can define your mood and personality.

"Adding patterns is one of the easiest ways to accessorise your suit and make it stand out more: wear a shirt or a tie that has a colourful pattern with an otherwise simple suit. Regardless of whether you have a light or dark colored suit, wearing a shirt with a bold pattern or even pairing a monochromatic shirt with a stunning patterned tie will liven up your appearance and add a bit of drama to your outfit," he says. He believes diplomatic lapel pins may



seem formal but that's not necessarily the case these days.

"You can find many fun and unique pin designs to add some style, humour and colour to your tie and to liven up your suit. Choose a bright, colourfully designed pocket square to make your suit more fun," he says.

Gents, don't let wearing a suit day after day become repetitive and boring. Even if you go through every possible suit, shirt and tie combination in your wardrobe it can still feel like you're wearing the same thing over and over again. For more informal events like weddings and dinner parties choose a bright, colorfully designed pocket square to make your suit more fun.

The colour or colour scheme of your

chosen pocket square should complement your tie, not match it. Gents, like I said before, don't be afraid of bold patterns, bright colours and colourful designs, especially if your tie is less colourful or if you're not wearing one at all.

If bright colors aren't your style, just re-fold your pocket square into a different shape and keep it neutral in terms of colour but eye-catching in terms of style.

You don't have to be an origami expert to learn how to fold it into a cool design, just browse through some options and pick the ones you like best.

Add more sophisticated designs of lapel pins to stand out with your outfit. So go ahead and redefine style, it does not have to be all traditional.

SOCIAL MEDIA WATCH

SOCIAL SCENE



1. Victor Comrade	67. Elise Masilela
2. Tye Moya	68. Larry Mhlanga
3. Ntoko	69. Nonduduzo Ndlovu
4. "Gawazi" Simane	70. Fisiwe Vilane
5. Mhlanga Dlamini	71. Chitambi Chanx
6. Shinga Ngwenya	72. Ayanda Masina
7. Mhlanga Dlamini	73. PMT Philani
8. "Chaka" Nkomo	74. Hleli Luhlanga
9. Ayanda Masina	75. Luffo Dlamini
10. Melusi Zox Dlamini	76. Melusi Zox Dlamini
11. Princess Tsanzile	77. Princess Tsanzile
12. Nomangelo	78. Nomangelo
13. Zethu Manana	79. Zethu Manana
14. Dr. Shakes	80. Dr. Shakes
15. Nokwanda Dlamini	81. Nokwanda Dlamini
16. Zethu Ndlovu	82. Zethu Ndlovu
17. Stantly Mkhwanazi	83. Stantly Mkhwanazi
18. Mhlanga Dlamini	84. Mhlanga Dlamini
19. Tsotsi Mabila	85. Tsotsi Mabila
20. Sound of Heaven	86. Sound of Heaven
21. Lwazi Dlamini	87. Lwazi Dlamini
22. Seluliwe Vilakati	88. Seluliwe Vilakati
23. Mbongeni Gule	89. Mbongeni Gule
24. Ur Girl Zee	90. Ur Girl Zee
25. Yuki Masina	91. Yuki Masina
26. William Shongwe	92. William Shongwe
27. Siza Dlamini	93. Siza Dlamini
28. Muzi Ngwenya	94. Muzi Ngwenya
29. Taribo Bhembe	95. Taribo Bhembe
30. Mbongeni Mbingo	96. Mbongeni Mbingo
31. Langalake Dlamini	97. Langalake Dlamini
32. Allan-Lloyd	98. Allan-Lloyd
33. Vusi Dlamini	99. Vusi Dlamini
34. Aaron Dlamini	100. Aaron Dlamini

A Few days ago, a Facebook user Phinda Mkhonta posted the 2017 top 100 influential Swazi voices to the youth of Swaziland towards vision 2022 (as seen in the above picture). He captioned, "This rating is a social reference for people of influence to the youth of Swaziland 2017."

There are more than 100 influential Swazis that could have been added on to the list, but this is a 2017 rating. The list received mixed feelings as most believed some individuals do not deserve to be on that list.

Most Facebook users questioned the criteria used for the top 100 influencers. One Facebook user was bold enough to ask Phinda about the accordance of the list "the rating was based on what? And is the influence good or bad."

I see thugs, mafias, women bashers etc on this list.

This team you are talking about Mr...., did they 'rate' according to looks, how deep one's pocket is or how many of them have a crush on someone or how many would date that person?? 'Kahleni Bo! Niyasiphoca siyi Youth yaseSwatini,' she commented. Another user questioned What influence was sought for here and why do we constantly leave out health and fitness, advocates of gender based violence, pad drives etc. We see one and the same

names and faces the same people, influential people- and vote for- same names.

The real people who work really hard (not that these don't) to make a difference in society, with issues that matter are never really given the time of day?? The young people we hoist and help reveal to the world for their hidden greatness?? What about Those people? Angilwi (I'm not fighting but can we as Swazis open our minds to more, to newer every day...to potential, to the under dogs, not every day. I'm done."

However, other Facebook users were happy about the list. "Well truth be told these people on this list have motivated a lot of youth entrepreneurs. With that said they have done this in different ways."

We will have different views with regards to these respectable individuals who should be in this list but I believe Phinda took adequate time compiling this list let us at least respect his choice," read one of the positive comments towards the list.

Personally I must say the list is 70 per cent correct but only if the names are not ranked according to the influence of each individual to the youth.

Yes, 30 per cent of these names don't deserve to be there and ranked with high profile and respected individuals.

GLAMMING IT UP...

Accessories are like a hymn in an outfit, they enhance your look and beauty. So it is very important to accessorise if you want to look first-class. You can accessorise for office, casual wear or any events.

However, office accessorise can be a bit challenging hey. You don't want to be centre of attraction in the board room, so it's wise to keep your down your accessories for work.

So today we have Lihle Maziya, she's not only a songbird and song writer but she's a stylist as well.

So she shares her piece and how to accessories; for work, casual in all seasons.

We also have Divine Artist, co-owned by Dzeli the Poet and Thapelo. They just gave birth to handmade accessories. SCENE went down to their station work: Msuduzi Community waste Recycling centre, where they use recycled waste for their pieces. Beautiful handmade pieces! From house accessories to neck pieces and earrings.

"Seriously though, the many joys of being a woman are that you're always allowed to be a girl and play dress up. You do need however need to be cautious not to come across as overly eager to accessorise, your accessories must be woven seamlessly with your outfit. I feel like accessories are an excellent way to add a touch of playfulness to your outfit, or to make a bold statement without having to open your mouth."



accessories gives life in any casual wear, all styled by Lihle

ENHANCE YOUR EVERYDAY LOOK WITH SOME ACCESSORIES

Putting rules around accessories destroys the whole concept of playing dress up.

What I will say though is that you need to be aware of your surroundings and be practical about your accessories, if they make a lot of noise for instance then they may end up distracting you and those around that, especially at work, depending on the environment.

Having said that, always keep your outfit in mind and your colours as well, you don't want to end up looking like trifle on a bad day. Keep it chic, within the same tones and also, don't be afraid to experiment. That's why we at the Lady Bar have combos, we put in the work so that our clients can have the liberty to wake up, get dressed and go! It's something that we



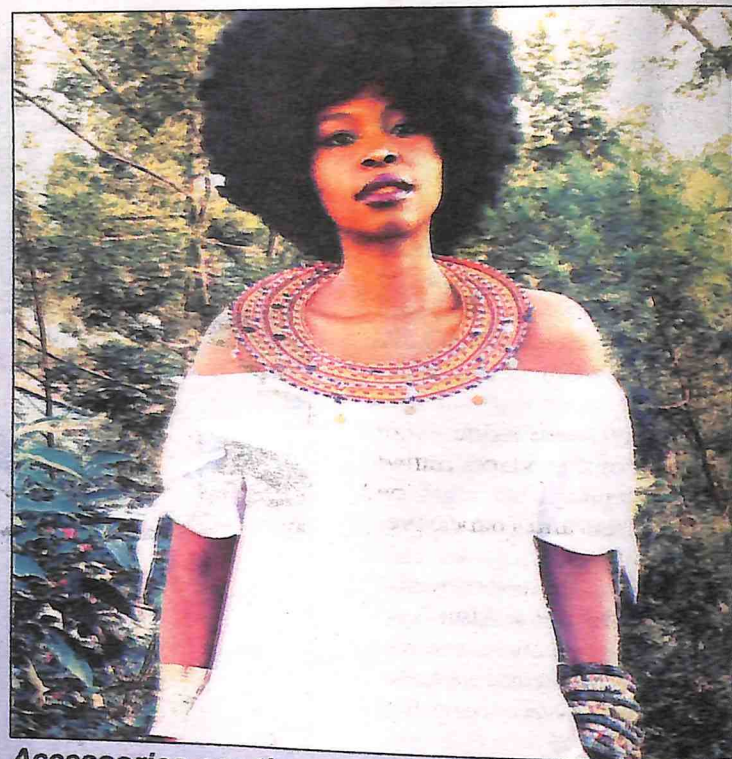
Songbird, Song writer, stylist and Lady Bar owner Lihle Maziya.

live to do and we hope to do it for a long time to come," she says.

Lihle believes that accessories are for eternity, "It's always the right time to accessorise. Always, heck I even know people who wear earrings to bed; true story," she beams.

"Seriously though, the many joys of being a woman are that you're always allowed to be a girl and play dress up. You do need however need to be cautious not to come across as overly eager to accessorise, your accessories must be woven seamlessly with your outfit. I feel like accessories are an excellent way to add a touch of playfulness to your outfit, or to make a bold statement without having to open your mouth." Accessoring depends on your personal style, which is why Lihle's Lady Bar caters for all kinds of women.

"The common misconception is that in winter you need to tone down in terms of colour where accessories are concerned. I completely disagree. The weather is already dark and dreary, your accessories needn't be,



Accessories are the exclamation point of a woman. Look our the neck piece blends very well her hairdo!

Accessories give you the freedom to choose what day if the year it is in your life!

Well, the team at The Lady Bar is actually comprised of different kinds of women and I believe this translates to the pieces we have. There are bold colourful chunky pieces for those who love to walk into a room and literally own it. We also have pieces that are for the more quiet confident kind of woman.

The underlying theme though across all our collections, is celebrating and capturing the spirit of Africa which is bursting at the seams with colour, texture and whole of charm and our pieces embody that.

We have for far too long been stuck within the confines of a Western idea of what beauty ought to be, and we are excited that we finally

have come into an era where we don't have to wait for a traditional event to celebrate our roots! It's great! Also, we hope that African women will continue to be fierce in all the vast spaces that we occupy." I'm an artist so colouring outside the lines is a way of life for me. I've never been one to follow rules (unless it's the law).

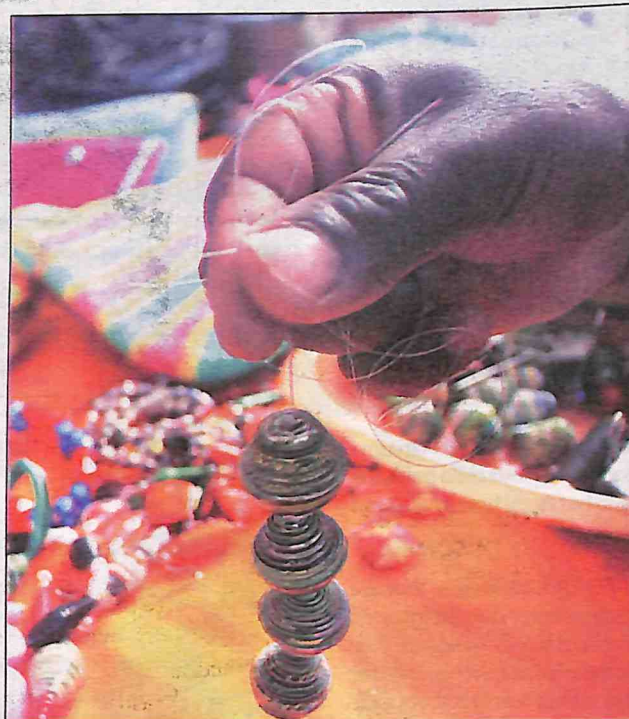
So I always wear clothes that make me feel good and accessories to express my individuality.

No two women are alike and I think we shouldn't be afraid to express that.

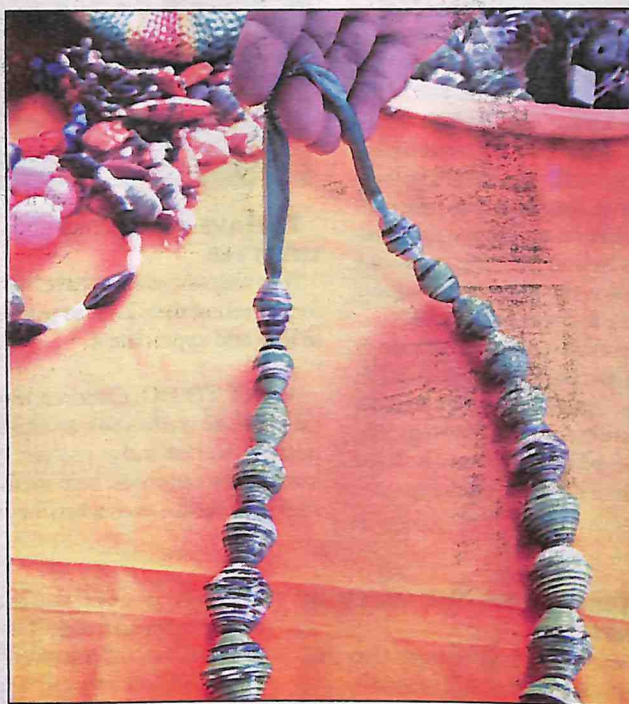
My accessories are really just a reflection of my personal style, well that the hours I spend on Pinterest as well as being inspired by everyday conversations and people," she concludes.



Step 1: Making of a neckpieces using SEC calendar.



Step 2: More balls to make the neck piece.



The end product. Amazing house accessories.



DIVINE ACCESSORIES

"Designing our jewellery collections is so much fun. Each new collection is usually first inspired by used materials and the new creative materials they are working on. With a little bit of design help from the women (Gogo Zulu) they were able to produce great neck pieces that are the foundation of our next collection. Once we have the materials, I usually make a few simple pieces and pass them on to our artists. I have always felt that our accessories should appeal to as many people as possible to maintain our success. That has meant keeping it affordable and not overly earthy,"

Divine Artists presents beautiful handmade accessories, we all know that you're supposed to reduce, reuse and recycle. But for Divine Artists, reuse and recycle often have totally different meanings than they do for the rest of us.

Would you wear beads made out of old tins? How about necklaces crafted from used newspapers? Well, Divine Artist owned by Dzele and Thapelo presents such beauty.

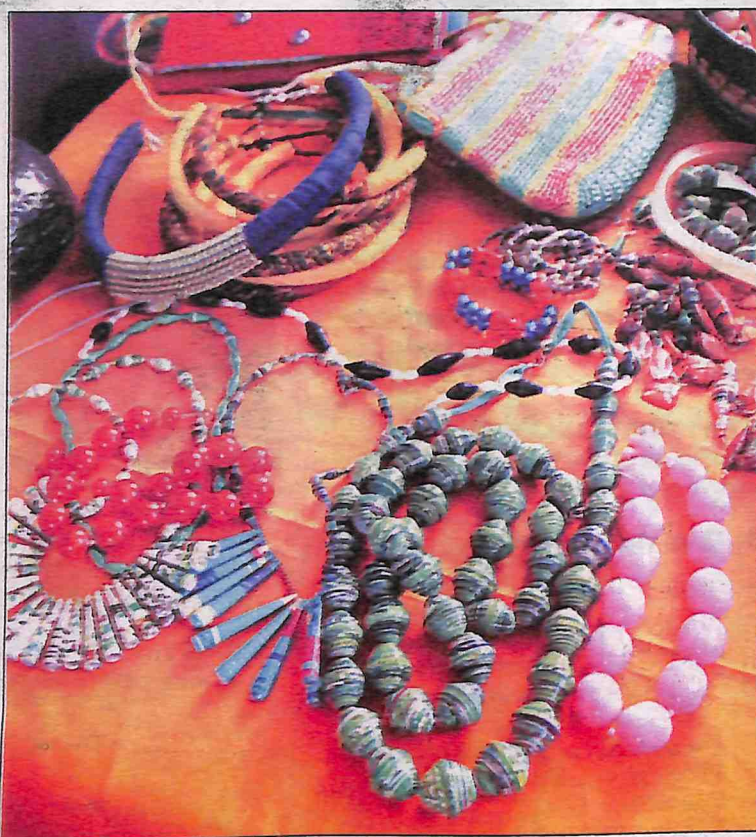
So we spoke to one of the women who are making these accessories at Msunduza, Gogo Zulu, she says making such accessories is like a hobby to her and it's something she enjoys the most more than anything.

"Though you can only see the finished product now, it's easy to make these accessories and I'm enjoying every moment. In as much as I'm doing it for money but it has become my favourite work," she says.

"Designing our jewellery collections is so much fun. Each new collection is usually first inspired by used materials and the new creative materials they are working on with a little bit of design help from the women (Gogo Zulu) they were able to produce great neck pieces that are the foundation of our next collection. Once we have the materials, I usually make a few simple pieces and pass them on to our artists.

I have always felt that our accessories should appeal to as many people as possible to maintain our success. That has meant keeping it affordable and not overly earthy," Dzele says as she takes to the room where they make clutch bags.

Aside from neck pieces, Divine Artists also creates other interesting pieces like home decors and accessories. Dzele



Handmade accessories; Clutch bags, neck pieces and earrings by Divine artists.

believes they will be adding other products in the future as they will be opening their shop at Happy Valley.

"We started with recycled paper jewellery and expanded from there. We will definitely be adding things this season! As I mentioned, we will introduce more jewellery collections that are much more sophisticated than anything we have done before and they will be available at our shop in Ezulwini, Happy Valley," she says.

Advice to aspiring designs

It has not always been easy but I have no regrets.

Based on this experience I would advise aspiring women artists and entrepreneurs to follow their passion and stay focused. Mistakes will be made and hurdles will be encountered. Always remember that these obstacles will make you stronger and better prepared to take on all that lies ahead.

WISE COUNSEL...

BE A FIVE STAR PARENT

Being a parent is one of the most gratifying and fulfilling experiences any being, especially an adult, could at some point experience in his or her life.

Unlike other species or animals so detached from their responsibilities; the two legged creatures are so emotionally, spiritually and physically connected to their offspring that no

situation could come between such special relationship.

The SiSwati idiom that states *kutala kutilungelela* (a child is the parent's extended hand); put it so succinctly and lucidly in explaining the special relationship existing between a parent and his child.

Beyond the joy and satisfaction that comes with raising a child comes

responsibilities.

It, therefore, follows that any parent worth the name should be informed and appraise themselves on finer aspects of raising a child, which is a round-the-clock task so to say,

Though there can be no one size fits all in raising a child, any parent, in fact must, diligently and determinedly find out what such new or

added responsibilities entail to him/her.

This becomes fundamental as no person would jump into such responsibilities without equipping themselves with knowledge or else a fall is imminent.

Adulthood

One might add that the future being scary, unpredictable destiny for our children; no one knows what's going

to happen when they reach adulthood themselves.

A solid foundation should be laid by any parent that will guarantee their children are able to handle whatever challenges life might throw at them in future.

So below we list five things you could as a parent do for your child so that their destiny is assured;

1. EDUCATE THEM

The best thing any parent can ever do for their child is to give them a good solid education.

Regardless of your personal circumstances as a parent, your child holds the basic right to be taught how to read and write.

WHAT TO DO: Make sure they are actually at school every day. Get involved with their school work, make sure they do their homework and prepare well for exams. Chat to their teachers about their behaviour at school, and always encourage them to do their best. Talk to them about future studies and what kind of career they would like, so they have a goal to work towards.

WHAT THEY'LL LEARN: When you give a child the gift of reading and writing, essentially you are giving them the power to keep learning, take control and make things happen for themselves. As Nelson Mandela once said; "Education is the most powerful tool you can use to change the world".

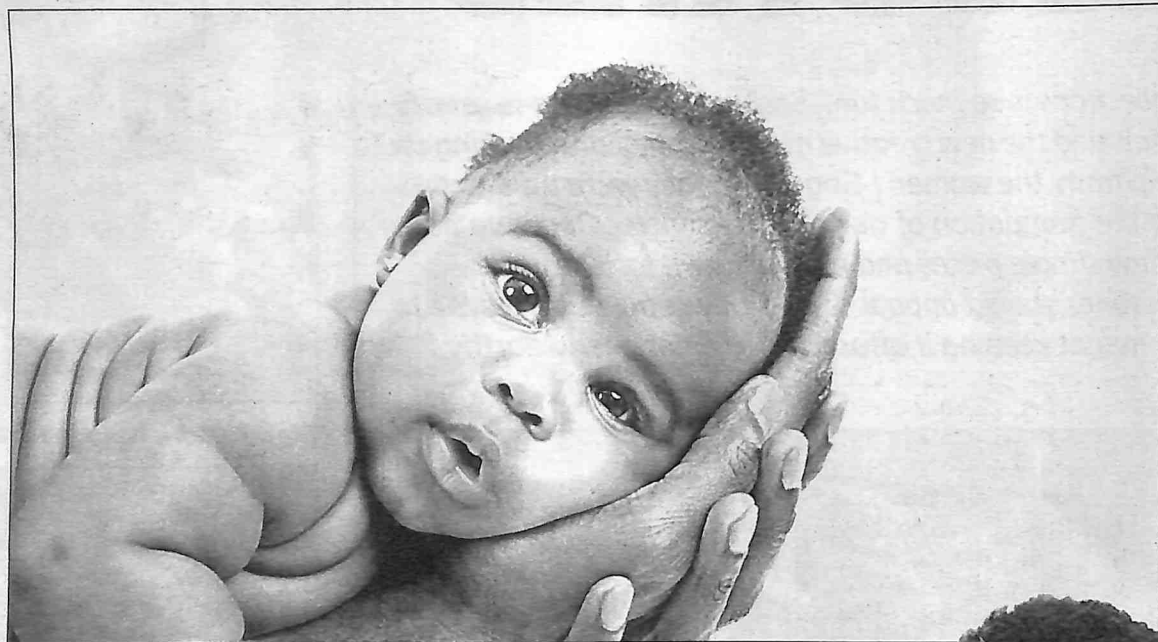
One important virtue is that it is never too late to start planning for your child's education. Open a savings account the day they are born and show your child that you loved, respected and believed in them from the very beginning.

4. TEACH THEM THE VALUE OF MONEY

It's never too early to teach your children the importance of money, and the way you treat your own finances will shape their financial futures.

WHAT TO DO: The most basic and essential tool to teach your children is to save. If they get pocket money (earning pocket money doing chores is a great way to teach them that money needs to be earned and things won't just be handed to them) sit with them and help them decide how they are going to use their money. Have three jars; spend, save and donate – and encourage them to divide their money between the three.

WHAT THEY'LL LEARN: The value of money and smart money management and that they have to work for their income.



2. HAVE A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

They are only going to have one body for the rest of their lives, so teach them to love and appreciate it.

WHAT TO DO: Children learn by example, so try to cook as healthy as possible as often and as you can, spend lots of time outdoors, help them look after their teeth – even when they don't

want to. When the time is right, discuss the dangers of alcohol, drugs, and unsafe sexual behaviour; teach them about health risks like diabetes, cholesterol and obesity.

WHAT THEY'LL LEARN: The more they know about their body, the better equipped they'll be able to look after it.

3. GIVE THEM CHORES

WHAT THEY'LL LEARN: To love and respect the environment as well as problem-solving skills and risk assessment.

"How do I get to the top of that tree, and what are the chances of me falling?"

But it's not so much about what they will learn as how it will affect them. Studies from all over the world are adding to the growing list of benefits from getting out into nature.

These include improvements in; self-awareness, ability to learn, creativity, emotional and mental wellbeing, social interactions, self-esteem and being responsible.

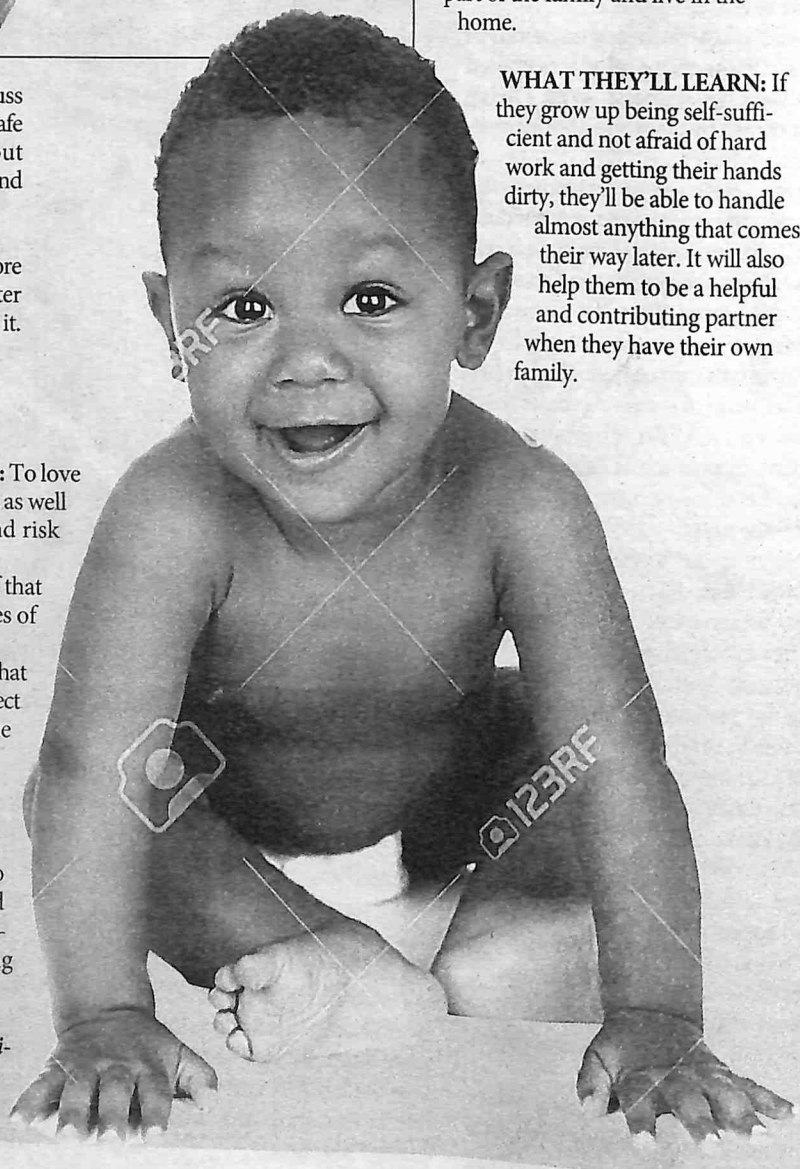
(By Njabulo Dlamini; additional info Kamillah Adams of Family Club)

Children need to learn to work and how to look after a home and family – and that goes for both boys and girls.

WHAT TO DO: Get your children involved with chores around the house and garden as soon as they are old enough. Set up a schedule of age-appropriate chores and rotate it regularly so that your children each get a turn of doing all the different tasks.

If they need motivation at first – which they probably will – you can try the reward system. If they wash the dishes (and do a good job) tell them they can choose what they want for supper the next day. Earning pocket money for doing chores is also good, but there should be some jobs that are done just because your children are part of the family and live in the home.

WHAT THEY'LL LEARN: If they grow up being self-sufficient and not afraid of hard work and getting their hands dirty, they'll be able to handle almost anything that comes their way later. It will also help them to be a helpful and contributing partner when they have their own family.



NEWS . GOSSIP . ENTERTAINMENT

TITBITS



MTN BUSHFIRE GOLDEN LOUNGE TICKETS SOLD OUT

Golden lounge tickets to the prestigious renowned festival; MTN Bushfire 2017 are already sold out. This was confirmed by House on Fire Communications Officer Noncedo Dlamini on Thursday.

Dlamini mentioned that there were limited tickets in all categories as well.

"People are urged to purchase their desired tickets before they sell-out.

MTN Bushfire tickets have completely sold out days before the event for the past four years and fans of this unique event know the importance of booking early," Dlamini said.

As in previous years, the MTN Bushfire 2017 artist line-up features a dynamic range of artists from across southern Africa and the globe.

"Fans can still purchase Full Festival Main Arena, Friday Main Arena, Saturday Main Arena, Sunday Main Arena, and Full Festival Children tickets at MTN Service Centres at Corporate Place in Mbabane and Riverstone Mall in Manzini as well as All Out Africa in Malkerns," Dlamini said.

MTN Bushfire 2017 ticket sale rates have increased by 50 per cent compared to 2016. This means tickets are selling at a faster pace and people are encouraged to buy their tickets while stocks last to avoid missing out on the festival.



OKMALUMKOOKLAKAT HERE IN JUNE

Gqhi hit mater is expected to be in the country next month for epic gig which will be hosted by the Toxik Entertainment.

TOXIK Entertainment promises epic fun as they bring stars; Buffalo Souljah, Nadia Nakai, Gemini Major, on June 24.

As good as it sounds; the show is dubbed 'The Epic Big' and only gets better as SAs Gemini Major, TLT and sons of the soil Diba Diba, Trippy King 20, Sea water and Eimsofly will also be on the very same stage.

This was revealed by DJ and

organiser Thami 'Toxic' Mamba of Toxic Entertainment.

"This is only the inaugural show, we plan to make it an annual event," he said.

UNA Music Group Kelsey Holcomb from South Africa also saved fun lovers the tragedy of buying tickets to shows when the artists scheduled haven't even been booked to perform as the entity confirmed the artists' presence on June 24 at Esibayeni Lodge.

"I am specifically Buffalo Souljah's manager but in this project, I united all these international acts that will be performing on 'The Epic Gig'.

I am working with Toxik Entertainment in delivering the best of these artists and obviously, it will be a memorable night, it ought to be with these big names," confirmed Holcomb.

Other up and coming local acts that are set to light up the stage are Spyda, Harrisontheniner,

Krakens, Bakagogo, and Swiss & Man-arty will alongside the country's top Spinners DJ Toxik, Stitch, Lolo, Bisto and 2.0.

Tickets are already available at Galito's (Manzini, Matsapha), Sdeez (Manzini, Mbabane), Ocean Basket (Ezulwini, Mbabane) and they retail at E150 General and E300 VIP.

This event is proudly powered by Reboost Energy Drink, Dixies International, Velocel and Out of the box media.

BLACK PEOPLE LACK VISION, WE LIVE FOR THE NOW - SELLO

Veteran actor Sello Maake Ka-Ncube has lamented the current state of the entertainment industry, claiming that it is undergoing a cultural crisis and is "more barren than before 1994".

The actor, who has performed both on stage and on screen for over 30 years, has long advocated for African culture to be respected and preserved through the arts.

He underwent a hunger strike in 2009 with the hope of encouraging the gov-

ernment to do more about the condition of the industry. Now, eight years later, the star told TshisaLIVE that conditions have not improved.

"We are still in a situation where culture is not valued and respected.

During Apartheid, everything was about culture and these cultures were fostered and grown. Social and political conditions were atrocious, but cultures were preserved and showcased in a way that was abandoned after democracy. It is because of this that the industry is now more barren than before 1994.

"It is sad that some actors nowadays do not appreciate their culture. They speak languages in half sentences instead of paying the language the respect it deserves by speaking in full sentences. It may sound like a small point, but during Apartheid these things were forced and there was a real sense of cultural identity," Sello said.

Sowetan

I CAN'T TRUST ANYONE - KIM K

"I can live my life, but just on edge."

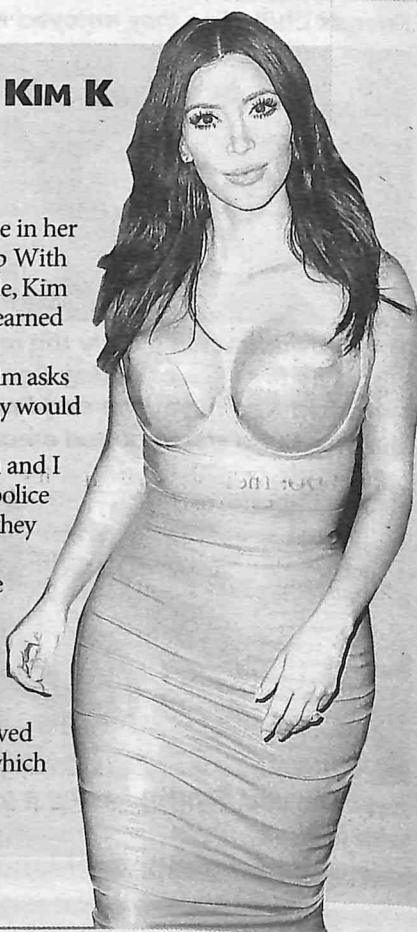
Kim Kardashian reacts to the arrests made in her Paris robbery case on Sunday's Keeping Up With the Kardashians. In this clip from the episode, Kim tells Kourtney Kardashian everything she's learned about the arrests.

"Can you believe that they found them?" Kim asks her sister. "I honestly never thought that they would catch the robbers," Kim says.

"I just thought so much time has gone on and I didn't really realise how diligent the French police were being and just all the challenging work they were really putting into it."

Kim continues, "To find out that there were so many people involved, hearing detail after detail, really just opened up a whole unique perspective for me of feeling safe."

She then explains that knowing it's a possibility that people "close" to her were involved makes her feel like she "can't trust anyone," which she says, "really sucks."



Behind the Scene

SOUL BROTHERS HIT UP THE BOMA



It was an amazing night as Soul Brothers fans came in numbers to watch the group perform at Boma in Ezulwini on Sunday night. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



Black Moses doing what he does best of the keys.



Thokozani Hadebe who now leads the group on vocals posing with Shlabani, Nkonotja and friends.



Friends chilled as they enjoyed the show.



The show attracted mainly the matured crowd as the likes of Acting Senate President Ngomuyayona and Former Minister Lutfo were spotted among the fans.



Kakhona and Sandile having a good time with friends.

THE GODFATHER RETURNS TO SWAZILAND



SAs Mdu Masilela 'The Godfather' performing his hit songs at the SwaziBank Cup finals held at Somhlolo National Stadium last Sunday. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



Mixed emotions on the faces of Matsapha United fans.



Nduduzo Matse singing with his back up singers.



Mdu Masilela's dancers going through their paces.



SUNDAY COMMENT

Same old CTA

There is something incredibly wrong about the Central Transport Administration. Whatever it is, it can't be allowed to go on.

At the core of this problem is the mismanagement of resources and how the government department is being looted at will.

Seemingly, no one cares and there is no one to manage it. It seems there is also no one in charge to be able to put a stop to the rot that has plagued this country for decades. It is puzzling how there are people who are paid handsomely, yet day in and out, the CTA bleeds petrol, if not any other thieving that has not yet been reported.

We are tempted to conclude that there is no one heading the department, and if there is they do not come to work—or typical of a government department, they only report for work to hang their blazers and disappear God knows where.

The CTA Board, we wonder, is also conspicuously useless; for there are no signs that there is any management of the resources at the department. Yet, taxpayers pay those members of the board expecting that there will be controls and proper management of the department.

All of this, we can conclude, is the reason why the CTA has lost E143m worth of fuel; fuel which has walked out of the department to cars belonging to the army. Well, the army contests this, and why not, because everyone at the CTA is in such a deep slumber they would not tell an army vehicle from that of an ordinary individual. What we are certain of is that the army is being used because those siphoning fuel out of the CTA thought this would not be queried.

In this regard, Thuli Dladla and her Public Accounts Committee (PAC) must leave no stone unturned in uncovering this rot, and help us get rid of the people whose slumber is costing the taxpayer so much money.

We want to believe that the PAC will nail the culprits, and we wish to further recommend that they must come down like a ton of bricks on the leadership of the CTA for we are convinced that they are either sleeping on the job or incapable of looking after the department. No other recommendation will solve this problem, because we are certain everything else has been tried—and failed.

And, while we are at it, the PAC may want to give us answers or get us answers, as to why the turnaround of the CTA into a parastatal has not happened. That too has contributed to this theft, because we are certain that this free-for-all theft has happened because there is no longer political will to manage the department from those entrusted with the responsibility.

Typically, this is Cabinet's fault. But, we won't waste our energy that direction. Suffice it to say that this is the stuff for which jobs are lost.

Analysis & opinion



BY MBONGENI MBINGO

DAGGA PROBE
A WASTE OF MONEY

The point is that Swaziland, for argument's sake, is popular for dagga and has a very big reputation for having the best quality in the world. It is also an open secret that this industry, illegal as it is, is a booming business in the areas that it is grown.



Here is a disclaimer; I am all for legalising cannabis, dagga, weed or marijuana—whatever we may choose to call it. I am all for it. Legalise it now, I would even say. In my view that is the radical economic transformation this country is desperate for. I therefore would be the first to give that legislation a thumbs up.

I recall a conversation with the Nkilonko Member of Parliament Hans Steffen sometime last year on this very topic. The legislator had clear views on how this could turn our economy around, and especially if we did it for commercial reasons, the kind of products that can be made from the product. These are changing times, and many countries are changing their positions around this topic; from right across Cape Town to the United States. The positions reflect the thinking that there is more to the debate on the use of marijuana or cannabis than using it for recreational purposes. There has to be a shift, and this is more important for member states such as ours.

The point is that Swaziland, for argument's sake, is popular for dagga and has a very big reputation for having the best quality in the world. It is also an open secret that this industry, illegal as it is, is booming business in the areas that it is grown.

Despite that the state destroys dagga fields and arrests those found in possession or engaged in the illegal trade, it has not discouraged those who eke out a living from it. The fields are growing by the month too, and the reputation of the herb is enhanced with each passing day. Clearly, this calls for a paradigm shift in how we deal with this issue, especially given the fragility of our economy and the lack of other options to stimulate it.

That in my view is why I believe it is sensible to consider this option of legalising dagga in this country—even if for medicinal reasons. So, in this regard, I was one of those who thought it was groundbreaking that Parliament had bought into the argument, and that the legislature was going to look at the plausibility of legalising this—whether for medicinal reasons or indeed commercial. At least now we are talking; and we can all seek to contribute to the debate.

We must have this conversation over what this means for the country in general, and also if it is right to do so. My starting position on this debate is that we are foolish not to consider these options before

us, given the demand and the market for it. We are foolish to hang on to the argument dagga must remain illegal in this country because it makes people go mad or whatever other ludicrous things.

What we want is the reality that in this day and age we need to be open minded enough to accept that there can be other benefits to the legalising of the herb and that it could be used to turn our fortunes around. Let us be honest; our exports are dwindling and therefore our economy is struggling. We are not attracting good enough foreign investment and therefore there is no growth. We are not diversifying our income streams and therefore, the SACU receipts being our only source of revenue, puts us in a precarious situation. The domestic economy is heavily reliant on government as a major player and therefore whenever there is a squeeze in the economy everyone gets affected—ask the contractors who go for months without pay!

In essence, we need help—like yesterday! We need smart ways to finance the economy, and we are struggling for programmes such as what the legalising of dagga could do as a major boost. There is so much to benefit from this; from making products to using this for medicinal purposes, and as well direct export.

There has been, for quite a while, the argument that legalising dagga would encourage the black market or encourage people to smoke. I disagree with this; I think both arguments are not strong enough to deny this country the opportunity to emerge from the situation it is to being an economical strong one. Besides that people still trade

in the black market, and wherever they are they are using this to improve themselves—and contribute to the economy. There are thousands smoking weed and many of them are not crazy.

So this argument is really flawed, in my view. In any case, what we must do is encourage and educate the public on the dangers of smoking weed more than deny the country the chance to improve the lives of its people.

This brings me therefore to the position from government. The prime minister has pointed out, unequivocally, that this will not be happening in his lifetime—well, while he is head of government. He has made it clear that his views are strongly opposed to legalising dagga and therefore his government will not be accepting any such moves to do so.

Fair enough then. That should mean case closed, right? That should tell us we are wasting our time and precious money engaging on this discussion. This is to say, therefore, we should just forget it at present and accept that this idea is perhaps not ready to be discussed—whatever we stand to benefit as a country.

So, in that case, what is Parliament still doing then, having small little discussions around this matter? What will it serve? And where is it going to help really? The Parliament select committee probing or conducting its own little research on the use of cannabis is wasting money we do not have by continuing to take sitting and travelling allowances while on this issue. They must just accept that there is an immovable position at present, and this can be explored in the next parliament.

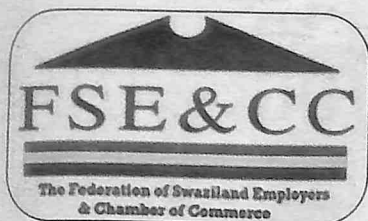
What is the point of compiling a report on the benefits of legalising this herb for the time being when there will be no movement on the most important front—which is the law that will allow for the use of this plant? Whether we like it or not, this decision does not lie with Parliament, and the fact that we have now heard the opinion of the prime minister or that of government on this means we should just accept that the time is not yet ready for this.

Unless of course, this is one of those projects to generate income, and line the pockets, or give those in the committee something to do to make them look very busy and useful. MP Saladin Magagula and his committee must not waste their time arguing that they are looking into the possibility of granting a licence for industrial or medicinal use of dagga. That is just a non-starter, because by its very posture, government has indicated that it frowns upon the very thought of allowing the growing of dagga in the country.

What we should be doing is perhaps calling for the minister of health to bring into the House a revised Bill on the licensing of the use of dagga in this country. If we are serious about exploring the use of dagga for industrial purposes, and medicinal, then we need to be having this conversation over the current law—which I am certain is outdated.

To have this discussion is the kind of futility that is equivalent to removing the Speaker of the House. We know how that normally ends up.

The state of our economy is not that important, so let us rather spend our energies elsewhere.



FITCH DOWNGRADES SOUTH AFRICA TO JUNK STATUS!

...What does it mean for Swaziland?

Fitch has become the second major rating agency after S&P to downgrade South African credit rating to junk status.

This has resulted to the cutting of both the foreign currency and local currency ratings by one notch on concerns that recent political events, including a major Cabinet reshuffle, would weaken standards of governance and public finances and is likely to result in a change of economic policy direction.

Firstly, "junk status" from ratings agencies is a way of telling investors that the quality of the bonds of a government is not the best.

And that there is risk of investors not receiving all the interest or the value of the bonds back when it matures. Simple economics 101 asserts that increased risk implies investors require increased rewards. Thus the yield, interest rate that the South African government has to offer on money it is looking to borrow by issuing government bonds has to be higher to compensate investors for taking the increased risk of buying the government's bonds.

This then leads to South African government cost of borrowing shooting up.

More money has to be spent on repaying interest money that could be used for social upliftment projects, improved infrastructure, fighting crime and social grants amongst other things.

This would also result in a situation where more money spent on interest is

more money not being spent in South Africa on South Africans. The overall impact of this is a poorer quality of life and slower economic growth.

So what is next, since investors know that a downgrade to junk will set off the chain of events we mentioned above, they start looking elsewhere around the world for economic growth and higher returns on their investments. This leads to a depreciation of the exchange rate as the demand for Rands fall as investors are less keen on investing in South Africa and would rather go elsewhere.

A weaker exchange rate means South African imports would become more expensive.

Since the Swazi Lilangeni is pegged to the Rand, this turn of events would put the Kingdom in the very same boat with South Africa with them being the major

trading partner for the country, and Swaziland being a net importer.

For example, imported essential commodities such as fuel become more expensive and this feeds through into higher prices as wholesalers and retailers pass the price increases on to consumers, leading to higher inflation. Higher inflation leads to higher interest rates as the Central Bank is likely to raise interest rates to try and curb spending which in turn, they hope, will lower levels of inflation.

As consumers spend less, retailers and wholesalers will lower prices to move their goods faster, but this eats into their margins, which if sustained, will lead to job losses as wholesalers and retailers try and cut costs.

For the export companies, while it is likely that a weaker exchange rate in Swaziland's exports becomes more com-

petitive, the overall impact in the economy is negative nonetheless. The country's net effect is a greater trade deficit, that is, Swaziland pays more to the world for its imports than what the world is paying it for its exports.

Business owners, senior managers and company executives need to prepare themselves for a bumpy second quarter in 2017, with the only certainty being that nobody really knows how much the downgrade by rating agencies and the weaker Lilangeni will impact on the economy.

Managing and running a business in turbulent times is very unsettling, understanding the environment we are operating in at the moment is almost impossible as it keeps changing from day-to-day. While it is not yet clear how the credit downgrades will impact on businesses, it is more likely that small and

medium enterprises (SMEs) will be more affected by a weaker currency, higher inflation and difficulties in attracting investment.

Depending on the kind of business, the type of industry and its dependence on the current economic climate, the key aspects of business model innovation might be different from one business to another. For a car wash owner, for instance, having to deal with a severe drought and water restrictions might mean innovating on the resources side of the business model and finding alternative ways of washing cars, such as water-less products.

For the average consumer the following scenario is likely to occur, thus it becomes imperative for individual households to increase their levels of personal savings in order to cushion the likely increase in debt repayment caused by higher interest rates.

As the country descends further into economic uncertainty, businesses would do well to revisit their business models and ensure their companies are able to adapt to whatever comes their way. It may not be known what is coming next, but businesses can ensure that they are better prepared and that their companies are able to survive any potential stormy market weather.

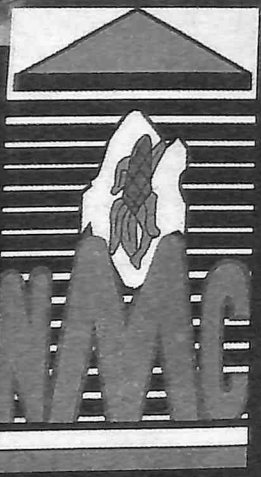
THE MAIZE TRADING BUSINESS



NOKWANDA
DLAMINI-
MASUKU

ON THE
GRAIN

EMAIL:
MARKETING
@NMC.CO.
SZ
WWW.NMC.
CO.SZ



MOISTURE CONTENT

NMC buys maize at 12.5 per cent moisture content. If the moisture is above 12.5 per cent, say 15 per cent for 100 bags (50kg) of maize delivered at NMC, the company will make a loss of not less than E5.00 per bag. The loss emanates from the fact that at storage stage the maize will continue "drying" to an approximate 12.5 per cent, meaning we paid for 5 000kg but received 4 875kg since the difference was the actual moisture added weight.

At such moisture content maize is not good for storage and can lead to the development of moulds which are hazardous to human beings' health, unless it is being dried first. This is a service that NMC provides at highly discounted rates to the farmer. On another note, let's

say maize of 10 per cent moisture content is brought to NMC, same quantities as mentioned above, the farmer will make the same loss of E5 per bag. How? Simple. At NMC we pay for maize on the basis of weight not bags delivered. The same principle applies when we sell. This then means that the size of the bag is not considered but the weight and equivalent payment is made out. If moisture content is too low, the average 50kg bag might weigh 46kg simply because the maize is light in weight. NMC will then pay for the 46kg which is the net weight. It is therefore advisable to contact your nearest depot or extension officer for guidance in terms of maintaining the correct moisture content.

NET WEIGHT

This has been covered above;

however, farmers must always take the following precautions when they reach any NMC depot:

- Ensure that when weighing in and out, the same number of people inside a vehicle is maintained also ensure that maize is tested for moisture content and ensure that they thoroughly check the net weight in their weigh bridge receipt.

QUALITY

The quality of maize plays a very important role in the production of end-products of maize. For quality purposes NMC normally runs quality checks on every consignment received.

These are grades determination and some organoleptic tests.

For any individual farmer it may not be easy to determine the grade of his/her maize, but for guideline purposes the maize must be free from foreign matter such as stones and metals, must have minimum defective and discoloured maize kernels. For organoleptic tests, farmers must ensure that the maize is free from weevil infestation, undesirable odour and maize of other colour. We must emphasise that NMC does not accept

weevil infested maize at all.

Other factors may come into play in the trading of maize with NMC.

The above stated points are the most crucial and this is a gospel we hope to preach to you, our audiences, as much as we can, as loudly as we can and as frequently as we can so as to ensure that we are indeed all on the same page. NMC doors remain open to farmers for discussions around maize and other grain production; because for us at NMC, grain production is everything. It is our dream that the Kingdom of Swaziland will reach a point of being food secure by 2022 where every Swazi will have access to the country's staple food amongst other foods and most importantly at affordable price. We cannot achieve this on our own; we do not want to even try. This is a journey we insist on taking along with our farmers.

"Agriculture is not production as popular belief holds, it is the production of food and fibre from the world's land and waters. Without agriculture it is not possible to have a city, stock market, banks and universities, etc. Agriculture is the foundation of civilization and any stable economy" – Allan Savory.

There have been instances where local farmers, who may not clearly understand the business process of buying and selling maize at the National Maize Corporation (NMC), may have gotten confused at why the amount of maize bags brought to NMC does correlate with the amount of money received.

So now we ask ourselves: what have we been missing as farmers.

The value of maize brought to NMC will be determined by three things; moisture content, net weight and quality of maize. "How can we then make the most out of these three variables," you ask.

MIND THAT ERROR

ADIDI UYO



If this very sentence you are reading right now were to end the way it has, can you tell me what is wrong with it. Aha, what's your answer?

Well, what is wrong with the first sentence is the absence of what you find at the end of the second sentence of our opening paragraph: the question mark. The two sentences are questions, but the first sentence ends with a full stop instead of a question mark.

Physically, every sentence is a product of two basic elements: words and punctuation marks. The two indeed are the fundamental units of grammar from which all other units of grammar and composition derive. To write well, we must master and manipulate them appropriately and adroitly.

The following two sentences constitute the 27th paragraph of IT'S NOT ALL GLOOM, an opinion piece in the Times of Swaziland SUNDAY, December 13, 2015. Take a good look at them to see how many punctuation errors each sentence contains. The paragraph reads, thus: "Who wants to tax free drought mitigating assistance by sympathising friends of the country before the victims of drought which the people at Lavumisa receive. The question is: why not exempt humanitarian related assistance, particularly if it is designed to alleviate the plight of drought-stricken people and livestock in the country. (sic)

I do not know about you, but let me say that I do not quite understand the first sentence in that paragraph. Perhaps one reason the sentence is not quite clear to me is the phrase, "free drought mitigating assistance." Methinks hyphenating two or three words of this phrase could make a difference to the sentence, but I pass.

The obvious punctuation error in the first sentence is, of course, the absence of a question mark at its end. The question begins with the interrogative pronoun, "who," but ends with a full stop. This is an error of faulty period.

We find exactly the same error in the second sentence of the paragraph. But there are more glaring errors of punctuation in the sentence. After the colon, the sentence should open with open quotation marks. And the sentence should also end with closing quotation marks. Besides, the first word in the interrogatory sentence should begin with a capital letter, and the adverb, "particularly," should be followed by a comma. All in all, the second sentence has five errors of punc-



uation. These are omission of quotation marks, faulty lower case, comma omission, omission of obligatory hyphen, and faulty period.

We may correct the sentence by revising it this way: "The question is: Why not exempt humanitarian-related assistance, particularly, if it is designed to alleviate the plight of drought-stricken people and livestock in the country."

In the Swazi Observer of May 5, 2017 was this article, DAGGA COMMITTEE WANTS TO GO HIGHER, HIGHER AND HIGHER. Read its opening sentence carefully, and can spot the punctuation errors in it. Here it is: "On the eve of parliamentary elections, a select committee is embarking on an extremely ambitious globetrotting exercise; this time on a non (sic) other than the drug and habit forming ticket of cannabis, dagga."

Every mark of punctuation has its work cut for it. There is an amount of load it can bear and cannot bear. The semicolon, for example, separates clauses, but not phras-

es. After the word, "exercise," in the foregoing sentence, we find a semicolon; but the construction that comes after the semicolon is not a clause. It is a phrase which is part of the preceding clause. This is a fault which, on this page, has been fondly dubbed, "semicolonitis." The semicolon here is doing the work which rightly belongs to a comma.

Another error of punctuation in that sentence is the omission of hyphen from the modifying phrase, "habit forming." To take care of the punctuation errors in the sentence, it may be revised, thus: "On the eve of parliamentary elections, a select committee is embarking on an extremely ambitious globetrotting exe-

To be sure, punctuation errors occur due mainly to the omission, intrusion or insertion of certain punctuation marks in certain parts of a sentence. This may be at the beginning of sentence, the middle of a sentence, or the end of a sentence.

Check this sentence and see where the punctuation errors occur in it: "It was during this month on February 2 1990 that the last apartheid president FW de Klerk announced the unbanning of liberation movements and the subsequent release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners, thus setting South Africa on an irreversible political course." This is the second paragraph of an editorial in the Sowetan of February 4, 2016.

Can you spot the number and types of punctuation errors in that sentence? No, let me take that back. Actually, I decided to present that sentence in order to take cognisance of the observation by one author of a simple but incisive book on grammar.

"Punctuation, more and more, rejects formal rules, becomes less and less hospitable to the commands 'thou shalt' and 'thou shalt not'. Rules found in the standard textbooks are necessarily conservative: they generally memorialise past practice; they do not often

report prevailing current usage."

The point is: We may be too fastidious in judging a sentence to be wrong because of how the writer uses or does not use certain marks of punctuation. But we must also say that there are certain omissions or insertions of punctuation marks that are glaringly in error.

Consider, for example, the omission of a comma after "February 2" in the sentence under our spotlight. Would you accept that its absence is correct, current usage? Would you accept the absence of a comma before and after "FW de Klerk" as correct, current usage?

Now, suppose that the sentence were revised in the following way, would you consider the revision clearer than the original? Here is the revised version: "It was during this month on February 2, 1990 that the last apartheid president, FW de Klerk, announced the unbanning of liberation movements and the subsequent release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners, thus setting South Africa on an irreversible political course."

You may not consider proper punctuation to be a big deal. But it is really a big deal, if only for one reason.

If you drive without obeying road signs and traffic lights, you pose a great danger to other road users and you will be lucky if you are not arrested by the police. Writing without regard for punctuation marks is like driving without regard for road signals and traffic lights. You may not cause harm to readers who do not know what you are doing; but to those who know, you are a hazard.

We shall present more punctuation problems to let you decide which ones constitute errors, hence, may be are hazardous to readers, and which ones do not.

HOW DUPS SUPPORTS EMPLOYEE WELLNESS



We had a whirl of a time last Sunday during our annual wellness day.

There were many sporting activities lined up, which saw many of our staff members winning medals for excelling in the various disciplines. It is now back to business in our camp, after a well-deserved day of sweating it out in the sports field.

It is also back to business for most workers who have had quite a few holidays of lazing around and taking a break from the rat race. One of those holidays

was International Workers Day, commemorated on May 1.

Much was said about employee wellness in the media by numerous organisations on April 28 to commemorate the annual world day for safety and health at work. Today we are also going to add our voice to the discussion. The International Labour Organisation (ILO), the commemoration's major proponents, states that the day is an awareness-raising campaign intended to focus on how promoting and creating a safety and health culture can help to reduce the amount of work-related deaths and injuries.

Wellness for employees should spread even wider than just the injuries and deaths that happen within the workplace. It should also look at their general welfare. Part of wellness is for employees to have health and funeral policies.

If they or their family members get sick, they should be able to afford medical assistance.

In the event of death, whether the employee's or a family member's, they should have funeral cover. It is not just dodgy people that need legal representation or counsel. Sometimes people find themselves in need of one or the other, and they should be able to afford whatever services they want.

When employees do not have policies to cushion them from distressful life situations, they are pushed into a corner and sometimes end up devising ways to obtain help from dark places they would not otherwise visit under ideal situations.

A good employer must take care of his employees and ensure that they have peace of mind so that they can be productive. Some work-related hazards come about because workers are absent minded, trying to find a way out of difficult situations that could easily be solved

if they had a Dups policy. A substantial amount of what is supposed to be productive time is lost while employees pay visits to loan sharks, negotiate payment terms, and then sometimes run away from work or hide in bath rooms to avoid angry loan sharks who want their money back and the employee has no two cents to rub together at the time. Other employees cannot focus or deliver on their work because they are moonlighting to make ends meet.

With health, funeral and legal insurance, employees can sleep easy knowing that they are protected from any eventualities.

Employers can help their employees out of precarious situations by contributing to their health and funeral insurance premiums. Better still, they can actually pay them in full for the employees. This not only retains the workforce but also enhances good health for the employee and productivity which benefits the company. It is a perfect win-

win situation.

Employees should also not always expect to have 'Big Brother' looking out for them; they should also be responsible for their own welfare. Our legal cover, which operates under United General Insurance provides cover for civil matters, non-serious criminal matters, administrative matters, labour matters, and accidental death and legal expenses benefit. These are all situations any worker could find him/herself embroiled in.

Workers can come together and register for group funeral policies, which has some advantages. Should a group consider this route, please give us a call on 2505 2028 to find out how you can have a group presentation to have everything outlined for you. You can also send your queries to info@dupsgroup.com, www.facebook.com/dups or on Twitter @dupsinsurance or pay us a visit at our offices in Manzini, Matata, Matsapha, Simunye, Nhlanguano, Mbabane, Pigg's Peak and Siteki.



Young entrepreneurs from Swazi National High displaying their wares.



NOKUKHANYA GAMEDZE

JA BOARD CHAIR

JA Swaziland is currently in the process of organizing a fundraising dinner that will be held on May 26.

As we reach out to the entire nation at large for support in this initiative, we have realised the need to emphasise on the need to invest in young people. One of the most important statements that I can recall which was said by Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation's Managing Director, Nick Jackson explained the importance of investing in youth as such; "You give a hungry man a fish and you feed him for a day.

You teach him how to fish and you give him an occupation that will feed him for a life time." It is therefore imperative that in order for us to cultivate the culture in which young people identify the value of working hard to earn a living, we have to invest towards entrepreneurship.

As a nation, we have to understand that as a developing country we have to make strides towards placing young people at the center of sustainable development.

After all they are the ones who stand to see the future hence if we

WHY THEN SHOULD WE CONSIDER INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH?



Vulamasango students displaying their art pieces.

invest in them then we stand to create a bright future not only for them but for ourselves as well. Entrepreneurship is one of the most important drivers of job creation.

Moreover, social entrepreneurship offers not only a path for young people to transform their own lives, but also a way to empower others.

Investing in entrepreneurship is

not only important for the business itself it plays a major role in the economy of a country. First of all, it creates new job opportunities. When an entrepreneur starts a business, she/he needs to hire

others to build up the company. Besides that, entrepreneurship cause economic growth. In some countries there are more entrepreneurs than in other countries.

Entrepreneurs provide wealth. Entrepreneurship fosters the economy of a country. Therefore, governments and the business sector have to support people who want to start their own business.

However, one of the most important aspects is the fact that entrepreneurship helps to bring new products and ideas to the market.

Without the creative ideas of entrepreneurs our world would not be as advanced as it is today in the fields of culture, science and technology.

Moreover, social entrepreneurship offers not only a path for young people to transform their own lives, but also a way to empower others.

When given the space and opportunity to do so, young people turn their energy and creativity towards solving today's challenges and tomorrow's problems. Social, political, and economic engagements intervened bring forth a new breed of social entrepreneurs.

Their businesses, dubbed 'social enterprises', not only aim to make profits, but also use these revenues to invest in social change.

The most alarming unemploy-



By: Sabelo Junior Dlamini

Good Day: Sanibonani

This article, is an endeavour to assist many parents, guardians and learners to choose the best and most affordable education system.

The problems we had as scholars in the nineties are far different from those that today's learners face, and from experience, learners in rural public schools face different challenges compared to those in urban independent schools. Unfortunately, the main setback for most of their problems is money. I believe that an informed mind will always make better deci-

'RAISE THE BAR BY MAKING INFORMED

sions.

What is Independent Education?

An American social anthropologist Margaret Mead observed that "children must be taught how to think, not what to think" This is the main aim of independent education, often referred to as private education in the region. Personally I would prefer to use the former. The word "private" may have a negative connotation of exclusivity of some sort, yet independent encompasses numerous aspects of learning. Independent education is promoted by independent schools. These are schools that are independent in their nature of operation, especially in their finances and governance; they are usually not dependent upon nation-

al or local government to finance their operations, nor reliant on taxpayer contributions, but they are instead funded by a combination of tuition fees and charges, donations, and in some cases the investment yield of private persons or companies. Most of these institutions are typically governed by a board of governors that is elected independently and has a system of governance that ensures their independent operations; whilst some have a board of directors who perform the same task as a board of governors.

Independent schools are more often preferred, and in most cases the teacher-student ratio is low and facilities are readily available and there is a limitless window of opportunities for both learners and educators in such

schools. Three factors contribute to the success of independent schools, primarily it is the learners themselves, they must be keen to do well, must have clear aim and be success-oriented and diligent. These learners are supported by a cohort of professional teachers. More often it is discussed that technology will replace teachers, but I firmly believe that nothing can replace a good teacher. To this day I remember those teachers who made an impact in my life years ago and I somehow try to do same for my learners. The support by parents contributes immensely towards achieving success in independent schools. Parents in independent school do not only support by paying fees, but they become essential component of the teaching and learning process. They walk

The most alarming unemployment statistics that are available in the country are mostly youth unemployment statistics. They are currently standing at 53%. Globally, 600 million jobs will be needed over the next 15 years to absorb the current number of unemployed youth and provide job opportunities to the approximately 40 million labour market entrants - mostly young people - each year. A more immediate consideration for governments is that youth employment can mean the difference between a growth-boosting demographic dividend and a social time bomb.

This is a clear indication that the gap that exists is too wide which requires direct intervention to be initiated.

Globally, youth unemployment is three times higher than that of adults. This is a problem in developing countries like Swaziland.

The potential of a whole generation risks being wasted with skills losses that would diminish long-term economic prospects while shunning our attention to youth entrepreneurship is very great. We therefore cannot reach the sustainable development goals without investing in youth skills.

Unemployment does not only impact on someone's ability to earn a living, it is a reflection of the opportunities (or lack of) that are available.

The younger generation is currently faced with a situation where there is not only a lack of jobs, many jobs are simply inaccessible to many, especially those who may not have access to adequate education and training.

This situation dramatically changes a young person's ability to plan their future and their general outlook on life. This is where business needs to step in. Investing in young people by creating jobs and by building gateways into the labour market is a significant opportunity for business to invest in itself.

Governments need to contribute, too. For instance, they can do more to support young entrepreneurs and future job creators who decide to use their academic qualification to pursue entrepreneurship. Young entrepreneurs frequently cite access to finance as one of the biggest obstacles on the road to success. Government should also consider giving access to loans and support structures to those young entrepreneurs just like she does to students pursuing their studies into University.

The entrepreneurs remain without proper support structure thus leading to failure in their business endeavors.



TOURISM & TRAVEL

BY BONGANI DLAMINI

STA Marketing Manager

Email: mm@tourismauthority.org.sz



DESTINATION SOUTHERN AFRICA A REALITY

We continue to maintain strong relations with various partners and tour operators in the region, some of whom we have hosted in the past for familiarisation tours. It is in this regard, in fact, that we have seen an increase of visitors from the region to our beautiful Kingdom.



In the realisation that Africa, in spite of her diverse and huge product offering, only accounts for less than four percent of the world's total tourism receipts, a new drive being spearheaded directly by our governments through their respective tourism ministries, and tourism authorities and/or boards has been proposed.

The drive suggests that sub regions within the continent should consider collectively marketing their destinations as regions in order to sell a compelling product to international travellers.

Not to be left behind, our southern African region is already exploring various ways of creating synergies and strategic collaborations among member states.

Addressing the Inter Tourism Games 2017 Awards' Gala in Lesotho last month, a senior official from South Africa's North West Tourism said time had come for countries and destination marketing organisations in the region to harness the uniqueness of our destinations and consolidating efforts in marketing of the same. She illustrated that Swaziland was the hub of cultural, wildlife, and entertainment tourism (which of course are part of a much wider array of the types of tourism we have); that South Africa had the widest beaches; that Botswana had a popular desert; and so on, it is possible therefore to amalgamate our efforts as countries, particularly at a government level, and showcase to the world what 'Destination Southern Africa' can offer.

We couldn't agree more. The time to claim a bigger share of the world's tourism cake is now. However, to fully achieve that broad and higher level of regional integration, it remains imperative for DMOs to escalate their marketing efforts within the region itself in order to influence travel of our peoples within the region.

This is something STA continually advocates for; wherein locals are always being challenged to know their own surroundings and attractions first before exploring

foreign destinations.

We continue to maintain strong relations with various partners and tour operators in the region, some of whom we have hosted in the past for familiarisation tours.

It is in this regard, in fact, that we have seen an increase of visitors from the region to our beautiful Kingdom.

Materialising the concept of 'Destination Southern Africa' surely should start with us prioritising and advancing our marketing efforts

for 'Destination Swaziland'.

We continue to beseech you to travel more within our country and discover the amazing beauty of our land and people.

In the same breathe, we also urge you to invite friends from all over the world to come witness our various events and experience our hospitality.

For instance; we have the Bushfire Festival taking place this month - a great opportunity to market the country to the region, and indeed

to the world.

How about we all take to the social media and tweet about these events. How about we share amazing scenes taken from various places in the country on sites like Instagram? Remember, we are all the primary ambassadors of our destination, hence let's take pride in talking about our kingdom.

The more we talk about our kingdom, the more practical would be talking about the region eventually.

DECISIONS ON INDEPENDENT EDUCATION'

Parents in independent school do not only support by paying fees, but they become essential component of the teaching and learning process. They walk with their children guiding them in all they do. Most parents seek excellence from the independent school system.

Testing and Examinations in Independent schools.

In most cases, independent schools use independent examination bodies for assessment and examinations purposes.

These examination centres are regionally or internationally represented and they are globally accredited. They are preferred by most universities the world over.

Most of the independent schools in the region

are affiliated to the Independent Examination Board (IEB), while some are affiliated to the Cambridge International Examination (CIE). The IEB is a South African Independent assessment body, offering examination and assessment to schools and adult assessment centres, it is accredited by UMALUSI, the council that sets and monitors standards for general and further education and training in South Africa in accordance with the South African National Qualification Framework Act No 67 of 2008 and the General and further education and training quality assurance act No 58 of 2001, under the auspices of the Ministry of Basic Education in South Africa.

The IEB offers examination which leads to the South African National Senior Certificate

(NSC) and the CIE is based in the United Kingdom and providing examination to many centres around the world.

It offers examinations that lead towards the International General Certificate in Secondary Education (IGCSE) and the Advanced Subsidiary (AS), please note that these are not the only ones, just that they are much preferred.

Parents must always take cognisance of what curriculum is followed by their children in independent schools, and learn to be advised on the benefits and limitations (if they exist) of each of these examination bodies. Notably some independent schools in offer the Local National curriculum as offered in public school.

The Intentional Educational Beliefs of Independent Schools in General:

This aspect of my article might be a little biased, why? Because it must be noted that each independent school has certain traits that set it apart from others Independent schools work in an educational environment of extremes, where you would find well-resourced and under-resourced schools working for the same goals and same aims - excellence.

In both environments you are likely to find exceptional teaching that compares very well with the best in the world and classrooms in which you would realise the vast diversity among learners. Independent schools attempt to encourage school management, governing bodies and teachers to provide learners with the opportunities to explore the world.

These opportunities allow learners to actively participate in a range of develop the of skills and attitudes that parents believe every modern member of our society requires to master.



BY Comfort Mabuza

PRESS FREEDOM MUST BE DRIVEN BY PROFESSIONALISM

● *Freedom of the media must therefore not be reduced to safeguarding the interests of a chosen few.*



The commemoration of World Press Freedom on 3rd May each year is forever cherished as a milestone in a world that is given half-truths and left in the darkness.

I still do believe that reasonable minds agree and they unfortunately also disagree at times, which is at the heart of Freedom of expression ideals. I am forever at pains then and I still do agonize even now that, we should learn to play the ball not the person in any given public forum, that is the essence of freedom of expression and very foundational to those embracing human rights discourse. The Role of the Media in a Democratic dispensation should drive an agenda that says all people must be given a voice and availed media platforms where those thoughts are exchanged and shared freely without fear or favour. As an advocate for Human Rights agenda we want to underscore that the advancing freedom of expression ideals is very critical in this time and age. It certainly come with a high price as people telling the truth should go all out ensuring that members of the public are not be deprived information, hence my deep passion that we ought to ensure that the channels of communications where information is disseminated freely are never blocked by those who are enemies of Freedom of the press and by extension free flow of information to the citizenry of any given democratic country should be guaranteed. Ours is a calling to a nation building exercise founded on the principles of a resolve to support a democratic dispensation. The Animal Farm tendencies should be fought with all might where some animals are more equal than others. The media must respect peoples' fundamental rights and freedoms as a cornerstone of a desired Human rights culture founded on respect.

PAY ATTENTION TO PEOPLE'S VOICES

Was it not the wise King Sobhuza II who advised that we should listen even to even those we perceive as fools and drunkards for therein lies truth and sincerity, "Silalele nesidzakwa ngobe sikhokha yonke ingonyuluka yelciniso." The Swazi media should work tirelessly to capturing voices of all citizens in any matter that impacting their wellbeing. It is extremely saddening that the media these days seems to be dominated by popular and powerful voices and never capture the voices of the marginalized masses. We call upon the media whose mandate is primarily to inform and disseminate information that all voices be given platforms to express themselves without any limitation. On the other hand we are not blind of how the media is still paying the high price of disseminating news and information. The media internally is forever experiencing undue clandestine self-censorship because of

the deep seated fear on not wanting to take risks of telling truth by those who happen to be "POWERFUL." At the end of the day the media has ended up not pushing what we call 'public interest; issues which should be the oxygen of a thriving society. After the media is the fourth estate in a democratic society and should keep those who lead under close public surveillance as they have tended to abuse their positions for selfish gain. Freedom of the media must therefore not be reduced to safeguarding interests of a chosen few as citizens' voices matters whether rich or poor, enlightened or uninformed still ought be heard and captured. Media must desist only giving coverage to the 'powerful' advancing their interests at the expense of the marginalized. Give people's voices equal opportunity and stop advancing hidden agendas.

IT IS ABOUT TELLING THE TRUTH

The media must be seen adequately informing the public and by extension exposing it to pertaining issues that daily unfolds in their given contexts, so that they engage them and make informed decisions.

The media must ensure it keep their noses on the ground seeking the truth at all times, and once satisfied then use them as basis for telling the story. Are we not being fed half-truths and end up being fed such? We seem to have a media running after useless sensational stories advancing people's hidden agendas, instead of promoting news coverage with a public interest. Glancing at the pages of the local media daily, at times I keep asking myself, are some stories being covered having any public interest or we are advancing a ghetto journalism where the media is unable to pick pressing national interest matters and ensure we pursue that agenda.

Of course, there is room for entertainment as part of media agenda too, but should we really not be asking ourselves what is the agenda needing Swazi populace to reflect deeply. Issues of poverty alleviation,

hunger and diseases are remaining important issues that the media will never exhaust, and how we need to see it empowering the citizens without ever getting tired. These are salient issues that are at heart of a human rights based agenda which we should see being advanced. Which media cannot seek the truth then as to the underlying causes that make people live such abnormal lives and be forever exposed to hardships? Give us more factual truths on issues that contribute to causes of hardships people faces and they assist them as part of the empowering agenda.

CAUSING UNDUE HARM

The media in its quest of gathering the news will eventually cause discomforts as truth telling will rub people the wrong way, especially when it covers sensitive facts times deemed too personal. The undeniable fact is that any information dissemination about people impacts on the reputations of people, and they will be affected by any story disseminated and will definitely causes some discomforts. Of course, I do understand reputations and image of individual are at stake if what is reported borders around their conduct and behaviour.

Once people hold public office they eventually must understand that they have chosen a life that should be scrutinized by virtue of holding positions of trust. The media's imperative responsibility is to attempt to balance things and avoid character assassination but instead remain impartial in reporting facts and not fiction.

A public figure unfortunately foregoes that right or privacy, and it is always important that people understands that, as the media is not up to settling personal scores and getting at an individual and damaging their reputation for sake of it. If by any chance people get people hurt but if truth is being told and the issue has a public interest, so be it. Those who feel aggrieved are availed with right to be heard when lodging a

complaint through an internal Ombudsman, editor or even approach the self-regulating complaints commission. Media should never be allowed to conceal information and become a vehicle that promotes unscrupulous individuals whose behaviour and conduct leaves a lot to be desired, all we want is truth and nothing else.

MEDIA IMPARTIALITY IS DESIRABLE

Media practitioners must satisfy themselves that the facts being shared are accurate. It should act impartial when analysing the information at its disposal. Such information should not only be factual but certainly not influenced by either any financial gains or personal rewards scribes should always avoid. It is a fact that powerful people enjoys limelight and be forever portrayed in positive light even if there are skeletons in their closets. Some public figures have gone all out giving bribes and any other financial rewards to media personnel to have their reputations protected at all costs. Such unbecoming behaviour destroys media credibility. It should be stated that these cooking and making up of stories that journalists are bribed without substantiating such claims is so unfortunate.

Expose such corruption, and Editors who are gatekeepers in the newsroom should be confronted if there is evidence to deal and uproot such questionable characters. Journalists are supposed to be trustworthy lot and are trained to analyse issues without favour and must remain impartial. They are forever to remain focussed and upholding the profession and ethical standards. We remain convinced that commemoration of World press Freedom Day that does not promotes the ideals of a professional press is not adding any value. An ethical media remaining impartial and not easily influenced but only report truth, minimizing harm and forever independent from undue influences and manipulation cannot be overemphasized



JOY NDWANDWE'S ZONE LEADERSHIP

May is African Renaissance month as we commemorate the establishment of Africa Day, May 25th 1963.

I dedicate this month to African Renaissance education, which is committed to rewriting major tenets of history by creating knowledge rooted in indigenous cosmologies and knowledge systems. This renaissance education, understands how the Bible is the core source of imperialism, colonialism and apartheid that created captivity through negating indigenous cosmologies and knowledge systems.

Emeritus Archbishop Tutu stated how imperialism, colonialism and apartheid regime, said let us close our eyes and pray. When we opened our eyes we had the Bible, they captivated land and minerals. Thus, elucidating the historical negative introduction of the Bible in Africa, resulting in materialism, capitalism and captivity of land, culture and identity.

African Renaissance Education provides academic space for detoxing and critical thinking on the current role of the Bible within materialism, capitalism and captivity of culture, identity and mind. Thus, suggesting creating thought leaders who critically analyse intractable problems of modernity emanating from materialism, capitalism and captivity. Education rooted within indigenous cosmologies and knowledge systems through rethinking thinking, cognitive justice, and transdisciplinarity towards restorative action.

FREE DECOLONIZED EDUCATION

Maxwell Dlamini invited me to an informal lecture that I understood to be for SADC Youth Forum, this never occurred. However, I had already engaged in the process of conceptualizing and contextualizing, hence today I share my thoughts with our readers. The invitation requested my presentation on 'prospects of free decolonized education within SADC.' This topic was not surprising, as free decolonized education is a topical issue amongst the youth. Considering how SADC region, particularly South Africa is undergoing an intriguing phase of idealism, which is to be expected in South Africa during their first phase after attaining freedom. Evidently free education has taken centre stage, embroiled with a sense of idealism, as a response to the current transactional leadership issues and challenges.

Free education is sensitive, as it could be misrepresented to mean free from responsibility. And yet education is a building block towards good citizenship, so my take is that free is utopian. However, accessible education is plausible taking into consideration that universities must reconsider their infrastructure investments portfolios. Such that it does not become a financial burden, resulting in fee increments for future students. Hence professors must rethink their thinking, as to whether being a professor requires land and infrastructure. As we are in 21st century where virtual and digital learning can we cost effective and efficient, and requires limited land and infrastructure.

Decolonized education is critical as western knowledge systems have been dominating for too many years. There are certain subjects that will remain as they are, but fundamentals such as religion, history, and languages needs to be decolonized. As they were produced by imperialism, colonialism and apartheid utilizing their power and control of resources and written word. Writing and researching is a critical tool for decolonizing education, those who control knowledge and information, remain powerful now and in the future. Hence the African Renaissance project is focusing on rewriting the major tenets of history, religion and languages, rooted within indigenous cosmologies and knowledge systems.

AFRICAN RENAISSANCE EDUCATION

Evidently, as an African Renaissance activist am amassing power and influence as author and researcher, to influence accessible renaissance education. The proposed renaissance education urges

AFRICAN RENAISSANCE EDUCATION



that as we celebrate the 54th year of Africa Day, and committed to the Africa we want Agenda 2063. It is time to free ourselves from decolonized thoughts, as they have become a mind-numbing narrative. Which is continuously reacts to the captivity of imperialism, colonialism and apartheid, thus, giving this negative era too much power and control posthumously.

This accessible African Renaissance education must be rooted on the understanding that western knowledge, particularly science. Originates from the critical thinking embedded in the question 'what is this and how can it be utilized to make profit, power and control?' Hence our land and minerals were captured by the imperialist, colonialist and apartheid, as western knowledges are equipped to respond to this question. The accessible renaissance education must emanate from our gift from God, to respond to our critical thinking. Evident in the question 'what is the right way to live?' as Africa is endowed with indigenous cosmologies and knowledge systems that responds to this question.

African renaissance education will enable the higher education to integrate indigenous cosmologies and knowledge systems. Such that it creates pools of researchers, authors, scholars and academics that develop intellectual property rooted in indigenous cosmologies and knowledge systems. Thus, focusing on ethical and value based critical thinking towards responding to, what is the right was to live? Evidently we lost the land and minerals, and took the Bible as we are genetically inclined to unpack the ethical and value based critical thinking. However we lost the moral campus as the ethical and value based critical thinking within the Bible, destroyed and fragmented our indigenous cosmologies and knowledge systems

IN CONCLUSION

In conclusion, whilst proposing accessible African Renaissance Education rooted within indigenous cosmologies and knowledge systems, let me share simple examples. The accessibility of education is within nature, environment and communities, such as research studies from the way the cow-dung beetle and ants live. This requires rethinking thinking on how education must emanate from existing sources of knowledge. Rethinking thinking acknowledges how the university is civic space that creates accessibility to knowledge within nature, environment

and communities. This renaissance education is accessible in every village and community, but we require cognitive justice to appreciate its significance within solving intractable problems of modernity.

As cognitive justice enables the research to appreciate the plurality of knowledge systems and most significantly the rights to different ways of knowing. This also requires transdisciplinarity, to ensure that the researcher rejects all dogma, such as believing that access to cow-dung beetle and ants indicates poverty. This is a major stumbling block, hence transdisciplinarity enables researchers to be knowledge holder and creator

during the knowledge production process. Thus creating an enabling environment to create the power and influence towards the Africa we want Agenda 2063 requires. When we have researchers, authors, scholars, and academics that have produced knowledge for restorative action with-

in public policy. This public policy rooted within indigenous cosmologies and knowledge systems that are contributing to social cohesion, peace and sustainable development.

Evidently my contribution is embedded within the proposed Academy for African leadership. Which will provide academic space for knowledge holders to create knowledge by engaging in knowledge production. Originating from nature, environment, communities as this academy will provide the civic space for knowledge production free from colonial and decolonized thoughts. Advancing the African Renaissance Education, creating Alumni that will drive the Africa we want, Agenda 2063. This legacy will shape thought leaders within all disciplines, as it promotes transdisciplinarity.

Lastly this legacy project is worth all the pain and suffering experienced over the past ten years. Unlike money it will never be consumed, but it has capacity to grow as it creates indigenous intellectual property.

Which will address the intractable problems of modernity that resulted in Africa's current image of poverty, conflict, corruption and poor leadership. Hence the Academy for African Leadership will exemplify how Africa's gift to humanity is based on the critical thinking. 'What is the right way to live?' as opposed to the western or scientific critical thinking question 'what is it and how can it be utilized to make profit, power and control?'

THE RED PEN



Phila Dlamini Vilakati

A cougar is a large American feline resembling a lion.

Well, that is the actual or original definition of the term. The cougar which is also known as puma, mountain lion, catamount or panther depending on the region, holds the Guinness record for the animal with the highest number of names. It has over 40 names in English alone. The cougar is a solitary animal.

Only mothers and kittens live in groups, with adults meeting only to mate. Only females are involved in parenting and they are fiercely protective of their cubs. The cougar can run as fast as 55 to 72 km/h but the female one is best adapted for short, powerful sprints rather than long chases.

It is very secretive and typically most active around dawn and dusk. A female cougar reaches sexual maturity between one and a half, to two years old, while a male cougar may take three years to mature (much later than the female). Meaning the female beast is usually older than the male during mating. #ANIMALPLANET183

I reckon this might have been how older women dating younger men got to be labelled cougars; a slang term used for women aged 40plus who date men who are 10 years younger.

Just recently social media went abuzz over incoming President of France, Emmanuel Macron 39, and first lady Brigitte Macron 64. All of a sudden it wasn't news that Macron had recoded the highest votes; the news was his love affair! Attitudes vary, opinions vary, it depends on 'where' you are.

As a mother, you may not take it lightly when your boy marries an older woman. But let's understand that cougars are gaining in popularity and are actually true hotties.

In actual fact as Baps stated clearly while we were discussing this cougar saga; it is the younger man who approaches the older woman.

So contrary to popular belief, the older woman isn't the predator, in fact, it's the opposite. I suspect she was talking from experience.

Nops noted that it was funny how older women would not be pleased to have a cougar daughter-in-law yet they date younger men themselves. We all agreed that it is love that matters most, at the end of the day.

I remember a conversation I once had

YOU COUGAR, YOU!

with my little brother Max, who is not fond of reading so I trust he won't see this. We talked at length about him dating an older woman.

He said he absolutely loved the fact that she had her own life; her own career, friends, apartment, own money. He added that a cougar keeps physically fit and tends to look younger than her actual age.

She has the financial ability, motivation and time to eat healthy and exercise.

Apparently it was comforting to know that her life goes on when he's not around. (Cougar-puma tendencies-as noted above).

"I dread a clingy girl who abandons her own ship the moment I hit on her, and then set up camp on my shore", he alleged.

Seemingly a cougar can hold her own because this isn't her first Romeo. When you take her out with friends, anywhere, you don't have to worry she'll perish without your constant attention. She's been to enough of these things on her own to manage just fine while you're talking to someone else. Unlike the 23 year old who will throw tantrums when you hug a pretty 'cousin'.

A cougar knows exactly what she wants. She will be pretty clear about it upfront. She may not have the rigid check list that a younger girl has. Max observed that younger women will always put you through the paces to see if you can provide her with a life, an identity, a future...an older woman already knows who she is and what she wants to do-she'd just love somebody to share it with.

So, after all has been said, in as much as people will judge you, some couples will stay together with the obstacles and stigma that society places on them because they believe in the love they have for each other. Perhaps indeed there shouldn't be any age restrictions. The most important aspect is the way any woman carries herself. Young or old. If as a young woman you learn from the cougar, Max might actually marry a wife his own age or younger.

I would not encourage a man to marry an older woman, but again I have nothing against it if the relationship is based truly on love.

I am however interested in all of us not just labeling these women but understanding the cougar. Because, understanding is deeper than knowledge. There are many people who know you but very few understand what you're about dear cougar.

Will you be my cougar?



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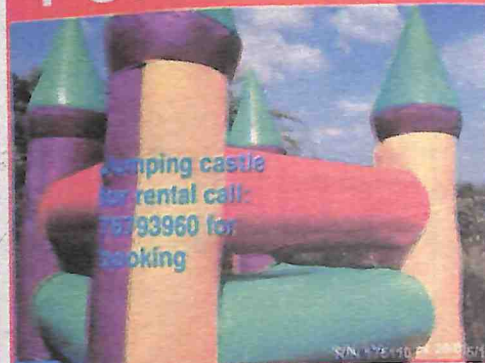
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LUIZ EXPLAINS WHY HE IS A BETTER PLAYER NOW

LONDON - Chelsea defender David Luiz claims a combination of maturity, belief and working with different coaches is responsible for the improvement in his game.

Eyebrows were raised when Antonio Conte brought the Brazilian back to Stamford Bridge for a second spell in the summer of 2016.

While his qualities as a ball-playing centre-half were never in question, his focus and composure were after a previous stint in London which saw him famously branded a 'PlayStation' footballer.

Luiz has, however, thrived as part of a 3-4-3 system and considers himself to be a better player at the age of 30 than he was first time around.

Asked by Sky Sports if he has matured, Luiz said, "you have to, and also as a person. I think the experience gives you many things, and yes, as a person

and a footballer, you have to if you want to learn. If you are open every day.

"I read more of the game now, I can understand more of the game, it is a different pressure now with the big games. Many, many things. I think if you want to improve, you need to think you are a better player than you were.

"I've worked with six, seven, eight coaches, they have improved my game, different leagues and different countries."

Luiz ended up spending just two years away from Chelsea at Paris Saint-Germain, so the transition back to Premier League life has not been all that difficult.

Pressed on whether the English top-flight had changed in anyway during his stint in France, he added, "I think the intensity is the same, I think the level is the same, because it is always



David Luiz.

six, or seven teams fighting for the title. I don't see a lot of difference.

GOAL

I will absolutely not take AC Milan role - Maldini

ROME - Paolo Maldini says there is no chance of him returning to AC Milan to take up a role on the board despite new owners arriving.

Li Yonghong succeeded Silvio Berlusconi as President last month after his consortium bought the club from the former Italy prime minister's company Fininvest.

Maldini rejected the chance to take over as the club's technical director in October, expressing his dismay at organisation of the club.

Following the transfer of ownership, the legendary defender was asked if he may reconsider taking up the role, but he insists nothing has changed.

"Absolutely not," he told Sky when asked if he could return soon.

"I made my decision a long time ago and I think it was right and well considered. I spoke to them in October, the deal was closed a month

ago, my doubts remained.

"Of course my love for the team always remains, even sadness due to the end of the Berlusconi era that led players and fans to incredible experiences.

"There was a meeting but it was not successful. I was lucky enough to be able to express what I thought without being tied to anything that would make me change my mind.

"I can be right or wrong but independence of thought is the most satisfying thing in my career and I do not want to change that."

Maldini spent his entire career at Milan, joining the youth system at the age of 10 before spending an incredible 15 years in the first-team, winning seven Serie A titles and five European Cups, while he finished runner-up in both the World Cup and European Championship with Italy.

GOAL



Paolo Maldini.

Wenger's future at Arsenal 'not a huge problem' - Cech

LONDON - Petr Cech insists the uncertainty surrounding Arsene Wenger's future at Arsenal is not "a huge problem" despite the club struggling for consistency.

Speculation regarding the Frenchman's position at Emirates Stadium has rumbled on for much of the 2016-17 campaign, providing an unwelcome backdrop to what has been a difficult season.

Calls for the long-serving manager to be moved at the end of his current contract have grown in intensity, with protests now commonplace and the 'Wenger Out' campaign a global phenomenon.

Cech, though, is adamant that the players do not view the issue as a distraction and it is no excuse for their struggles

to secure another top-four finish in the Premier League.

He told Sky Sports, "I think at this moment it is clear Wenger is our manager, and he will be until the end of the season, and then he has the cards in his hands.

We will see what his decision will be, but I don't think it makes the situation more different. "You have

the manager and you know you have to deliver the performances and you need to work towards the games to win the games, and everybody needs to do their best. Whether the manager stays or not, at this moment I don't think it is a huge problem.

"I don't see it personally as a problem, I just do my best every day and

try to prepare for every game, and if somebody is different and has a different feeling, it can happen. Personally I don't really follow that too much because I am concentrating on my work."

Rather than try to shift the blame for Arsenal's troubles this term, Cech admits that the players must look to shoulder the responsibility for failing to transfer their work rate in training onto

a competitive stage.

He added, "When you see the training sessions, after we beat Leicester and started preparing for Spurs, I thought we were in a good shape. We looked ready, and then obviously you don't transfer the work, and this positivity if you don't transfer it to the game, the performance can be like that. GOAL



Arsene Wenger.

Donnarumma like a child, won't captain AC Milan - Montella

MILAN - Vincenzo Montella has suggested teenage goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma could be handed the captain's armband if he signs a new contract at AC Milan.

Donnarumma has established himself as Milan's first-choice keeper during the last two seasons and made his Italy debut in September, although he is still just 18 years old.

Several top clubs have been linked with a move for Donnarumma and Milan are keen to tie him down to a new deal, as reports suggest he could become captain if he commits his future to the Serie A giants.

However, Montella is not keen on the idea, pointing to the player's youth and speaking of his hesitancy in handing the role to a goalkeeper. "[Donnarumma] is like a child - that's my first thought," the Milan coach told a pre-match news conference ahead of a clash with second-placed Roma.

"In general I am against the idea that goalkeepers should be captains. The captain has to be someone who helps keep everyone in check and marshals the troops."

Meanwhile, Montella has backed defender Mattia de Sciglio, who was booed off in a defeat to Empoli amid talk of a move to champions Juventus. "De Sciglio is much admired by the technical staff and the club," he said. "He went through a tough time and is very sensitive and professional.

"I expect the fans to always be encouraging of their players and I. When a player is jeered, then I feel that I'm being jeered too. I hope there is a ceasefire.

"Where and when we need him, I hope there will not be a tense atmosphere and then, at the end of the year, along with the public too, we'll decide what to do with De Sciglio."

GOAL

'Juventus lost a great talent in Morata'

MADRID - Gianluigi Buffon says Juventus lost a "great talent", while he lost a team-mate he has "great affection for" when Alvaro Morata left to join Real Madrid.

The Spanish forward joined Juventus from Real Madrid in 2014 after failing to break into the first-team in the Spanish capital.

The €20 million signing became a big hit at Juventus, scoring 15 goals in 46 appearances in all competitions in his first campaign as Juve won Serie A, the Coppa Italia and reached the Champions League final.

His success prompted links to a move to Chelsea, but it was Madrid who snapped him up after his second season for €30m.

Although Juventus are again certain to win the Italian top flight and are close to reaching another European final, Buffon admits he misses the 24-year-old striker and feels he could have been a star in Turin.

"Alvaro had negative thoughts in his last period at Juve," Buffon told Real Madrid TV.

"We talked a bit about it because I was sorry for him. He was a guy I loved a lot and wanted to help him, to give him security. He deserved the help of a companion and I have great affection for him.

"His move to Real for me was a disappointment because we lost a great talent of an age that would allow him to mature and finally to devote himself."

"He could be the best man for Juventus." Morata's 18 goals in all competitions this term tops each of his tallies in Italy, but he is not a regular starter for Zinedine Zidane's side.

With Los Blancos holding a 3-0 lead heading into the second leg of their Champions League semi-final with Atletico and Juve leading 2-0 against Monaco in the other tie, Buffon and Morata will likely be reunited in the final in Cardiff. GOAL

SEMENYA SURGES PAST FIELD TO TAKE DIAMOND LEAGUE 800M

DOHA – Olympic champion Caster Semenya proved on Friday night in Doha that she has not lost that unbeatable aura she carried throughout last season.

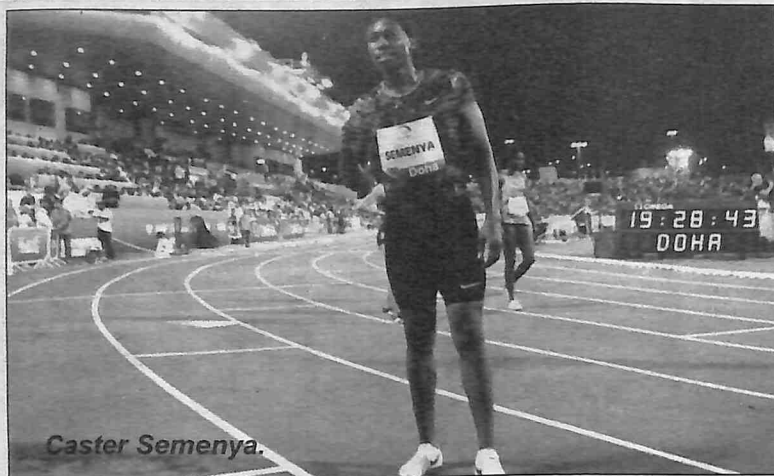
Competing at the opening IAAF Diamond League competition of the year, South Africa's Semenya easily won the women's 800m in 1min 56.61sec ahead of Kenya's Margaret Wambui.

The women's 800m had been highly anticipated as Semenya went up against world 1 500m record holder Genzebe Dibaba in the Ethiopian's first ever 800m race.

As it was, there was no contest as Semenya, who was last year's Diamond Trophy winner in the event and was unbeaten over the distance in 2016, continued her dominance ahead of Wambui's 1:57.03.

Dibaba's 1:59.37 placed her fifth, behind Kenya's Eunice Sum and Ethiopia's Habtamu Alemu.

The race was paced by Britain's Jenny Meadows. The South African sat close to Meadows on the first lap before taking up the sole lead and moving away



Caster Semenya.

from the rest of the field. Olympic bronze medallist Wambui was the only athlete capable of covering the move, but Semenya crossed the line a comfortable winner.

"The race was fantastic and the field was great," said Semenya. "I'm looking forward to having great races; my only concern now is to finish my studies. I'm left with two semesters, so I need to graduate and get my focus back on the track." On a night of numer-

ous world-leading marks, world silver medallist Elijah Manangoi led a Kenyan sweep of the top six places in the men's 1 500m. The field was paced through 800m in 1:53.10 before Timothy Cheruiyot took up the running.

But Manangoi proved to have the stronger finish and held off 2011 world silver medallist Silas Kiplagat to win by 0.33 in 3:31.90. Bethwell Birgen, Vincent Kibet and Cheruiyot all finished within 3:33. **SPORT24**

Bok legend recovering after 'massive heart attack'

CAPE TOWN – Legendary former Springbok forward Frik du Preez was admitted to hospital after suffering a 'massive heart attack', Network24 reports.

The Afrikaans website is reporting that Du Preez was admitted to hospital on Thursday after suffering a heart attack while participating in a golf day for former rugby players at the Leriba Lodge in Centurion. According to his wife, Bes, Du Preez is doing well under the circumstances. He is expected to be discharged soon, but will have to return in

six weeks' time for a routine follow-up.

Du Preez, 81, had recently recovered from a cancer scare. Sport24 reported in February last year that a malignant tumour was detected in Du Preez's colon. The Northern Transvaal legend, who was named South Africa's rugby player of the 20th century, played 38 Tests for the Springboks.

Du Preez made his test debut for the Springboks in 1961 in the flank position against England at Twickenham, before playing his last test at the age of 35 as a lock against Australia at the Sydney Cricket

Ground in 1971.

Du Preez was an excellent all-round footballer and one of the few forwards able to kick at goal. At 6ft 2 inches (1.88m), he was not particularly tall for a lock, but was a tower of strength in the lineout.

In addition he had a fantastic turn of speed and fine running skills with ball in hand, as displayed in the famous try he scored against the British and Irish Lions at Loftus Versfeld in 1968, when he broke off a lineout to sprint almost half the field to dot down.

SPORT24

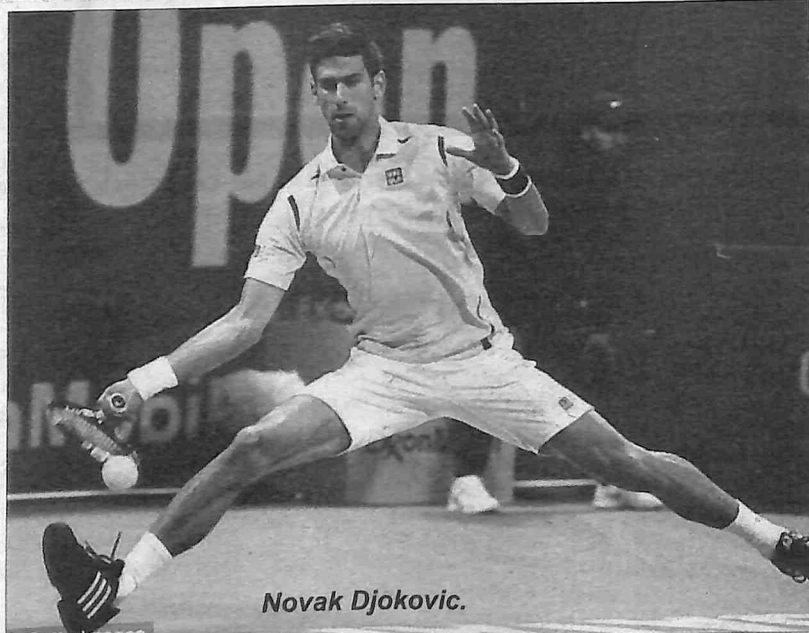
'Djokovic should ask Becker to return'

BELGRADE – A struggling Novak Djokovic should bring past mentor Boris Becker back into the fold in order to rediscover his vintage form after dismissing his entire coaching staff on Friday, a former Yugoslavia Davis Cup team captain said.

"I expected this move because Djokovic's results in the past few months have been well below par for the world's former number one," Radmilo Armenulic told Belgrade's B92 website (www.b92.net). "Something had to change because this team had become his family of sorts and I think Djokovic has made the right decision."

"He will now have to put together a heavyweight coaching staff headed by the likes of Boris Becker, Pete Sampras or some other former top player. "In my opinion, bringing Becker back would be the best course of action as he played the best tennis of his life after the German had joined his team," added the 76-year old, who steered Yugoslavia to Davis Cup semifinals in 1988, 1989 and 1991.

Djokovic said he had decided to part company with long-time head coach Marijan Vajda, fitness coach Gebhard Phil Gritsch, and physio Miljan Amanovic



Novak Djokovic.

after last month's Monte Carlo Masters quarterfinal exit at the hands of Belgian David Goffin. That setback completed a poor run stretching back to last July, when he crashed out in the early stages of Wimbledon. He subsequently relinquished the top spot in the rankings to Briton Andy Murray before parting

ways with Becker in December.

Having won six of his 12 grand slam titles after the German had become part of his team, including his maiden French Open title in June, the 29-year old Serb failed to spark in 2017 and suffered a shock second-round Australian Open exit. **Reuters**

German magazine fined €50 000 for claiming Schumacher 'can walk again'

BERLIN – The German magazine Bunte was ordered Friday to pay €50 000 in damages plus legal fees to Michael Schumacher for claiming the former five-time Formula 1 world champion could walk again.

In December 2015, two years after Schumacher sustained serious head injuries on a skiing holiday, Bunte ran the headline "It's more than a Christmas miracle – Michael Schumacher can walk again".

But the media chamber of Hamburg's regional court found the article infringed Schumacher's privacy and ordered the magazine to pay compensation plus 65 percent of his legal costs. "The chamber

assumes that this statement is false," said court Judge Simone Kaefer. The verdict was based on the fact Schumacher cannot currently walk and thus could not have done so at the time the article was printed.

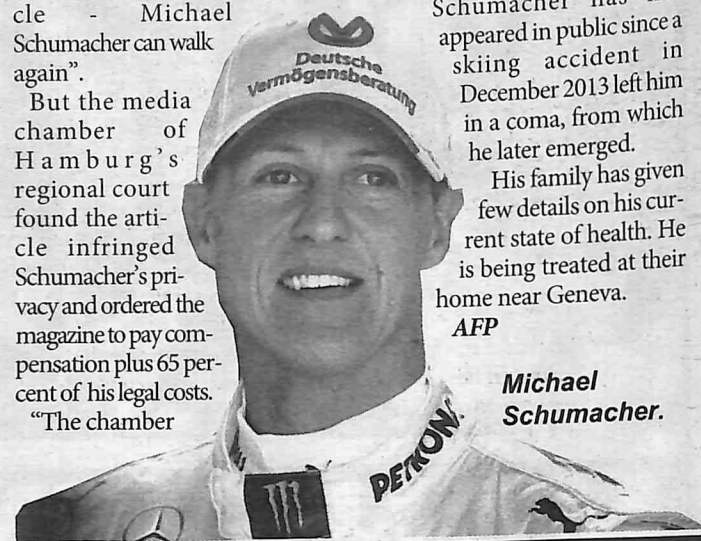
Schumacher's family had sought damages of 100 000 euros but the court, in mitigation, determined that the magazine had researched and sourced the article.

Schumacher has not appeared in public since a skiing accident in December 2013 left him in a coma, from which he later emerged.

His family has given few details on his current state of health. He is being treated at their home near Geneva.

AFP

Michael Schumacher.



Zlatan gatecrashes Rich List as Man Utd, Man City stars dominate

MANCHESTER – Lewis Hamilton is still the richest sportsman in the UK but Manchester United striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic is a close second after he gatecrashed the top 10 of the new Sunday Times Rich List.

Mercedes Formula One driver Hamilton, who is bidding to win his fourth World Championship this year, has a £131million fortune and has seen his wealth increase by £25million in the last 12 months.

Ibrahimovic, United's 35-year-old Swedish striker, leapfrogged team-mate Wayne Rooney to become the richest footballer on the list after he joined the English side in July last year.

The imposing forward has a wealth of £110million after more than a decade playing for Europe's elite clubs including Paris Saint-Germain, AC Milan, Barcelona, Juventus and Inter Milan and a lucrative long-term endorsement deal with Nike.

Formula One's Jenson Button and golfer Rory McIlroy make up the top five with wealth of £86million and £82million respectively.

McIlroy's fortune rose by £26million in the last 12 months, the biggest rise on the list, while Button's personal fortune grew by £9million even though he handed over his

McLaren seat at the end of last season.

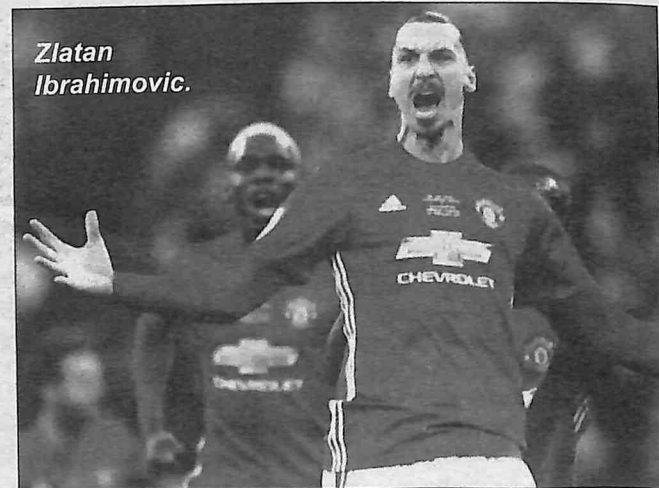
Football is the best-represented sport in the top 10, with five of the wealthiest sports people either players or managers.

Rooney (£93million, up £11million) is third, while Manchester United Manager Jose Mourinho is in seventh place (£61million) and Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola equal ninth (£50million).

Wales and Real Madrid striker Gareth Bale has seen his wealth rise by £20million in the last year to a total of £54million, to place him eighth in the top 10.

Sir Andy Murray is now worth £77million, making him the sixth-richest sportsman. The world number one in men's tennis earned nearly £13million on court and plenty more off it to carry him to the total, the same number as that borne by his management company after he won his first Wimbledon 77 years after the last Briton to do so, Fred Perry.

Los Angeles Lakers basketball player Luol Deng completes the top 10 in joint ninth place with Guardiola (£50million). Deng is Sudanese-British and came to London aged eight after fleeing civil war in his home country. **TEAMTALK**



Zlatan Ibrahimovic.



MAN CITY THRASH CRYSTAL PALACE

MANCHESTER - David Silva starred as Manchester City moved up to third in the Premier League after beating Crystal Palace 5-0 at the Etihad yesterday.

Pep Guardiola's side led 1-0 at half-time thanks to Silva's strike just one minute and 54 seconds into his return from injury - the Spain international's 50th goal for the club.

However, despite dominating the first half, City did not increase their lead until early in the second period when Vincent Kompany converted a low cross with a thunderous strike.

The game was over as a contest minutes later when the hosts scored again thanks to Kevin De Bruyne's

low shot from the edge of the area, before late strikes from Raheem Sterling and Nicolas Otamendi completed the scoring.

As a result, City leapfrog Liverpool in the race to qualify for next season's Champions League, while 16th-placed Palace still need one more win to be all but mathematically safe from the drop.

With Mamadou Sakho, James Tomkins and Scott Dann all unavailable with injury, Palace Manager Sam Allardyce opted to play Jeffrey Schlupp as a makeshift central defender.

However, it was Schlupp's partner at the back, Martin Kelly, who was at fault for City's opener, the defender heading Sterling's cross from the left-hand byline straight

to the unmarked Silva, who finished unerringly from eight-yards out.

The move began with a beautifully weighted ball over the top from Silva - back after two games out with a hamstring injury - to pick out Sterling, who had somehow managed to ghost in on Andros Townsend's blindside.

That second-minute strike was just the lift in confidence City needed after struggling for form in recent weeks, with the twinkled duo of Silva and Leroy Sané running the show before the break.

But despite the increasingly busy Wayne Hennessey twice being called upon at his near post to keep out well-struck shots from Sané, it was actually the visitors who

came closest to scoring next.

And they would have done were it not for a brilliant reaction save by Willy Caballero, in for Claudio Bravo after the goalkeeper was ruled out for the season, to keep out Christian Benteke's close-range header 10 minutes before half-time following good wing play down the right by Townsend.

Guardiola will no doubt have been disappointed that his side were only one goal ahead at the interval, although not for long as City made an electric start to the second half, Kompany finding the net at the Etihad for the first time in nearly two years with a clinical strike just four minutes after the break.

Daily Mail

'We're not champions yet'

LONDON - Antonio Conte has warned Chelsea not to take anything for granted despite knowing they need just two wins from four games to win the Premier League title.

Conte on Friday afternoon was uncertain if he was going to watch Tottenham's clash at West Ham on Friday night, given his wife and daughter were visiting from Italy.

But the Italian had reason to celebrate at the final whistle whether he watched the match or had a family dinner as Spurs' 1-0 loss to the Hammers means Chelsea need six more points to claim the title.

Conte's men play Middlesbrough tomorrow and West Brom next Friday, so could reclaim the trophy won by Leicester last season ahead of Spurs' next game, against Manchester United on May 14.

Conte said, "my expectation for this game is we must play a great game. We have to try to take three points."

"This game is very important. Now with only four games to go, it's important to win. It won't be easy."

"Middlesbrough is struggling to avoid relegation. We must be ready, ready to fight, ready to find the right way to take three points."

Spurs had hoped their game against United - the last at White

Hart Lane

before the existing stadium is demolished - would be a celebration, but it

may be more about consolation if Chelsea win their next two games. Conte has championship pedigree with Juventus in Serie A and is seeking a league and FA Cup double in his first season as Chelsea head coach. The May 27 FA Cup final against Arsenal follows the final four Premier League games.

Conte added, "I hope to arrive at the end of the season with my players and the club to celebrate something important this season."

"We are working very hard to reach this target. For me, it's not the first time to win the title. I have a good experience to face this type of situation. But it won't be easy until the end."

Teamtalk



'I don't think Mesut Ozil can handle the pressure'

LONDON - Arsene Wenger admits he is unsure whether Mesut Ozil can deal with the responsibility of being a leading light in his Arsenal side. The German World Cup winner has been criticised in recent months for a perceived inability to take a game by the scruff of the neck.

Ozil was once again on the periphery last weekend as Tottenham secured a 2-0 win over their local rivals, leaving Arsenal's top-four hopes hanging by a thread as Wenger refuses to announce whether he will



stay at the club beyond the end of the season.

The 28-year-old Ozil defended himself in a recent interview where he insisted he shows a "good attitude". He also told goal.com:

"Expectations on me were very high everywhere, because I am a player who can make a difference. You have to deal with that."

But Wenger

conceded ahead of today's meeting with Manchester United that his club-record signing may be affected by any criticisms.

"Overall the big players get more criticised than the others," the Frenchman said of Ozil. "I believe last Sunday (against Tottenham) to just criticise Mesut Ozil's performance does not reflect exactly what happened on the pitch."

"His style is more fluid, less aggressive but it doesn't mean you want it less than others. Big players have to carry the responsibility of the team. People look at it like that."

Asked if it suited Ozil to have such responsibility, Wenger replied: "I don't know."

Mourinho must unleash Rashford as a striker

MANCHESTER - Jamie Carragher thinks Marcus Rashford should be utilised as a striker more often for Manchester United following his impressive display against Celta Vigo on Thursday.

The England international led the line well for the Red Devils against Celta in the absence of Zlatan Ibrahimovic, winning and converting a superb free-kick to give United a 1-0 victory.

And Carragher reckons "special talent" Rashford must be used by Jose Mourinho in a more central striking role next season.

"The goal was magnificent, the latest indication that Manchester United have a special talent on their hands," Carragher wrote in his column for the *Daily Mail*.

"But it wasn't the precision of the strike, the quality of the connection or the accuracy of the placement that impressed me most about Marcus Rashford's free-kick against Celta Vigo. It was the fact he stepped up to take it in the first place."

"There were others on the field who looked more natural takers, such as Henrikh Mkhitaryan, Paul Pogba and even Daley Blind. But Rashford, at just 19 years old, was in complete control of the situation and the confidence he has in his ability was demonstrated in its execution."

"Rashford is bursting with belief at the moment. His goal against Anderlecht put United in the Europa League last four and his strike in Vigo means they have

one foot in the final in Stockholm. The confidence others have in him is clear to see."

"His pace has given United a dimension they have lacked with Zlatan Ibrahimovic, no matter how well the Swede has performed."

"Speed is the one thing defenders hate playing against and Rashford is like a whippet."

"With Zlatan struggling to be back in 2017, Jose Mourinho has two options: buy players or give Rashford his head in his best position."

"Jose doesn't normally do that but hopefully that will change. This young lad needs to be unleashed as a striker more often next season."

Teamtalk



FS Stars pinning their hopes on Goble Park hoodoo

FREE STATE - Free State Stars coach Serame Letsoka has vowed his side will pick themselves up from defeat and put in a competitive performance when they host Bidvest Wits in a vital ABSA Premiership clash on Wednesday. Stars lost 1-0 to Cape Town City on Friday night in a game in which they created half-chances only, but were competitive through the 90 minutes.

The result leaves Stars outside of the relegation playoff position on goal-difference only, and just a single point above automatic relegation, having played a game more than Baroka FC and Highlands Park below them.

But Letsoka says there will be no problem with morale in the camp and that they will keep on fighting.

"The morale of the boys is unbelievable, they know it is not over," he said. "Even after conceding [against City], you could see the morale of the boys remained high. "They know there will be setbacks, but they have to pick themselves up and not look to what has happened, but what could still happen."

I have no doubt about the level of mental strength from our boys. Going into the game against Wits, we are not going to look down, we will go there and try and fight with everything we have." Stars do have an excellent home record against Wits, who have won just two of their previous 13 trips to face Ea Lla Koto. "If the Gods of football are still with us, this is one of the games we will definitely win because they have not had a good record against us at Goble Park," Letsoka says. "We are hoping that the same record we have had over the years will repeat itself. We need to make sure our hopes are raised by the performance we put in on the day." Aside from Wits, Stars must still make the short journey to provincial rivals Bloemfontein Celtic and then host Chippa United on the final day of the season.

Sport

TINKLER SINGS PRAISES OF JUDAS AFTER ANOTHER WIN

CAPE TOWN - Cape Town City coach Eric Tinkler was full of praise for match-winner Judas Moseamedi after the young striker proved the difference in a hard-fought 1-0 ABSA Premiership victory over Free State Stars on Friday.

Moseamedi netted with a header just past the hour-mark to move City to within two points of leaders Bidvest Wits, though they have played a game more than the Johannesburg side.

Moseamedi, who started the game in an unfamiliar right-wing role, was excellent throughout and also laid on two superb chances for Aubrey Ngoma that were spurned.

The 23-year-old was given the nod in the team ahead of the more experienced Lehlohonolo Majoro and repaid Tinkler's faith in him. "Judas worked extremely hard tonight (Friday).

We started him out of the right as an experiment and he had a fan-



Cape Town City coach Eric Tinkler.

tastic performance over the 90 minutes," Tinkler said.

"He did very, very well.

He was causing them issues, although we could have tried to utilise him more, especially with the diagonal ball because you know they had [defender Sifiso] Mbhele,

who really couldn't match him for aerial ability or pace.

"We noticed in the second half that we needed to make a change up-front and he went into a more central position and worked his socks off for 94 minutes and was fantastic."

Tinkler says the club's minimum aim in the last three matches of the season is to finish third and claim a place in the African Confederation Cup for next season. Anything beyond that, he says, would be a bonus.

"Right now we were sitting in third and we need to finish the season in this position at least. If we can finish higher that's great, but unfortunately that relies on others.

"Wits need to drop points, Sundowns too. If we could finish third it would be a phenomenal achievement."

City also claimed the Telkom Knockout trophy in December in what has been a fairytale first season in the Premier Soccer League for the newly-formed club.

Their next opponents are SuperSport United away on Tuesday, the side they defeated in that cup final.

Sport

Baxter can guide Bafana to World Cup AFCON - Nkosi

JOHANNESBURG - Former Kaizer Chiefs and Bafana Bafana midfielder Siyabonga Nkosi says the return of Stuart Baxter as national coach will help stabilise the team.

"He has gained so much experience since his last stint because he has travelled a lot more and even coached the Finland national team. Most importantly, he will provide discipline amongst



New Bafana Bafana coach Stuart Baxter.

the players because we have had a problem with that with the previous coaches," Nkosi told Goal. It was Baxter, who handed Nkosi his national team debut in July 2005 against Guatemala and the retired midfielder scored.

"I think that Baxter will bring stability in the team and integrate both local and international players which has been the main rea-

son why the team has suffered over the years because of a lack of respect for one another between players and coaches," he said. With the 2018 FIFA World Cup and 2019 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers his main task, Nkosi believes that Baxter will guide Bafana to both finals.

"I believe he is capable of doing that because he has got a nice mix of young and talented players at his disposal," he stated.

"And because he is able to structure a team very well in all departments. I feel that he will be able to achieve success and qualify for the Nations Cup and World Cup," Nkosi concluded.

GOAL

Hunt was my preferred candidate for the Bafana Bafana job

JOHANNESBURG - The South African Football Association (SAFA) announced on Thursday afternoon that Stuart Baxter has been appointed as the new coach of Bafana Bafana.

However, the news of the 63-year-old's appointment has been received with mixed feelings by many within the South African football fraternity, considering his first stint with the national team was less than inspiring.

The latest to add his voice to the coach's appointment has been Mamelodi Sundowns' coach Pitso Mosimane. The former Bafana Bafana coach has stated that Gavin Hunt was his preferred choice for South African football's top job.

"You know who my candidate was for Bafana Bafana," Mosimane told Times Media.

"Gavin Hunt should have been given a run before Stuart and Bra Shakes (Shakes Mashaba).

"Let him get a chance, you understand what I am trying to say. Hunt has done very well in the country and he is about to win the league.

"Honestly speaking, I thought he deserved to be given a chance and I would have supported him," Mosimane expressed.

Nonetheless, Mosimane has given Baxter his backing and is confident that the Briton will build a positive relationship with his domestic counterparts.

"I would support Baxter because I am a South African and I would like to see you guys (the media) go to the World Cup," Mosimane said.

"He is credible, he is the right one in terms of organisation, knowing the country. I am not talking about taking the team to the World Cup and Cup of Nations before, but I am talking about principles.

"Trust me, Stuart (Baxter) is going to call local coaches to say, let's talk about what do you think, where, how and what," Mosimane added.

Kickoff

Jonevret wants big improvement from Pirates

JOHANNESBURG - As Pirates prepare to meet African and PSL defending champions Mamelodi Sundowns at Orlando Stadium today (3pm), who need a win to keep pace with Wits at the top of the PSL, Bucs coach Jonevret knows there are key areas his side need to bolster to match top sides. SuperSport United and new Bafana coach Stuart Baxter often talks about 10 or 15 per cent improvements in key areas that can turn teams from a soft touch to competitive.

Jonevret - following the loss against three-point leaders from Sundowns Wits at Bidvest Stadium on Thursday night - spoke about giving the ball away, creating chances, speed, power and confidence as the areas where Bucs need attention.

Jonevret also felt Pirates turned to the long ball too often against Wits - a sign of a team low on confidence,

and a tactic of gifting possession to the opposition that against Sundowns, who move the ball like no other in the PSL, would be suicidal.

"We know we are going to play a good team, of course. But in a home game, I hope that we can be a little more shoulders down and go out and play," Jonevret said.

"Because I see it every day in training. We are good in possession and everybody wants to have the ball. And we saw it a bit against Wits.

"But I hope that we can go out and play because we should not be the team who kick long balls. Even if (Bucs centre-forward) Thamsanqa Gabuza is strong there, that's not the way I want to play it.

"Against Wits we gave the ball away a bit too much. And we have to create more - more crosses and more chances.

"But the players didn't do it on



Bucs coach Kjell Jonevret.

purpose - I know that. We have to go and work on it. We want to be as good as Bidvest in the future.

"I have played against SuperSport, Chiefs, Cape Town City - and we are not so far away.

"Even 1-0 against Wits, with a little bit of luck we could have had the

point. So we are not too far away.

"But there was a little more power, a little more speed and confidence in Wits." For eighth-placed Pirates, today's game is a chance at revenge for a record 6-0 drubbing they received from Downs at Loftus Versfeld in February. **GOAL**

AJAX MOVE INTO TOP-HALF WITH VICTORY

CAPETOWN - Ajax Cape Town moved into the top-half of the ABSA Premiership standings with a narrow 1-0 win over Chippa United at the Sisa Dukashe Stadium yesterday.

The only goal of the game came late into proceedings as Thabo Mosadi pounced to put his side ahead with only ten minutes of time remaining.

Ajax were presented with the first real chance of the encounter as Prince Nxumalo forced a near post save out of Daniel Akpeyi with a shot from a tight angle under pressure from two defenders.

The home side slowly began to assert themselves and at the quarter-hour mark Lerato Manzini did well to take the ball on his chest and turn towards goal only to fire a tame effort straight at Brandon Petersen.

Only moments later Petersen was called upon to produce a more impressive piece of glove work as he tipped Strydom Wambi's fierce half-volley over the bar.

With the encounter heading towards the 30-minute mark Phetolo Sekome tried his luck from range but his effort was watched all the way by the Ajax stopper. Straight down at the other end Mark Mayambela eased an excellent pass behind the defence for Mosadi to run on to but Akpeyi dived at his feet to deny Ajax an opener. A further ten minutes later a searing free-kick from Roscoe Pietersen was touched over the crossbar and from the resulting corner Pietersen failed to



find hit the target with his header.

Minutes before the interval the lively Paseka Mako raced down the flank and cut back brilliantly only for David Zulu to skew wide.

Five minutes out of the break Chippa were almost punished when Akpeyi touched a low cross back into danger but Bergman bailed him out as he hacked clear. Manzini caused problems for the Ajax defence and smashed the ball goalwards from a tight angle but Petersen

was equal to the effort, as he was minutes later to keep out Sekome's direct free-kick.

The deadlock was eventually broken by the visitors as Mosadi capitalised on a dreadful defensive mix-up and showed terrific composure to tuck home with Akpeyi off his line but two defenders between him and the goal.

Chippa endeavoured to get back into the game with Wambi heading over from close range but with Bergman injured and all substitutes having been made it proved too difficult to claw themselves back into the game. **KICKOFF**

Inter coach demands return to winning ways

ROME - Inter coach Stefano Pioli insists his side's focus must be on a return to winning ways before they can contemplate the thought of Europa League football.

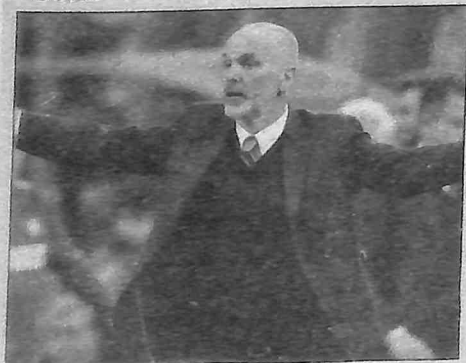
Having enjoyed a fine run of form to threaten a challenge on the top three, Inter have fallen away following a six-match winless run in Serie A and now find themselves three points short of sixth-placed rivals AC Milan in the hunt for Europa League football.

While Pioli is keen for his side to recover and secure European qualification, he is first aiming to give the Inter fans some much-needed cheer with a win at Genoa.

"In Genoa, I expect the right reaction - we have worked well," he told a pre-match news conference. "There is only one result we must achieve."

"It's time for us to get back to winning ways - it's been far too long. We must think about nothing but winning matches and doing the best we possibly can in these last four games."

GOAL



Inter coach Stefano Pioli.



Roma's Italian forward Stephan El Shaarawy (R) vies with Pescara Ghanaian midfielder Sulley Muntari.

'TREATED LIKE CRIMINAL' AFTER RACIAL ABUSE

ROME - Pescara midfielder Sulley Muntari says he was "treated like a criminal" after he complained he was being racially abused in a Serie A match and given a one-game ban.

The 32-year-old Ghanaian is now free to play in today's home game against Crotona after the ban was rescinded on appeal.

He was sanctioned for walking off just before the end of last Sunday's game at Cagliari in protest at the abuse, having been booked by the referee for complaining about it.

His decision to walk off earned him a second yellow card and consequent one-game ban from the Italian football federation - a punishment that was met with astonishment by many.

Muntari, previously with AC Milan and Inter Milan, said after the ban was

overturned on Friday: "I feel that someone has finally listened and heard me."

"The last few days have been very hard for me. I have felt angry and isolated," he said in a statement issued by the international professional players' association FIFPro.

"I was being treated like a criminal. How could I be punished when I was the victim of racism?"

There were no sanctions for Cagliari, however, the league ruling that the racist chanting came from "about 10 people, or less than one percent of the sector" of the stadium.

Muntari added: "I hope my case can help so that other footballers do not suffer like me. I hope it can be a turning point in Italy and show the world what it means to stand up for your rights."

AFP

FIXTURES

Today

ABSA Premiership

15:00	Bidvest Wits	vs	Maritzburg United
15:00	Platinum Stars	vs	Highlands Park
15:00	Orlando Pirates	vs	Mamelodi Sundowns

German Bundesliga

15:30	Hamburger SV	vs	Mainz 05
17:30	Freiburg	vs	Schalke 04

Italian Serie A

12:30	Udinese	vs	Atalanta
15:00	Chievo	vs	Palermo
15:00	Lazio	vs	Sampdoria
15:00	Sassuolo	vs	Fiorentina
15:00	Pescara	vs	Crotone
15:00	Genoa	vs	Internazionale
15:00	Empoli	vs	Bologna
20:45	Milan	vs	Roma

Premier League

14:30	Liverpool	vs	Southampton
17:00	Arsenal	vs	Manchester United

Spanish La Liga

12:00	Deportivo Alavés	vs	Athletic Club
16:15	Valencia	vs	Osasuna
18:30	Deportivo La Cor	vs	Espanyol
20:45	Málaga	vs	Celta de Vigo

Giggs saw psychiatrist after feeling institutionalised

LONDON - Ryan Giggs has revealed he visited a psychiatrist to help him adapt to life after Manchester United, saying he had become "institutionalised" by his long Old Trafford career.

The mental health of the sport's professional is in the spotlight after Everton midfielder Aaron Lennon, 30, was detained under the Mental Health Act amid concerns for his welfare last Sunday.

Earlier this week, his club and the Professional Footballers' Association offered their support to the former Tottenham player, who last featured for the Toffees as a second-half substitute against Middlesbrough on February 11.

Former Red Devils star Giggs said in his Daily Telegraph column: "I do not know what has affected Aaron, but I always struggled in the periods I was out the team or playing badly."

"I had a feeling of worthlessness. As a footballer you wonder if your team-mates are looking at you and asking the questions you are asking of yourself. Why can't he hit a decent pass? Why's he always injured? What's wrong with him?" Former Wales inter-

national Giggs, 43, spent the whole of his career at United after coming up through the youth ranks from an early age, then temporarily managed the Premier League club and was assistant to Louis van Gaal for two seasons before leaving last summer.

He added, "institutionalised is a description I would apply to my life as a footballer at Manchester United."

"I had been there from the age of 14 to 42, and my life had been so distinctively shaped by the rhythm of life at Old Trafford that I realised, when it was coming to the end last year, I had to make some preparations for the change."

"Aaron Lennon's story has made mental health of footballers an issue again and I think that for his sake and everyone else in the game it is important to be open about how we feel as professionals, and how we cope with stress. "When my life as a player and then coach at United came to an end last summer... I made the decision to see a psychiatrist to learn how best to cope and some of the suggestions he made served me well in adapting to a new life outside of United."

TEAMTALK



Ryan Giggs.

Vokes brace pushes Clarets to brink of safety

TURF MOOR - Burnley edged towards Premier League safety as Sam Vokes' brace secured an entertaining 2-2 draw with West Brom at Turf Moor yesterday.

Last weekend's 2-0 victory at Crystal Palace - a first league success on the road at the 18th attempt this season - had the Clarets on the brink of securing their top-flight status after previous failed attempts in 2009-10 and 2014-15.

Stellar home form has provided the foundation for Burnley's successful campaign, with 33 of their 40 points coming in front of their own fans.

It looked as though those supporters would be able to celebrate survival being assured when Vokes put Burnley ahead early in the second half following good work from Ashley Barnes.

But Salomon Rondon's first goal in 19 games - and West Brom's first in six matches - levelled matters and Craig Dawson, on his 27th birthday, headed the Baggies

in front from a corner 12 minutes from time. Both sides created half-openings inside the first 30 minutes, Rondon twice seeing efforts blocked behind either side of Foster sticking out a leg to keep out Vokes' flick at the near post.

George Boyd blazed a half-volley over as Burnley continued to press before James McClean produced a terrific covering challenge to deny Scott Arfield a shot on Foster's goal inside the area.

Arfield was involved again two minutes into the second half, swinging over an excellent left-winger corner that found James Tarkowski,

who ought to have done better than power a free header over the crossbar. Burnley did go ahead in the 56th minute,

though, as Barnes and Vokes combined to good effect. Barnes broke into the right-hand side of the box and although he was wrestled to the ground by Jake Livermore with the assistant signalling for a penalty, referee Mike Jones waved play on and the striker got to his feet to square for Vokes to sweep home from close range. **Goal**



HOWE'S MEN FIGHT BACK TWICE TO EARN A POINT

BOURNEMOUTH - Stoke City and Mame Biram Diouf ended lengthy goal droughts but could only earn a point in a 2-2 Premier League draw at Bournemouth, who were fortunate not to have Harry Arter sent off.

A Lys Mousset own goal had the visitors in front by the break at the Vitality Stadium, Eddie Howe's men levelling against the run of play through Junior Stanislas in the 62nd minute.

Diouf's scrappy 73rd-minute finish, his first Premier League goal for 12 months, looked set to be the winner, only for a late Ryan Shawcross own goal from Max Gradel's header and Joshua King's touch forcing the spoils to be shared.

The result leaves the Cherries 10th, while Mark Hughes' side are a point worse off in 13th spot. Bournemouth have another home game coming up against Burnley in the penultimate round of the league campaign next Saturday, while Stoke play host to Arsenal on the same

day. It took until the 22nd minute for a clear sight of goal to arrive, Adam Smith striking the post after good work by King and Stanislas down the right for Bournemouth.

The hosts were lucky to still have 11 men on the pitch when Arter was inexplicably only shown a yellow card for a wild lunge on Joe Allen, who fortunately escaped unscathed.

Goal



Harry Arter.

SUNDERLAND DENT HULL'S SURVIVAL HOPES



BPI / Greig Cowie

HULL - Sunderland defender Billy Jones scored only his second goal in three years for the club and Jermain Defoe ended his 10-game scoring drought as Marco Silva's incredible home record came to an abrupt end and left Hull in danger of joining the Wearsiders in the Championship next season.

Jones headed in from close range following John O'Shea's knock on after 69 minutes as Silva lost his first game since March 2014 when he was in charge of Estoril.

But Sunderland were indebted to another outstanding display from goalkeeper Jordan Pickford while Hull were also left fuming they didn't get a

penalty from referee Neil Swarbrick despite three loud appeals.

The result, confirmed by Defoe scoring a second in injury-time, leaves the Tigers in virtually a straight fight with Swansea City for the third relegation place with Sunderland already gone and Middlesbrough about to join them if they lose at Chelsea tomorrow.

Sunderland Manager David Moyes hoped his side would play with a bit more freedom having had relegation confirmed last weekend and they didn't play like a side whose last win was in early February.

They'd only previously scored twice in 10 games and Defoe failed to break his own poor run midway through the

second half when one-on-one with Eldin Jakupovic, uncharacteristically taking a poor first touch before allowing the goalkeeper to save with his legs.

Even so, it was a massive improvement from the visitors following Moyes' announcement that he was set to continue in charge next season if backed to win promotion. George Honeyman went close with a header as Sunderland's 4-3-3 formation caused Hull problems throughout. For their part, the Tigers looked nervous. It took them 25 minutes to seriously test Pickford through Sam Clucas although after they had plenty of chances.

Daily Mail

SAUL CEMENTS THIRD SPOT FOR ATLETICO

MADRID - Atletico Madrid have cemented third spot for another week, after they registered a 1-0 win over Eibar at the Vicente Calderon yesterday evening.

Los Armeros started the better of the two teams, knocking the ball around with intensity although they failed to carve out chances.

In the 11th minute Sergi Enrich had an opportunity to grab the lead for the visitors but his angled shot from just outside the box went a little bit high on the far post.

Takashi Inui made a great run into Atletico's penalty box after beating two

markers but his shot was brilliantly saved by Jan Oblak after 33 minutes.

Diego Simeone's side started to get into the match after 30 minutes as Antoine Griezmann went close to snatching the lead but his left-footed shot missed narrowly wide following a good counter-attack. Atletico were playing with their backs against the wall and were denied opportunities to hit on the counter-attack. The match went into the interval goalless as the two teams were cancelling each other out.

Yannick Carrasco had the opportunity to break the deadlock in the 57th minute but his long-range shot missed

inches over the crossbar.

In the 69th minute Saul Niguez finally broke the deadlock for Atletico making it 1-0.

Diego Godin made a wonderful run down the right wing and picked out Niguez, who fired into the bottom left corner with a great strike.

Eibar pushed for an equaliser as the half went on, while Simeone introduced Tiago for Carrasco after 78 minutes as they look to see out the rest of the game.

Atletico were looking comfortable in the closing stages but they ended match with 10 men after Godin was sent off for a second bookable offence. **AFP**

Centurion Mahrez on target as champions move into top half

LEICESTER - Riyad Mahrez scored on his 100th Premier League appearance to help Leicester City to a comfortable 3-0 win over Watford that moved the champions into the top half of the table.

Despite a miserable start to the season, Leicester can still finish as high as eighth under Craig Shakespeare - who replaced sacked title-winning Manager Claudio Ranieri - and victory at the King Power Stadium leaves them ninth and also mathematically ensures they cannot be relegated.

Leicester went in front seven minutes before the break when Wilfred Ndidi lashed home his second goal since he joined the club for £17 million from Belgian side Genk in January.

Mahrez then doubled Leicester's advantage in the second half, while Marc Albrighton added a third in second-half injury time as the Foxes condemned the struggling Hornets to a fourth defeat in their last five games.

Walter Mazzarri's side had chances to

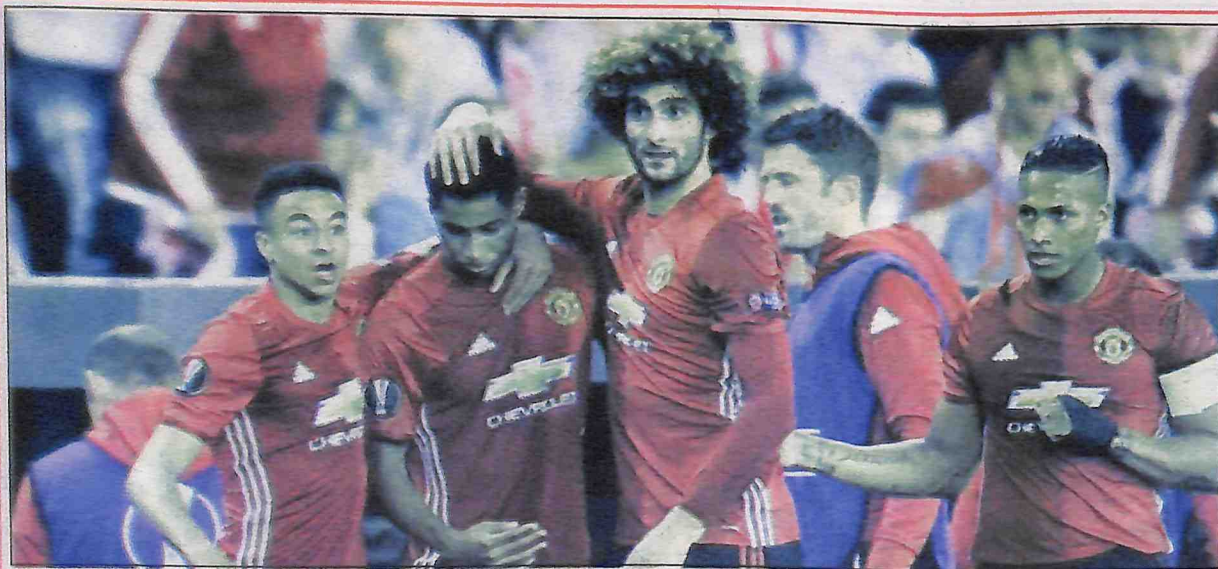


score in either half, but Leicester goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel made a pair of vital saves before defensive errors allowed Ndidi and Mahrez easy opportunities to score. With the win, Leicester move into ninth, although they face a tough task to stay there with matches against Manchester City and Tottenham to come in their last



three games, while Watford are 14th but eight points above the drop and all but certain to stay up.

A poor throw by Kasper Schmeichel allowed Watford the chance to open the scoring after 12 minutes but Tom Cleverley wastefully side-footed the ball well wide of the target. **Goal**



Manchester United's Marcus Rashford (second from left) celebrates scoring against Celta Vigo in the UEFA Europa League semi-final. (Reuters)

'I HOPE MAN UNITED WIN EUROPA LEAGUE'

MANCHESTER - Goodwill is normally in short supply across Manchester's footballing divide but City Manager Pep Guardiola hopes his old foe Jose Mourinho wins the Europa League with United.

City strengthened their claim for a top-four spot in the Premier League with a 5-0 thrashing of Crystal Palace at the Etihad Stadium yesterday - goals from David Silva, Vincent Kompany, Kevin De Bruyne, Raheem Sterling and Nicolas Otamendi sending them above Liverpool into third on goal difference.

United are four points further back in fifth ahead of their trip to sixth-placed Arsenal on Sunday, with Mourinho set to ring the changes as the match falls in the middle of his team's Europa League semi-final with Celta Vigo.

Marcus Rashford's free-kick ensured United returned from Vigo with

a 1-0 advantage on Thursday and, although Guardiola might have understandably selfish reasons to want Mourinho's focus to lie elsewhere, he has talked up the benefits of the Premier League having its Champions League representation bolstered for next season. "We have four teams fighting for two places," he told a post-match news conference.

"Hopefully United can focus on the Europa League and next season we shall see five English teams in Europe which would be amazing."

If City can retain the form that brought the Eagles to earth they should not require any favours from other teams.

Guardiola has regularly complained of his team failing to take their chances over the course of seven draws at home this term and, after seeing a more clinical

side to their work, he again wondered what might have been in a season where he will finish trophyless for the first time in his coaching career. "Tottenham [in a 2-0 win at White Hart Lane last October] is the only team I can think of who created more chances than us [in a game]," he said. "We are the best team in the league when it comes to creating chances - there is no competition."

"Our problem is finishing these chances - this is the most difficult thing in football. Against United [a 0-0 draw in City's previous home game] we created 19 chances - no goals."

Silva returned from a hamstring injury sustained during City's FA Cup semi-final defeat last month to open the scoring and turn in a virtuoso display, while De Bruyne took centre stage after the break with assists for centre-backs Kompany and Otamendi either side of a strike of his own.

"The teams with the top quality players don't lose the ball in the opposition area. David is one of these players," Guardiola added.

"He rarely loses the ball. Kevin was also excellent and he was unlucky hitting the post again - I think that's his 10th this season."

Goal

Manchester City Manager Pep Guardiola.

I will go to the cemetery to look for Totti's shirt -Spalletti

ROME - Luciano Spalletti claims Francesco Totti's respect for his team-mates means he is waiting until the end of the season to announce a decision on his future, with the coach adamant Roma's No.10 shirt should not be withdrawn.

Incoming Sporting Director Monchi this week claimed Totti will retire when the 2016-17 campaign is over and take up a role behind the scenes at Stadio Olimpico.

The prospect of the talisman's playing days coming to an end has prompted many to suggest the capital club should retire the number he has owned for the majority of his career.

But the coach believes it would be a bad idea, as many young players inspired by Totti will dream of wearing the same number in the coming years.

"I say that they shouldn't retire it," he

told reporters. "Before Totti, Giuseppe Giannini wore the No.10 in the past others withdrew the shirt."

Claims

"But what about the kid who longs to play with that shirt? Do we want to deprive him of this pleasure?"

"I can't bear to hear people saying that the shirt should be retired."

This is my thought. If I don't see that shirt anymore, then I will go to the cemetery and will look for Totti's shirt to see it again."

Despite Monchi's claims, Totti has not spoken publicly about his future, and Spalletti feels it is wrong to discuss it until the player reveals his decision.

"If we speak about the Totti situation, Monchi has only reported on the situation he has found," he said.

"He said that Francesco has signed a contract [to become a director] - that's

what he knows and that's what he reports.

"Francesco is going through the most important moment of his career, he wants to wait until the end of the season and he wants to keep quiet in order to stress the importance of the final streak of games."

"Whereas you [the media] care more about his fate than the others, but in order to achieve results, we should take everyone into consideration."

"It's the president who is managing Totti's career ending and it seems to me that he has already done this."

"I haven't heard from any of his entourage and this means that they want to wait until the end of the season and only then will he [Totti] voice his thoughts."

"And I think it would be better if it was him doing it. Monchi only stated what he has already found on the table."

Goal

Dortmund sink Hoffenheim, Darmstadt relegated

DORTMUND - Borussia Dortmund edged past Hoffenheim 2-1 yesterday to move into third place in the Bundesliga with two matches left and take a big step towards securing a spot in next season's Champions League group stage.

An early goal from Marco Reus and a late one from Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang sent Dortmund up to 60 points, two ahead of fourth-placed Hoffenheim, who cut the deficit with a late penalty.

Champions Bayern Munich, who secured the title last week, beat bottom side Darmstadt 98 1-0 to confirm their long-expected relegation.

With third place guaranteeing more than 12 million euros and fourth leading to the tricky Champions League qualifying rounds, Dortmund looked more determined from the start.

Reus put them ahead in the fourth minute from what was clearly an off-side position, drilling the ball through the legs of charging keeper Oliver

Baumann.

Aubameyang could have doubled the lead 10 minutes later when Dortmund were awarded a penalty for a hand ball in what was another controversial decision.

Reus had controlled the ball with his arm before it bounced off the hand of a Hoffenheim player and referee Felix Brych awarded the spot-kick, triggering angry complaints from the visitors.

Gabon international

Aubameyang stepped up but fired his low penalty wide to keep the visitors in the game.

Reus went close to scoring a sensational second goal on the hour but Baumann slapped his powerful volley wide with a reflex save.

He could do nothing when Aubameyang nodded in from close range to join Bayern's Robert

Lewandowski at the top of the scorers list on 28 goals.

Hoffenheim pulled a goal back with an 86th-minute penalty from Andrej Kramaric.

AFP



Marco Reus.

Mbappe prepared to snub Man United for Madrid

MONACO - Manchester United's chances of landing Kylian Mbappe in the summer have already hit a stumbling block, with the 18-year-old turned off by the club's lack of attacking style.

Mbappe has been a revelation for Monaco this term, scoring five European goals in just eight games, while also bagging 14 in 25 league matches as the Champions League semi-finalists lead the French top flight.

But with a host of Europe's top clubs tracking the 18-year-old, Jose Mourinho is set to be snubbed by the forward who has concerns over the Red Devils' style of football according to French newspaper L'Equipe.

In addition, the emergence of Anthony Martial and Marcus Rashford in the last couple of years at the Red Devils,

who play in a similar role to Mbappe, are also of concerns to the France international.

Mbappe has refused to hold discussions with any club until the end of the season, but Madrid are likely to launch a summer swoop.

Reports suggested that the forward had already agreed to join the Spanish league leaders in a

deal worth £85million, but this is a claim that has already been refuted by both sides.

Manchester United wouldn't be the first Premier League side Mbappe would turn down, with Arsene Wenger admitting he tried to bring the 18-year-old to Arsenal.

The under pressure Gunners boss visited him last

summer, only for the Monaco starlet to commit his future to his existing club.

Daily Mail



Kylian Mbappe.



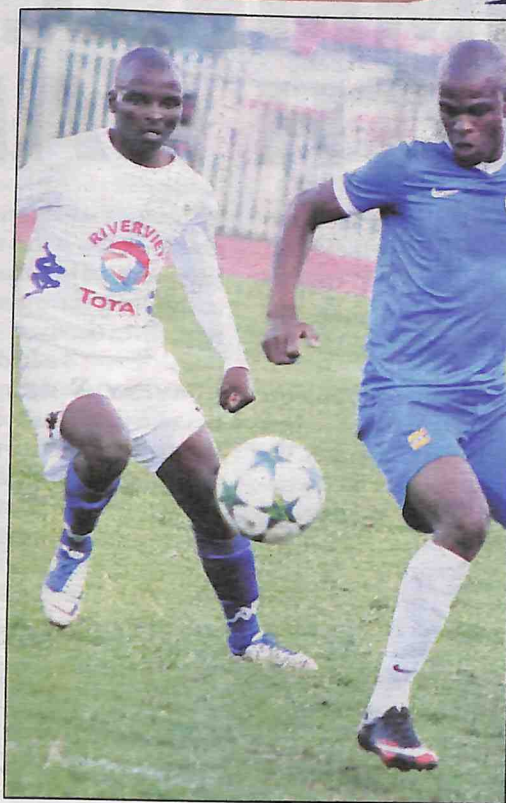
MTN Premier League 2016/17

PICTURES


Manzini Sundowns' Justice Figureito with the ball while Midas City's Simphiwe Makhanya pursues him. The game ended in a goalless draw. (Sabelo Majola)



Sandumuzi Zwane and City's Ciniso Mamba in a tussle for the ball.



Midas City's Simanga Shongwe on the ball while Sundowns' Bongani Dlamini covers him.



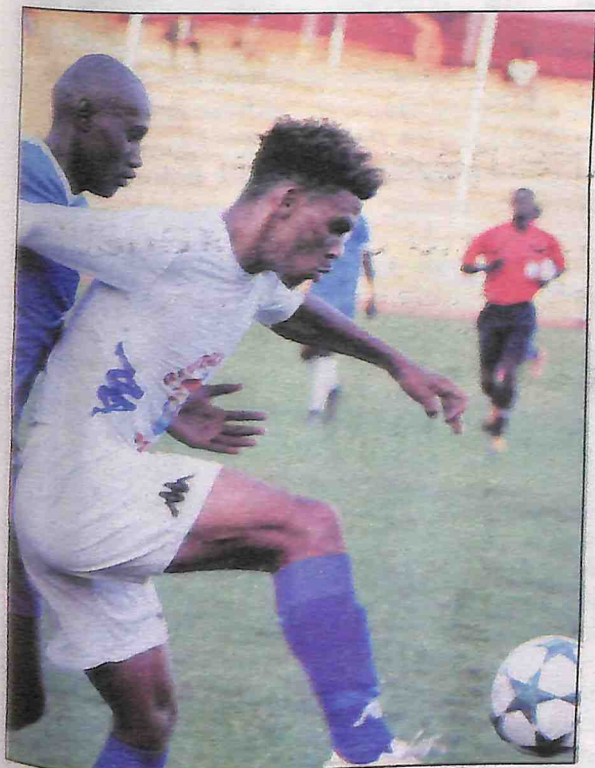
Moneni Pirates players celebrating one of their goals.



Sundowns' Sicelo Mkhwanazi making a pass.



Moneni Pirates supporters expressing their jubilation after beating Manzini Sea Birds' 7-1.



Figureito controlling the ball in front of Ciniso Mamba.



Sea Birds' Wandile Nhleko shielding the ball from Moneni Pirates player Bongani Ndzimandze.



Sihle Ndaba vying for an aerial ball with a Sea Birds player.

REGION V LOOKING TO COMMERCIALISE YOUTH GAMES

STORIES BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SPORTS – Region V is currently on a mission to commercialise the youth games beginning from the next edition to be held next year in Botswana.

This was revealed by the Chairman of the Regional Council Stanley Mutoya during the closing ceremony of the two day meeting held at the Convention Centre on Friday night. He said the move was aimed at transforming the various sporting codes in the region.

He said it was time for the transformations of sports in the region, something he said would ensure a high level performance in the high profile games including the Olympic Games.

"We are on a mission to improve the region in areas including woman empowerment and Paralympics. The aim is to improve on these from beginning of the upcoming edition of games to be held next year.

Improve

There is a huge need to improve these two sectors as they have been

left behind for a long time. The positive in all this is that the members have promised to commit themselves in fulfilling the mandate in their respective countries."

Tasked

"We have tasked all member countries to try and come up with ways that can improve their performances in the sporting disciplines so that we reach international standards," he said. Meanwhile Swaziland National Sports and Recreation Council Vice Chairman Timothy Shongwe challenged the region to work hard in

order to achieve this goal.

"We can achieve our resolutions from this meeting. We just need to work hard and commit ourselves in making the main goal a reality.

This mission is possible if we can take a leaf from the likes of COSAFA who have worked over three years to improve its product to be what it is today," he said.

Shongwe further thanked the region for bringing the meeting into the country. He said this would play a major role in improving the standard of sports in the country.



Swaziland National Sports and Recreation Council Timothy Shongwe addressing the gathering during the closing ceremony of the Region V meeting held at the Royal Swazi Sun Convention Centre on Friday night. (Pics: Sibusiso Masilela).

Swaziland to host 2030 region 5 Youth Games

SPORTS – It will take the country another 13 years to hosts the next Region V youth games after being granted the 2030 hosting rights.

Region V Chairman Stanley Mutoya said the hosting rights were given alphabetically hence the Swaziland hosting in 2030. He stated that the games would be held in Botswana and Lesotho in the next four years as these games are hosted bi-annually. "All our members will be given the opportunity to host the games as we want each and every country to have an opportunity to prove its potential," he said. He then expressed gratitude to the government of Swaziland for the hospitality during their two-day stay in the kingdom. "We have been well received in the country and we are grateful to the local government for the warm reception that they gave. We hope to receive the same treatment from the rest of our members," he said. Swaziland last hosted the youth games in 2010 when they were still known as the Zone VI Youth Games.



Region V President Dr Vetumbuavi S Veii making his remarks.



Lutsango entertaining the guests.



Some of the guests following the proceedings.



Dr Veii presenting a certificate to one of the delegates Masego Lesotho from Lesotho.



SOCGA board member Zakhele Zulu chatting with SWABA President Pearl Dlamini and SOCGA CEO Muriel Hoffer before the start of the dinner.

I'm still the king - Swazi Bolt

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

ATHLETICS – Renowned local sprinter Sibusiso Matsenjwa affectionately known as the 'Swazi Bolt' says albeit the tougher competition from fellow athletes, he is still the 'king'.

Matsenjwa made the comments after conquering the 100m and 200m during Athletic Association of Swaziland (AAS) National Championships held over the past two days at the Mavuso Sports Centre.

"I basically enjoyed myself during these

races. I wanted to test if I still owned the local scenes, and the races just confirmed that I still have it. Yes, the competition has become tougher over the years and its all thanks to competition from my fellow athletes," he said. Matsenjwa applauded the dedication from fellow athletes, stating that the competition was vital for the competitiveness of the sport.

"I am grateful for the extra effort that has been applied by other athletes as well. You can see that their hard work is paying off on the track. That is really good for competition as it helps us

develop." He said. Coming into his plans for this year, Matsenjwa revealed that he would be attending a camp overseas in preparation for the upcoming World Championships to be held in Glasgow in August.

"The championships also form part of my preparations for the World Championships coming in August. I will be attending a month long camp overseas to just prepare for the games," he said.

The Royal Swaziland Police (RSP) was joined by Thandaza Zwane from the Correctional team and Mlandvo



Shongwe, a teammate for the 200m podium finish. In the women's category, Correctional Services' Bongwe Mahlalela came out first, beating the RSP duo of Siphesihle Dlamini and Lindelwa Gamedze. National record holder for the 400m race, Thandaza Zwane also managed a win in the race after facing stiff competition from Mancoba Nyoni and Andile Masenga. When interviewed

after the race, Zwane said he was pleased with his performance on the day.

"I am very proud of my win today. I'm quite pleased with it because I last won it back in 2013, and this declares my comeback. Training with the likes of Sibusiso (Swazi Bolt) and Mlandvo has benefited me immensely."

'BIRD' CEO SIBUSISO MANANA IS DEAD

STORIES BY QONDILENTIWANE

SOCCEr – Mbabane Swallows have been left devastated by the death of their Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sibusiso Manana.

Manana succumbed to death on Friday night while admitted at the Mbabane

Government Hospital. The long-serving Swallows administrator was admitted on Monday after collapsing at the Somhlolo National Stadium just before their MTN league encounter against Manzini Wanderers last Sunday.

Mbabane Swallows Chairman Victor Gamedze confirmed the administrator's death during a press briefing held at the LaCasserole Restaurant in Mbabane yesterday.

The distraught Gamedze said they were devastated by the death of Manana as he was a great asset

to the team.

"Manana was one of the best in Africa when it came to administration. He had vast experience and even the current management at Swallows learnt from him. He was already an administrator during my playing days at that time with Arsenal FC which was B team to Mbabane Swallows," he said.

The death of the Birds CEO was by yesterday all over social media with people expressing shock over his death which they described as a huge loss to the football fraternity.

'NOT EVEN A PHD HOLDER CAN REPLACE MANANA'

MBABANE Swallows boss Victor Gamedze believes that not even a person with a PhD can replace deceased Mbabane Swallows CEO Sibusiso Manana in the team.

Gamedze said it was unfortunate that he passed on at a time when positive results were forthcoming in the team.

"We have been with him for 14 years since taking over the team and as young as we were then some people had their doubts but we proved them wrong as we managed to change the face of the team. We don't even know where we will start in replacing him considering the knowledge he had accumulated

ed over the years," he said.

"We started a journey with him and it is sad that he died when our efforts were paying off. His job was the most important in the team at the stage we at now," he added.

He further described Manana as the perfect gentleman, one who never showed signs of anger.

"Just like any other person, Manana had his faults but it was rare to find him angry. The only time he would show his anger was on the touch line when he was not happy with a decision by their officiating officials during a match," he said. He then sent the team's condolences to his family, friends and the football fraternity.

"Not even a win can console his family in this difficult time. He touched a lot of lives both in and outside football. The other team CEOs and PROs have lost a friend. We send our condolences to all those that have been affected by his demise.

We appeal that the person to replace him will be given the same support you guys gave him," he said.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Sibusiso Manana

MANANA TO BE BURIED AFTER TUNISIA CLASH

The deceased Mbabane Swallows CEO Sibusiso Manana will be laid to rest upon the team's return from Tunisia.

Mbabane Swallows is expected to leave the country on Thursday to honour their first CAF Confederation

Cup Group Stages clash against SC Sfaxien from Tunisia on Saturday.

Mbabane Swallows Chairman Victor Gamedze said yesterday that they have agreed together with the deceased's family to have the funeral when they return from the game.

"We have met with the family and asked that we lay him to rest after the game.

The funeral will be held on May 20 and there will be a memorial services on the Friday," he said.



Mbabane Swallows Boss Victor Gamedze addressing the media flanked by National Supporters Committee Secretary Jackson Dlamini and Swallows General Manager(R) Sandile 'Beyond 2000' Zwane.

SEA BIRDS' 7-1 SEND OFF FROM FASH-IONABLE PIRATES'

BY SABELO MAJOLA

Moneni Pirates... (4)7

Sea Birds..... (0)1

SOCCEr – Four goals from Mfanfikile 'Fash' Ndzimandze, braces from Fanelo Mamba, and a lone strike by Bongani Ndzimandze handed Manzini Sea Birds a rude send off to the National First Division.

Pirates were like a lion in the jungle while Sea Birds ran around like scared hyenas during the encounter played at the Mavuso Sports Centre yesterday. This was the biggest loss for the relegated Sea Birds in the campaign and the result means Pirates are guaranteed a top five slot in the Premier League table as sixth placed Manzini Sundowns played to a barren draw against Midas City in the same venue.

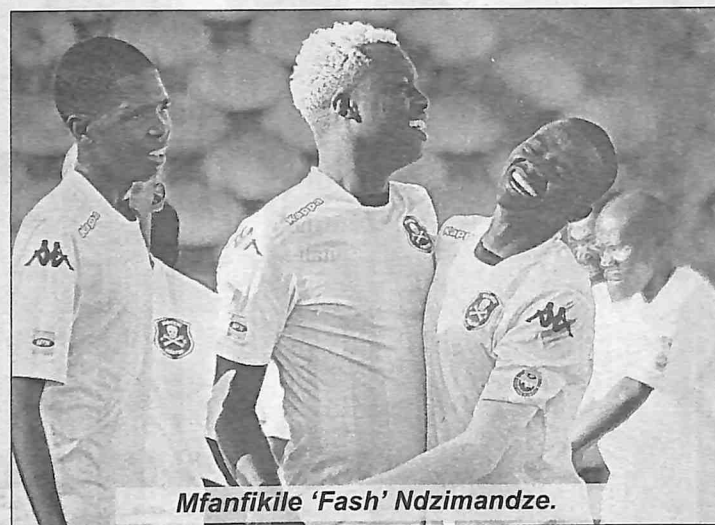
The sluggish Sea Birds defence could not keep up with Fanelo Mamba's pace three minutes into the match and the speedy winger opened the score line with a fine shot to unlock the goal-gates. Bongani Ndzimandze netted the second goal in the same fashion in the first quarter of the game and frustration was mounting for the visitors who seemed to have thrown in the towel already.

Six minutes later Fash capitalised from a loose ball in the box after a scramble and his strike was too much for Sea Birds' keeper Bafana Ngwenya to deal with and the score was 3-0. The Ingwenyama Cup top goal scorer made it a brace seven minutes from the break after a dynamic combination play with Menzi Simelane, unleashing a sensational grass cutting strike to net the fourth for his side. Pirates' keeper Thabiso Mkhize was on holiday as Sea Birds hardly had a short on target in the first half.

The second half was no different as the rampaging Fash continued where he left, completing a hat-trick after navigating his way past defenders to let fly a shot that went through the legs of Ngwenya to hit the back of the net in the 76th minute.

Fash scored his fourth goal on the day from the penalty spot after Fanelo was brought down in the box by Muzi Tsabedze six minutes from time.

Mamba had initially completed a brace ten minutes from time with a stunning shot. Sea Birds pulled one back in added time when Bhekumuzi Mamba's shot went past Siyabonga Zwane who replaced injured Mkhize at the poles and the final score was 7-1.



Mfanfikile 'Fash' Ndzimandze.

'Downs', City in goalless draw

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

Midas City..... (0)0

Manzini Sundown's..... (0)0

SOCCEr – Midas City and Manzini Sundowns settled for goalless stalemate in what was a lacklustre encounter at the Mavuso Sports Centre yesterday.

City started the match well and could have opened the scoring in the 4th minute when Simanga Shongwe hit the back of the net through a header finishing a pinpoint Simphiwe Makhanya cross, but the goal was ruled out for an offside.

'Downs' had their first chance of the match in the 18th minute when winger Mlamuli 'Mlaba' Nkambule eliminated two defenders before releasing a defence splitting pass to Sandumuzi Zwane, whose effort however went slightly past the crossbar.

The second half was no different as the team still failed to find the back of the net.

At the hour mark, Mlamuli 'Sputla' Zwane opted for a double change, introducing captain Darren 'Dazza' Christie and Juries Gama for Sandumuzi Zwane and Melusi Mkhwanazi respectively.

Midas City's Simanga Shongwe bulldozed his way into the area, as he took on defenders, but he failed to finish it off, and a chance went bagging 14 minutes into the stanza.

Sundown's seemed to be frustrated by the numbers thrown behind the ball by the host and then settled for long-range shots.

Speedy winger Justice Figaredo, who was expertly kept at bay all day by the ever reliable Simphiwe Makhanya, was the first to take shots outside the area but his efforts were in vain.

Figaredo calmly controlled the ball just outside the box, before letting loose a stinging shot that failed to hit the target nine minutes before time, summing the dreary last clash of the season for the two sides.

RESULTS

Chippa United
Polokwane City

Premier League

Leicester City
Hull City
Burnley
AFC Bournemouth
Manchester City
Swansea City

SPANISH LA LIGA

Atlético Madrid
Sporting Gijón
Barcelona

0-1 Ajax Cape Town
2-3 SuperSport United

3-0 Watford
0-2 Sunderland
2-2 West Bromwich Albion
2-2 Stoke City
5-0 Crystal Palace
1-0 Everton

1-0 Eibar
1-0 Las Palmas
4-1 Villarreal

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SWALLOW'S MANANA IS DEAD

Mbabane Swallows devastated by the death of CEO Sibusiso Manana.

Not even a PhD holder can replace the avid administrator - Victor Gamedze

MSN ON TARGET AS BARCA CEMENT TOP SPOT

BARCELONA - Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar were all on target to lead FC Barcelona to a 4-1 win over Villarreal at the Camp Nou last night.

The Catalan giants dominated the possession in the opening 15 minutes of the first half but were unable to carve out chances.

Barca did break the deadlock with their first chance of the half in the 21st minute as Messi picked out Neymar, who controlled well and slotted into the bottom corner from six-yards out.

Villarreal did not sit back and they

levelled matters in the 32nd minute as Cedric Bakambu shrugged off Gerard Pique before smashing past Marc Andre Ter Stegen, 1-1.

However, the home side restored their lead on the stroke of halftime through Messi, who skipped past two players before slotting past Andres, 2-1.

Barca continued to push for more goals in the second half and went close to grabbing a third in the 58th minute but Andres produced a good save to deny Messi from close range.

The hosts eventually got a third goal in the 69th minute when Sergi Roberto

played in Suarez, who slotted home from close range with a neat finish, 3-1. With the hosts comfortably leading, Luis Enrique introduced Javier Mascherano and Jordi Alba for the final 15 minutes.

Barca were then awarded a penalty in the 82nd minute when when Jaime Costa was adjudged to have handled in the box. Messi stepped up and converted the spot-kick, 4-1.

Enrique's charges managed to see out the final stages with relative ease, as they will remain in top spot for another week.

AFP

