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April 8, 2017

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E5.00 (VAT inclusive)



**MARTIN,
S'THOFENI
ON RATING
DOWNGRADE**

SEE PAGE 2

**MZUTHINI
APPOINTS
AUDITORS FOR
CANTEENS**

SEE PAGE 10

**SWEEPING
CHANGES AT
NATIONAL
TEAM**

SEE PAGE 43

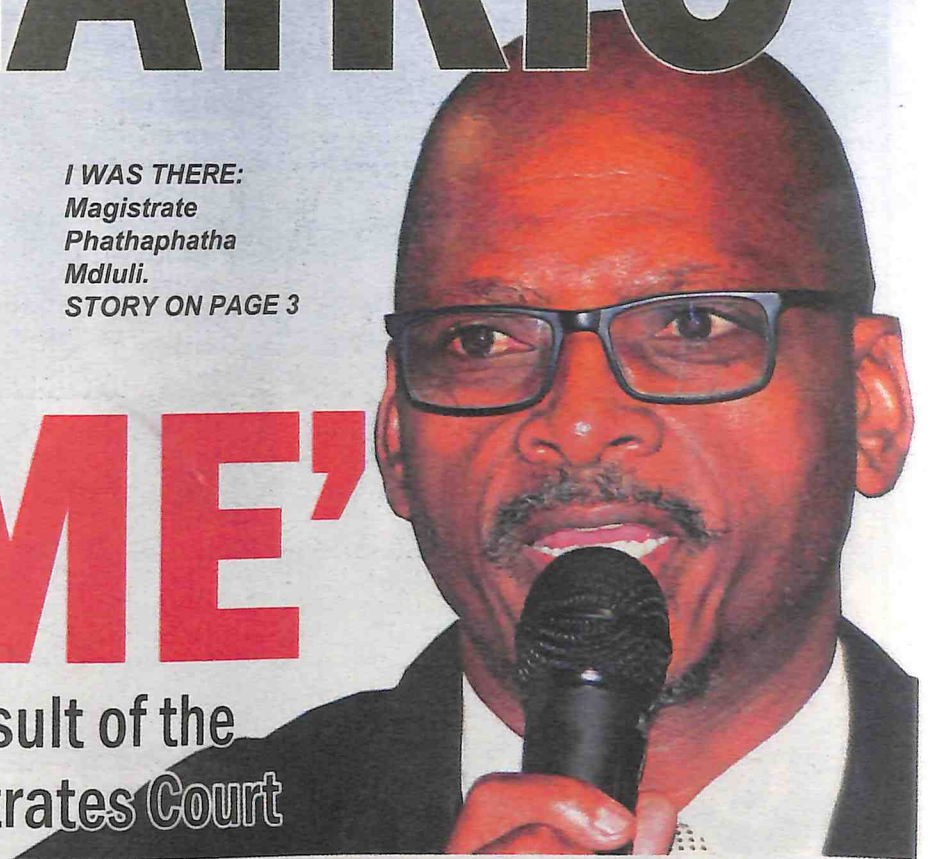


'PSYCHIATRIC CENTRE SAVED ME'

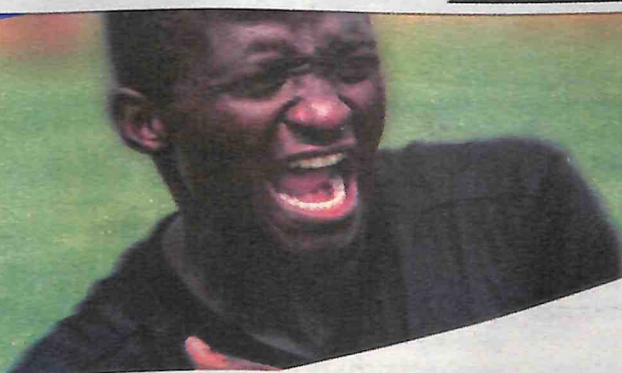
*I WAS THERE:
Magistrate
Phathaphatha
Mdluli.*

STORY ON PAGE 3

...Yes I am a survivor of depression as a result of the sudden transfer from the Mbabane Magistrates Court



swazibankcup



SWAZIBANK CUP 2017
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FEBRUARY - APRIL, 2017

SEMI-FINALS FIXTURE

SUNDAY 09 APRIL 2017

SOMHLOLO NATIONAL STADIUM

Manzini Wanderers FC vs Matsapha United FC 1:30pm
Young Buffaloes FC vs Mbabane Highlanders FC 3:30pm

UNDER 20

SUNDAY 09 APRIL 2017

SOMHLOLO NATIONAL STADIUM

Green Mamba FC vs Royal Leopard FC 9:00am
Manzini Sundowns FC vs Young Buffaloes FC 11:00am

FEATURING

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SA's downgrade to affect us – Martin

By Alec Lushaba
Editor

South Africa's rating downgrade by Standards and Poor (S&P) and Fitch this week, two of the three leading rating agencies, to junk status is going to have a negative effect on the Swaziland economy, Finance Minister Martin Dlamini disclosed this week.

S&P on Monday and Fitch yesterday downgraded to junk status the South African economy which means the likelihood of debt that is in foreign currency being repaid is very low.

The South African government borrows money almost monthly to help pay its bills.

A leading economist and African Alliance Partner Sthofeni Ginindza said with now two of the rating agencies having downgraded the rating of South Africa, the junk status was now official.

Future

Dlamini when asked on the impact of the South African economy downgrade to Swaziland said; "A downgrade in rating (in this case RSA debt instruments) implies that the cost of borrowing will increase as investors in RSA government paper will be uncertain about the political future of the present government. This may also negatively impact on exchange rate of the Rand compared to other major currencies.

"As the pricing of Swaziland government debt instruments is linked to similar instruments on RSA, this implies the cost of borrowing by Swaziland government will increase while the

exchange rate factor will also increase import prices and add to inflationary pressures."

He said the impact on Swaziland would be the same as Namibia and Lesotho who are all in the same Common Monetary Area (CMA) whilst Botswana will be affected to a less extent even though they were all members of the South African Customs Union (SACU).

S&P indicated that their future outlook was poor; hence they expected further downgrades going forward.

African Alliance Partner Ginindza concurred with the minister that the downgrade would have a negative effect on the country's economy.

Escalate

He said companies like ESKOM and Transnet survived on foreign debt, which would now escalate with both the country and the power and rail companies rating having been downgraded.

"Our economy is linked to that of South Africa and there is no way we will not be affected. But a weaker Rand or Lilangeni means different things to different people. For government which has to

service its loans in dollars, it means paying more. But for companies that sell their produce in dollars it means more money.

"For us, ESKOM's challenges will affect us in the long term as they may be forced to review their tariffs in order to service their debts. So it is given that when the tariff goes up, a lot of other goods and services will go up," he said.

However, Ginindza said Swaziland will need to seize this opportunity of being an alternative location at which big businesses can set up their base.

Peaceful

"In the past, we have provided that refugee as a Kingdom that assures investors of being peaceful and stable. We also have one of the best road networks in the region.

"We need to be aggressive in our efforts to attract big business from the Republic of South Africa even those which appear to be stable. In my view the situation will not improve soon as there is a threat of land expropriation without compensation. Those are issues that worry investors and we need to prepare and take advantage as a country," Ginindza said.

South Africa's downgrade follows last week's dismissal of finance minister Pravin Gordhan and his deputy Mcebisi Jonas together with five other ministers who were fired

whilst others were reshuffled.

Their dismissal was followed this week by the resignation of treasury director general Lungisa Fuzile, one of their longest serving treasury officials.

African Alliance General Manager Asset Management Bongani Langa stated that Gordhan managed to broker an agreement with the credit agencies whereby if he and his team could demonstrate they were able to 'box' the president in and thereby limit his ability to further undermine the economy, the credit agencies would give the country breathing space from a downgrade.

Announcement

"Until last Friday, everyone had managed to hold the line. However, all bets were off following the announcement that Pravin Gordhan had been fired. The result was laid starkly bare on Monday, when S&P cut South Africa long term foreign currency rating to +BB (junk status) with a negative outlook.

"The last time this happened was in 1994 when S&P assigned South Africa a below investment grade rating of BB. It took another five and half years before the country's international rating was then upgraded to investment grade," Langa noted in his analysis.

He said this would have adverse effects on investment, as it will

become more expensive for the government to raise debt from local and foreign investors.

Langa said this in turn had a knock on effect in the private sector as corporate and consumer debt would become more expensive.

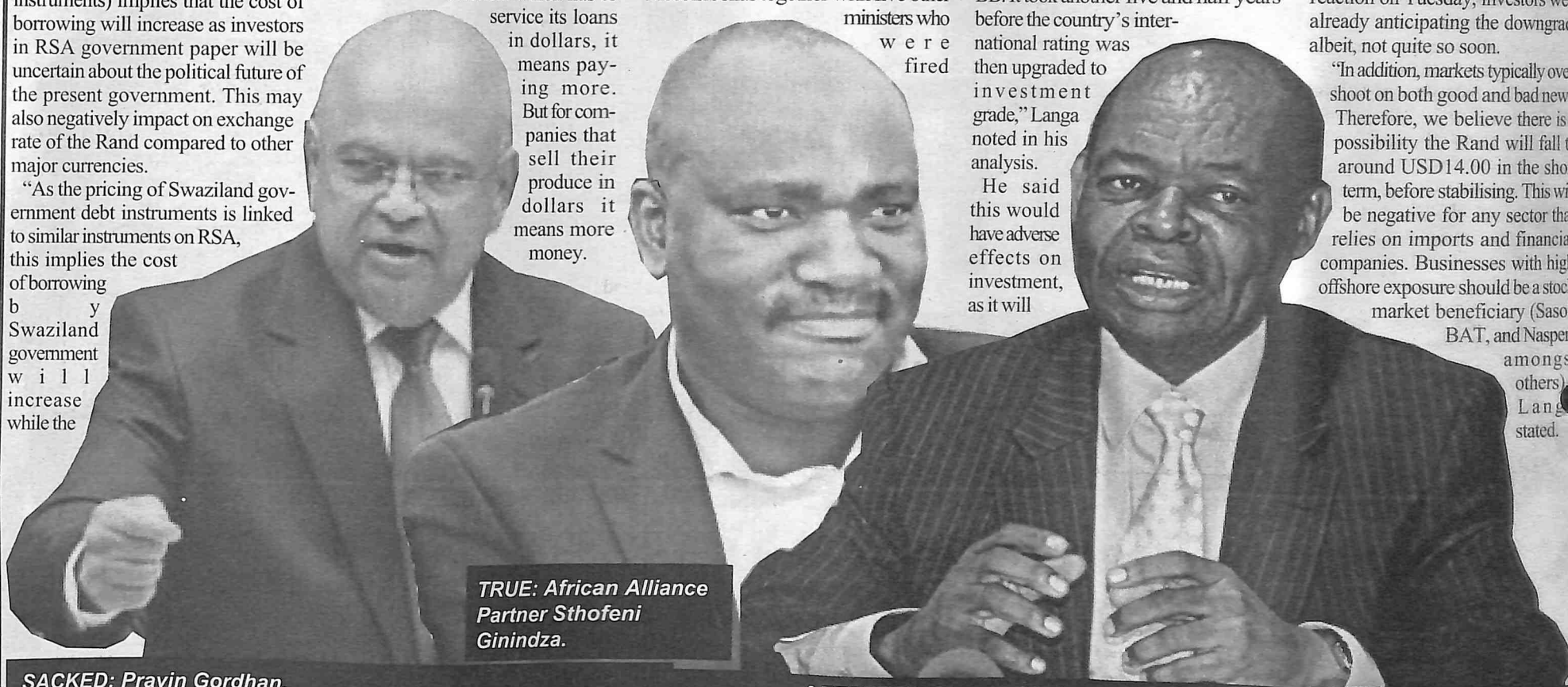
Anticipated

"This results in investment dropping as the anticipated financial return on projects becomes less attractive. In addition, the cost of refinancing existing debt becomes higher, particularly to corporates.

"To illustrate this in the real world context, the government is massively subsidising a number of State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) including SAA, SABC, Sanral and Eskom. It is believed the latter alone will 'burn' through some R300bn of the R350bn government guaranteed funding by 2020. This means the government will at some point be forced to raise more money to head off Eskom and other SOE burgeoning cash drain (for salaries, project spending and investment).

"This will be both expensive and potentially difficult. Notwithstanding the above, it is clear from the market reaction on Tuesday, investors were already anticipating the downgrade albeit, not quite so soon.

"In addition, markets typically overshoot on both good and bad news. Therefore, we believe there is a possibility the Rand will fall to around USD14.00 in the short term, before stabilising. This will be negative for any sector that relies on imports and financial companies. Businesses with high offshore exposure should be a stock market beneficiary (Sasol, BAT, and Naspers amongst others)," Langa stated.



Police Service Bill returns to Parly on Monday

By Bodwa Mbingo

Members of Parliament (MPs) will resume official business during a sitting scheduled for the House of Assembly on Monday afternoon.

Topping issues on the agenda will be the much-awaited Police Service Bill of 2014. Clerk to Parliament Ndvuna Dlamini in a press statement yesterday alerted members that they would resume their sitting at 2:30pm while urging all of them to attend without fail.

He confirmed that the main issue on the agenda will be the above-mentioned Bill while explaining that the Bill seeks to regulate the recruitment,

discipline and administration of the Royal Swaziland Police Service (RSPS). He said the Bill also seeks to put in place powers, duties, obligations and functions of the Police Service.

The Police Service Bill will culminate to the establishment of the much anticipated Police Service Commission, where service members will be disciplined if there is a valid grievance registered against them. In some quarters it had been criticised for giving the Police Service boss, national commissioner (NATCOM), too much power.

The Bill might attract a heated debate like in the past where Manzini North MP Jan Sithole said police officers should be allowed to join political parties,

but not as leaders of those parties. Such is opposed by the Bill. Back in 2015, Sithole argued that police officers, were workers and by virtue of being workers they had a constitutional right to choose whether to become or not to become part of an association or union.

This was during another debate of the Bill in the House of Assembly yesterday. Sithole said the Constitution allowed all workers the right to associate in any form and further choose their representatives.

He said the police had a right to vote like all other citizens and they were allowed to exercise that right by voting during elections, and hence by so doing, they would be politically asso-



RELEASED STATEMENT:
Clerk to Parliament Ndvuna Dlamini.

ciating themselves and the only difference in the case of Swaziland was that they would be associating with individuals not parties.

Sithole's submission was based on the clause on the Police Service Bill

which prohibits police officers from becoming members of political parties.

MP Sithole said police officers would rather not be in the forefront of those parties but shouldn't be denied membership.

Adding, MP Sithole said policing was a profession and the officers were workers and that workers had a constitutional right for collective bargaining.

The legislators also demanded police input on the Bill and condemned their non-consultation during its coining. That was when they effectively proposed that the Bill be referred back for stakeholder consultation.

The portfolio committee of the prime minister's office when deliberating on the Bill initially did not consult the police, as stakeholders on the Bill.

Magistrate Phathaphatha checks himself into Psychiatric Centre

COVER STORY

Stories by Sicelo Maziya

In a rather unexpected revelation, Manzini Magistrate Phathaphatha Mdluli yesterday disclosed how he checked himself into the country's psychiatric centre when revealing that he was a surviving patient of the National Psychiatric Centre.

The magistrate made this educative revelation during the celebration of the World Health Day at the Happy Valley Hotel yesterday morning.

His main aim of revealing such, he said, was to rid the country of the stigma that goes with checking in at the psychiatric centre. He proudly stated he was a survivor of depression and was happy he made the right decision of going for psychological evaluation and correction hence he was coping well now.

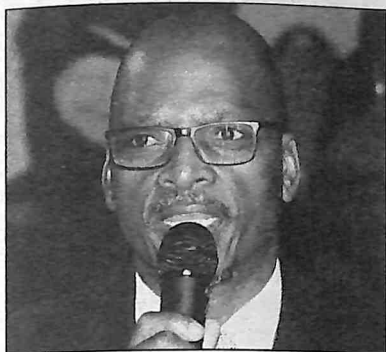
Depression

Yes I am a survivor of depression and I went for help at the psychiatric centre. This was as a result of my sudden transfer from the Mbabane Magistrate Court. There is nothing wrong with that and many people are scared and suffer in silence. I couldn't cope well when I was suddenly transferred from Mbabane and I'm glad I took the right step to seek help hence I can say I'm proud that today and I'm talking about it because I'm now okay".

The magistrate said everyone lived in an environment where there were a high number of cases associated with gender based violence that affect women and children.

He said such stigma associated with the psychiatric centre makes it impossible for the facility to attract patients who desperately need help.

The magistrate first explained that stig-



SPEAKS OUT: Manzini Magistrate Phathaphatha Mdluli.

ma associated with depression had resulted in a lot of people believing that the facility was a place only for lunatics (*kuset-inhlanyeni*).

He noted people must understand that the centre was a clinic for people who needed help hence the perception that it was a clinic for lunatics should be done away with.

He said just about anyone could seek help from this institution while observing that there was a need to root out the stigma that was attached to the centre so that many people could seek help on time.

Declare

The magistrate further asked all the doctors and health professionals that were present during the event to publicly declare that depression was a societal challenge.

He said by so doing the challenge would be better tackled than the silence on the challenges faced by so many people in the country.

The magistrate when later sought for clarity by the Observer on Saturday on his revelation he reiterated his statement.

He also revealed the name of the doctor that attended his case and when the doctor was also asked she also confirmed.

The doctor said if the survivor was okay to disclose such then there was nothing

wrong with telling the story to assist others that suffer in silence.

Meanwhile, depression is described as an illness characterised by persistent sadness and a loss of interest in activities that one normally enjoys, accompanied by an inability to carry out daily activities.

In addition, people with depression normally have several of the following: loss of energy; a change in appetite; sleeping more or less; anxiety; reduced concentration; indecisiveness; restlessness; feelings of worthlessness, guilt, or hopelessness; and thoughts of self-harm or suicide.

Depression is something that can happen to anybody and not a sign of weakness.

It is treatable, with talking therapies or antidepressant medication or a combination of these. It is advised that people suffering from depression should talk to someone they trust about their feelings. Most people feel better after talking to someone who cares about them. It is also advised that they should seek professional help with local health-care workers or doctors as it is a good place to start.

Tips for depressed people:

- Keep up with activities that you used to enjoy when you were well
- Stay connected
- Keep in contact with family and friends
- Exercise regularly, even if it's just a short walk
- Stick to regular eating and sleeping habits
- Accept that you might have depression and adjust your expectations
- You may not be able to accomplish as much as you do usually
- Avoid or restrict alcohol intake and refrain from using illicit drugs; they can worsen depression
- If you feel suicidal, contact someone for help immediately

Let's fight the moves to legalise dagga- Health PS

Ministry of Health Principal Secretary Dr Simon Zwane is mobilising concerned citizens to stop the moves to legalise marijuana or dagga in the country.

The PS said if anyone is willing to join him he is not alone in the fight as he also had the backing of the National Commissioner of Police Isaac Magagula.

The Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini also added his weight into the fight against the legalising of dagga during an Editors' Forum Media breakfast on Thursday when he emphasised that under his leadership there would be no legalising of dagga.

Possibilities

The House of Assembly this week appointed a select committee headed by Hhukwini MP Saladin Magagula to investigate the possibilities of legalising dagga following a motion by Nkilonko MP Hans Steffan.

Dr Zwane said it must be noted that such a decision should not just rest with the politicians, as medical practitioners knew the dangers associated with the usage of marijuana.

Dr Zwane said marijuana drug usage had a connection to depression as addicts when depressed revert to the usage of the drug herb to get high.

"This linkage is our biggest concern and thus let's unite and stop this movement to stop the dangerous economic moves disregarding the health of our people."

Researchers suggest that marijuana smokers are diagnosed with depression more often than non-smokers.

However, it doesn't appear that



LET'S FIGHT: Ministry of Health Principal Secretary Dr. Simon Zwane.

marijuana directly causes depression.

It's likely that the genetic, environmental or other factors that trigger depression also lead to marijuana use. Some people with depression may use marijuana as a way to detach from their depressive symptoms.

Emotions

Heavy users may appear depressed as a result of the dulling effects of the drug on feelings and emotions.

There also are links between marijuana and other mental health conditions. Marijuana use may trigger schizophrenia or detachment from reality (psychosis) in people who are at higher risk of psychosis. The symptoms of diagnosed psychotic illness may be aggravated if marijuana use continues.

There also is some evidence that teenagers who attempt suicide may be more likely to have used marijuana than those who have not made an attempt. As with marijuana use and depression, more research is needed to better understand these associations.

MP Hans labels Mansoors mafia

By Bodwa Mbingo

Nkilonko Member of Parliament (MP) and businessman known for operating Matata Group, Hans Steffens has labeled Buy 'n Save Group operators, the Mansoors, as liars and unscrupulous businesspeople that operate a mafia in the country.

During his cross examination at the High Court, Steffens kept on using slanderous language towards the Buy 'n Save Group, whose members were also in court in attendance on the day of the hearing. He made this allegation before Judge Titus Mlangeni.

This transpired in the marathon case where Steffens of LC Von Wissel Pty Limited is the applicant and the Spar Guild of Southern Africa is the first respondent and the Spar Group and Buy 'n Save Group are the second and third respondents respectively. SCP Kennedy is appearing on behalf of the applicant instructed by Robinson Betram and Spar is represented by SC Harper.

LC Von Wissel had approached the court seeking that it declares as unlawful the first respondent's decision to grant membership to the third respondent to conduct the operation of a Spar retail supermarket at the premises referred to as the George Hotel Site. In the alternative the applicant wants the court to review and set aside the decision by Spar of granting third respondent membership to operate a Spar retail supermarket at the disputed site. In their last prayer, LC Von Wissel wants the court to halt the commencement of the operation of a Spar Supermarket on the said site pending determination of this matter.

Appearing for Buy 'n Save on the matter was

Lawyer Sabela Dlamini of Magagula Hlophe Attorneys, who asked the witness Hans what exactly made him feel like this about the Mansoors. In his reply, Hans said his dealings with them and what others had said about them made him say these allegations. He added that they also did business in the dark corners and alley ways. In a nutshell, Dlamini highlighted to Steffens that his accusations and animosity were based on a meeting that was held with the Mansoors in 2010 at Moneni's Café 1896 where a so called "gentleman's agreement" was made. Steffens also mentioned that he had never dealt with the Mansoor's again after the above meeting because he did not trust them. Dlamini asked him if he had not called the Mansoors years later, to offer them to buy his Nkonyeni store, which the Mansoors rejected. He said he did.

"But why would you want to do business with them if you do not trust them?" Dlamini asked.

It could not be accurately ascertained from the witness as to why he wanted to do business with them when he felt so bad about them. Steffens admitted to the court that the Moneni store had not been doing well, despite that it was mentioned that it took three years for a store to break even when it had just opened. On Tuesday the court was told there were continuous losses in the business of Moneni. The respondents' attorneys led the court to the effect that the applicant's going concern was probably insolvent. This was after the applicant's key witness Willem Synman told the court that if the Spar at the George Hotel site was allowed to operate it would affect the Moneni Spar and might cause the store to suffer losses affecting its sus-

tainability. SC Harper instructed by Spar Group, put it to the witness that the store had in fact run itself down to the loss without any competition as the new shop had not started operating in the disputed site. It transpired during the cross examination of the witness that the financials of the Moneni store reflected a continuous loss since inception in 2012. It was heard that in 2014, the store liabilities exceeded its assets and that the excess liabilities were increasing year by year. It was heard that Moneni Spar has been a failure for its entire five-year period of operation and that this happened without any competition. It was revealed that the applicant's business was currently indebted to a sum of almost E77 million, suggesting a state of insolvency submitted Spar counsel. The applicant disputed and refuted allegations that Moneni was insolvent, stating they may have been problems in the manner in which Spar and Moneni operated, which might have also contributed to its failure.

Below are some of the cited problems:

MATATA ROBBERY

The applicant's witness led the court in evidence to the effect that there were a couple of robberies that took place, which also impacted on the figures, affecting their future projections. However, the witness insisted to the court that the Matata Group remained with a cash flow despite the robberies and that the January 2016 robbery affected them the most. The respondents' attorneys contended to the court as to why the loss figures resulting from the robberies were not reflected in the audited financial statements and the applicant replied they were written off as bad debts hence they did not appear.

SRA WOES

It transpired during trial that the applicant owed

E44 million in taxes. They explained to the court that this was as a result of failure to remit VAT taxes to SRA between the years 2011 and 2012 and that a portion of the money in the sum of E11 million was merely tax liability. The marathon case, which commenced in 2016, has been through court many times and the last being January 2017 until this past week. LC Von Wissel has so far led three witnesses to advance its case and the trial is scheduled to continue in August 2017.

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SAVE SOUTH AFRICA ...ZUMA MUST GO CAMPAIGN

SIPHO PITZYANA CHALLENGES THE ANC TO RECALL PRESIDENT ZUMA

JOHANNESBURG -Sipho Pityana, the businessman leading the Save SA campaign, has challenged African National Congress to recall its president, Jacob Zuma, from office.

"To the ANC we must ask, you have the power to remove Zuma, you know he is harming our nation, you know he has sold all of us out. Why is he still at the Union Buildings? Between today and 18 April show respect for the cries of many of your members, your alliance partners and your many supporters. Recall Zuma!", he told the people's march, referring to the motion of no confidence in the president that will be debated in Parliament.

"Those who handed the mettle over to you were always on the side of good. Honour them and show Zuma the door," he said.

"...Today we the people call on all Parliamentarians to hear our cry! We call on our representatives to support a motion of no confidence



IN NUMBERS: DA members getting ready to march in Johannesburg CBD. (News24)

regardless of the party that tables it." Pityana said yesterday marked the beginning of a new struggle, "a long struggle, the long walk of our generation to a new freedom".

"Today is a very, very important day for our democracy. It is a crucial day in our push back against

state capture, corruption and the corrosion of our democracy. "It is a crucial day in showing those who hold the levers of the power that we, the people, will not sit back and watch them eat." Pityana asked South Africans to lobby MPs ahead of the no confidence debate.

"Zuma is not going to go easily... So we have to carry on. We have to keep up the pressure... "We call on them to do the right thing, and vote for their country rather than their party during the vote of no confidence.

News24

Maimane under fire for donning bulletproof

JOHANNESBURG - Democratic Alliance leader Mmusi Maimane is taking flak on social media for wearing a bullet-proof vest during anti-Jacob Zuma marches in Johannesburg yesterday.

Pictures of the vest, which he wore underneath his T-shirt, surfaced on social media and were quickly shared, igniting a fierce debate.

DA national spokesman Phumzile van Damme confirmed that Maimane had received threats, but did not want to be drawn into details about them.

She told TMG Digital that the vest was part of "security assessments and purely a precautionary measure".

"Yes, the DA leader had a bul-

let-proof vest on. It was a precautionary measure given the security analysis provided," she said yesterday afternoon.

Van Damme said the DA march was peaceful and "a beautiful expression of unity in diversity. We are proud of South Africans today". In response to the questions about the vest, Maimane told reporters outside the Union Buildings in Pretoria; "I am the father of two kids, a husband to one wife.

It would be irresponsible of me knowing that people have threatened my life, not to take all the precautions I can take."

It is the first time threats against Maimane have been serious enough to warrant the wearing of a vest.

News24

ANC distances itself from armed protesters

JOHANNESBURG -South Africa's ruling party yesterday condemned protesters arming themselves at a protest outside its headquarters.

"We condemn in the harshest possible terms reports of people seeking to take up arms in the name of the ANC," the African National Congress said in a statement on its official Twitter account.

Veterans

"The ANC has not organised any march. We urge those gathered at #Luthuli House to exercise maximum restraint and discipline."

Some of the protesters are arming themselves with bricks while others affiliated with the MK veterans are marching in formation.

A group of three white protesters joining to campaign for President Jacob Zuma to resign were escort-

ed away by police when they tried to picket nearby, according to various media reports on Twitter.

Damage

Calling for protesters to gather a calm and measured fashion, the ANC reiterated: "ANC distances itself from and has not organised any marches to its headquarters, Luthuli House, whether in protest or in its defence".

The ANC said it encouraged "all South Africans to report any incidents of illegality, intimidation or coercion to the relevant law enforcement authorities".

"We should not allow inflammatory rhetoric from certain elements to damage our fragile social fabric and turn South Africans against each other."

SowetanLive

Protesters chant 'Zuma must go' outside Gupta compound

JOHANNESBURG -About 300 people congregated outside the Gupta family compound in Saxonwold, Johannesburg, at noon yesterday as part of "Black Friday" protests countrywide calling for President Jacob Zuma to leave as president of the country.

What was supposed to be a silent protest turned into sloganeering as the crowd chanted "Zuma must go". Two Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department (JMPD) vehicles were stationed at the entrance to the compound to keep an eye at the protest.

There is a belief that the family has captured the state for its own business successes. Some of the placards carried by the crowd said "Zuma is failing", "Unite South Africa", "ZUMA, COMMANDER AND THIEF", "To hell with destructive engagement Zuma must go" and "honour Madiba".

The Gupta family, which consists of brother Atul, Ajay and Rajesh, are friends of Zuma and have business dealings with his son Duduzane.

SowetanLive

'Stay positive,' Treasury tells South Africans

JOHANNESBURG -Describing it as a "setback", the National Treasury yesterday nevertheless asked the country to remain positive in its commentary on the Fitch Ratings downgrade, the second after S&P Global.

"The announcement by Fitch is noted by government and while it is a setback, government remains committed to making sure that its work with business, labour and the civil society continues in order to improve the business confidence and implement structural reforms to accelerate inclusive economic growth," the Treasury said in a statement. "This downgrade reflects Fitch's view that recent political events, including a major cabinet reshuffle, will weaken standards of governance and public finances. In the agency's view, the Cabinet reshuffle is likely to result in a change in the direction of economic policy, to undermine progress in state-owned companies' governance, raising the risk that the contingent liabilities associated with these entities are realised and increase the prospect of a substantial increased issuance of guarantees in respect of a nuclear build programme. News24

'Zuma should have fired himself'

CAPE TOWN -Hundreds of DA supporters, some draped in the South African flag, were making their way to the starting point of their anti-Zuma march in Johannesburg yesterday.

"Today we are going to march for change," said Tebello Mokoena, a DA councillor, at the Westgate Transport Centre.

Mokoena said the party was marching to say "Zuma must go".

"Today is the day we say to [President Jacob] Zuma he must leave the country," Mokoena said. "When he fired the ministers, why didn't he fire himself?" Mokoena asked with the crowd cheering. "We are tired of Zuma," he said. Earlier, veterans of the Umkhonto WeSizwe had gathered outside Luthuli House, saying they were there to defend the "headquarters of the African National Congress" against anyone. Mabel Rweqana of the MK veterans, said around 600 veterans had come from all over the country to protect the party and the building from any intimidation.

TMG Digital/TimesLive



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Tuesday	11 April	Big Bend	USA Distillers waste pump, Mkhalamfene	Closing span	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
		Manzini	Masekweni	Closing Span	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
		Malkerns	Mankayane police camp, corner shop	Closing span	09:00 a.m. - 12 noon
		Hluthi	Mntoyedwa	Closing span	09:00a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday	12 April	Manzini	Nsingweni Nazarene PS	Closing span	10:00a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
		Nhlangano	Gege Eric, Duduzini, Mfenyane and surroundings	Closing span	09:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
			Mashobeni, Vulamehlo and surroundings	Closing span	10:00a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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LESOTHO QUEEN HERE

By Simon Shabangu

King Letsie III of the Kingdom of Lesotho's first lady, Her Majesty Queen 'Masenate Mohato Seeiso arrived in the country yesterday through the Matsapha International Airport for a state visit.

The Basotho first Lady was received by members of the royal family and representatives of the Basotho High

Commission in the country. She touched down at around noon where she was then ushered into the VIP room before being chauffeured to her hotel around Ezulwini. Among those present to welcome the Basotho Queen Mother was Princess Sdvumolesihle, senior government officials, senior protocol officers and senior officers from the three security forces. She is in the country on a state visit to strengthen rela-

tions between the two countries. As part of her visit in the country, she will pay a courtesy call to His Majesty King Mswati III and Her Majesty Indlovukazi during her three day stay in the country. She is also expected to tour a number of tourist attractions and some of the country's prime projects including King Sobhuza II Memorial Park, Ngwenya Glass and Simunye Sugar Factory among other projects.



YOU ARE WELCOME: Princess Sdvumolesihle extending a warm welcome to Her Majesty Queen Masenate Mohato Seeiso at Matsapha International Airport yesterday. (Pics: Len Mohale)



THANK YOU: The Basotho Queen Mother receiving a bouquet








WARM WELCOME: The Queen Mother greeting the Basotho delegation who were at the airport to welcome her.



DOORS ARE OPEN: The Basotho Queen being ushered into the vehicle.



THIS WAY MY QUEEN: Deputy Chief Protocol Nonhlanhla Matsebula in a conversation with Her Majesty as she led her to the VIP area.

WOZO
chilla nathi

EASTERS FATHER & SON CAMP

Hawane Resort
14-16 April 2017

SCHOOL GRANTEE IN FALL OUT WITH TEACHER LOVER

...Lover, a teacher in mission school, alleges grantee who is also a reverend, forced her to commit abortion after suspecting she was pregnant having vomited morning-after-pills administered to her by him

By Bodwa Mbingo

In an illicit love affair gone sour, an alleged lover to a mission school grantee, who is a teacher by profession in the same school the grantee manages, has claimed that her former lover coerced her to commit abortion after suspecting she was pregnant.

This came after the same grantee had prescribed and administered morning-after-pills to the woman, but she vomited them as soon as she took them.

This was after the man of the cloth, who manages one of the mission schools in the Hhohho region and also preaches the Word of God in the local church, had allegedly engaged in several unprotected sexual encounters with his lover. The teacher is now screaming victimisation as she feels her former lover is no longer treating her fairly after she questioned his decision to force her to commit abortion yet they are both Christians and should not do such.

The grantee and his teacher lover will not be named for now as nothing formal has been reported by the aggrieved party to the mission's authorities for steps to be taken although the teacher has threatened to take the matter up with the relevant authorities.

She disclosed that in countless incidents, the lover would hope into their love nest at the teachers' quarters unnoticed at night at around 8pm and skillfully leave in the wee hours of the morning when it was still dark.

"It was good while it lasted, but now I regret ever falling for him. I am no longer comfortable at this school as I'm being victimised by my former lover.

As we speak, he all of a sudden wants me to pay rent for using a house belonging to the school and is using his powers as the school grantee. As for the situation of the abortion, I felt uncomfortable acceding to his demands as I am a Christian and it also surprised me that such a demand came from another Christian – a reverend for that matter. Fortunately, I then discovered that I was not pregnant after all," alleged the teacher.

The teacher also shared with the Observer on Saturday a number of SMSes sent by the grantee to her when he was trying to convince her to commit the abortion.

She then warned other women against falling to the temptation of being engaged in illicit relationships because they never end well and one is bound to get hurt.

An elder within the church said it is very difficult to deal with the matter, especially since it has not been formally reported. He said while it would be the teacher's word against that of the grantee, but it is important that it is reported to curb any future occurrences of this situation. The aggrieved party is, therefore, yet to submit her formal complaint with the mission.

Difficult to deal with the matter, especially since it has not been formally reported. He said while it would be the teacher's word against that of the grantee, but it is important that it is reported to curb any future occurrences of this situation. The aggrieved party is, therefore, yet to submit her formal complaint with the mission.

Depression is preventable, treatable –WHO's Dr Mengestu

By Sicelo Maziya

Dr Tigest Ketsela Mengestu, the country Representative of the World Health Organisation (WHO) has urged the nation to talk about depression for better understanding and to break down stigma that hinders access and support for people living with depression.

Mengestu revealed that depression constitutes a major global public health concern and has now been recognised as one of the leading causes of disability globally.

The WHO country representative said at least 320 million people world-wide and 30 million people in Africa live with this debilitating condition, which is also a major contributor to suicides. Mengestu said it is estimated globally that one million people take their own lives each year, which translates to 120 suicide deaths every hour on average.

She also said it is sad to note that for every person who commits suicide, there are 20 more that make an attempt.

Statistics

"We should always bear in mind that there are faces and real people behind these statistics," emphasised Mengestu.

"The effects of depression as we all know have a multiplier effect as they go beyond the person suffering from the condition to impact on their loved ones, family and friends. Untreated depression can prevent people from working and participating in family and community life.

Depression affects socio-economic development yet most of us are still in denial. Thus, depression remains hidden, not treated and not talked about."

She also revealed the good news that depression is preventable and treatable. She said avoiding stressful situations; alcohol abuse and drug use as well as maintaining a proper diet and physical activity can improve wellbeing and inevitably prevent depression.



WE CAN HELP: Dr Tigest Ketsela Mengestu.

sion.

She further said with proper treatment, care and support people can fully recover from depression.

"However, the sad news is that most people with this condition, who are in need of treatment, care and support, do not receive them.

In some countries, this can be up to 90 per cent of people in need.

On this World Health Day, therefore, we are called into action as government sectors, international development partners, non-governmental organisations, faith based organisations, civil society in general, communities and individuals to work together to ensure that everyone is better informed about depression, its causes and possible consequences, including suicide, and what help is or can be available for the prevention and treatment of depression," she added.

Support

Mengestu also called for greater support, stating; "let us strengthen our community engagement and social mobilisation programmes to ensure proper public education and awareness building regarding depression, clearing misunderstandings, and breaking down stigma and discrimination which hinder access to needed care and support. Let's ensure provision of community care and treatment for depression in pri-

mary care settings by trained general health personnel as fundamental steps towards easier access to care for a large number of people. We also need to ensure uninterrupted availability of essential medicines for treating depression at all levels of health care systems. We need to strengthen human resources for health, in terms of increasing training and retention of mental health professionals with skills for the management of depression. Let's also strengthen partnerships, involvement and collaborative efforts across all key stakeholders. Mental disorders, including depression, are very complex and cannot be addressed by the ministry of health alone, or by the health sector alone.

Other sectors such as education, public service and others should be involved and join arms in addressing mental health issues," she said.

Mengestu also assured that WHO will continue working with health care leaders to create options for managing and treating mental health conditions, including depression. She said through its Mental Health Gap Action Programme (MHGAP) and the Global Mental Health Action Plan (2013-2020), WHO and partners are supporting people affected by depression. She said every country should have programmes and strategies in place to help people with national health challenges.

SWADE
Making A Difference

TENDER

Inchubekela Phambili Phuzumoya Tinotsise TRANSPORT OF SEEDCANE

The Inchubekela Phambili, Phuzumoya, and Tinotsise Farmers' companies are in the process of planting sugarcane in their fields. The total area under sugarcane is 150.7Ha.

Tenders are hereby invited from suitably qualified planting contractors wishing to tender for the transport of seedcane in the LUSIP project area in the Lubombo Region. Contractors must be familiar with standards for the transport of seedcane in Small Holder Irrigation Projects used in Swaziland.

Tenders will only be accepted from a company which meets the following Criteria; (i) 60% of the controlling shares are owned by Swazi citizens.

Detailed Terms of Reference are available at SWADE (ADEMU) Office, at Siphofaneni at a fee of E300-00 for non-refundable deposit for issue of the tender document between 0830 hours and 1500 hours from Monday, 10th April 2017 to Wednesday 19th April 2017 at 1000 hours. Only cash will be accepted.

All enquiries must be directed in writing to the farmers' representatives - Mr J. Zwane (Inchubeka Phambili chairman) @ 76045537; Mr Bhata Ngcamphalala (Tinotsise chairman) @ 76424785 and Mr M. Mtsetfwa (Phuzumoya chairman) @ 76159912. Enquiries could be also directed to the Senior Agricultural Officer (SWADE-LUSIP); Mr Sibusiso Nhlabatsi @ 76900440; Fax: +268 3441665.

The Tender Documents must be sealed, not bear the Tenderer's name or address and must not contain any other documents or drawings not applicable to the Tender. A posted, telegraphic, telexed or faxed tender will not be considered. It must be clearly endorsed on the outside:

LUSIP Govt T4 Farmer Groups
Contract No. Lot 8 (Batch 2)
Transport of Seed Cane

The Date and time fixed for the closure of the Tenders is (unless amended by a Notice to Tenderer): Date: 19th April 2017 (Wednesday)
Time: 10:00 HRS on (Local Time)

Supported By:



Parastatal of the Year &
Best Social Responsible
Parastatal in 2007

SWAPA boss, lawyer to spend more days in jail

- Bail application once again postponed
- They have been in custody for the past week, without being admitted to bail
- Crown opposing bail, arguments will be heard on Monday

By Sandile Nkambule

It seems incarcerated Swaziland Principals Association (SWAPA) President, Mduduzi Bhembe and his lawyer Sanele Mabila, might celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ behind bars as their bail application matter was once again postponed yesterday.

The matter had been enrolled before High Court Judge Robert Magagula in the contested bail applications.

Judge Magagula postponed it to Monday since the defence is not yet through with filling their papers due to the fact that they did not get time to take full instructions from their clients on time.

When the bail application was enrolled before Judge Siphon Nkosi on Tuesday, their defence attorney Banele Ngwenya had applied that the matter be postponed since they had not had occasion to meet with their clients in order to take instructions as the Crown is opposing their bail application.

Judge Nkosi had no option but to postpone the matter to yesterday where both counsel were expected to argue on the application.

However, it again failed to be heard with the court postponing it to Monday for arguments.

On Tuesday, Ngwenya submitted that they went to the Zakhele Remand Centre where their clients are kept only to be told that they had been taken to Mbabane, but when they eventually got to meet them, it was already late and it was learnt that they were not taken to Mbabane.

On Tuesday, lawyer Ben J Simelane raised concerns before High Court Judge Ticheme Dlamini that the Director of Public Prosecution's (DPP) office is deliberately delaying the release of their clients by applying delaying tactics.

tics.

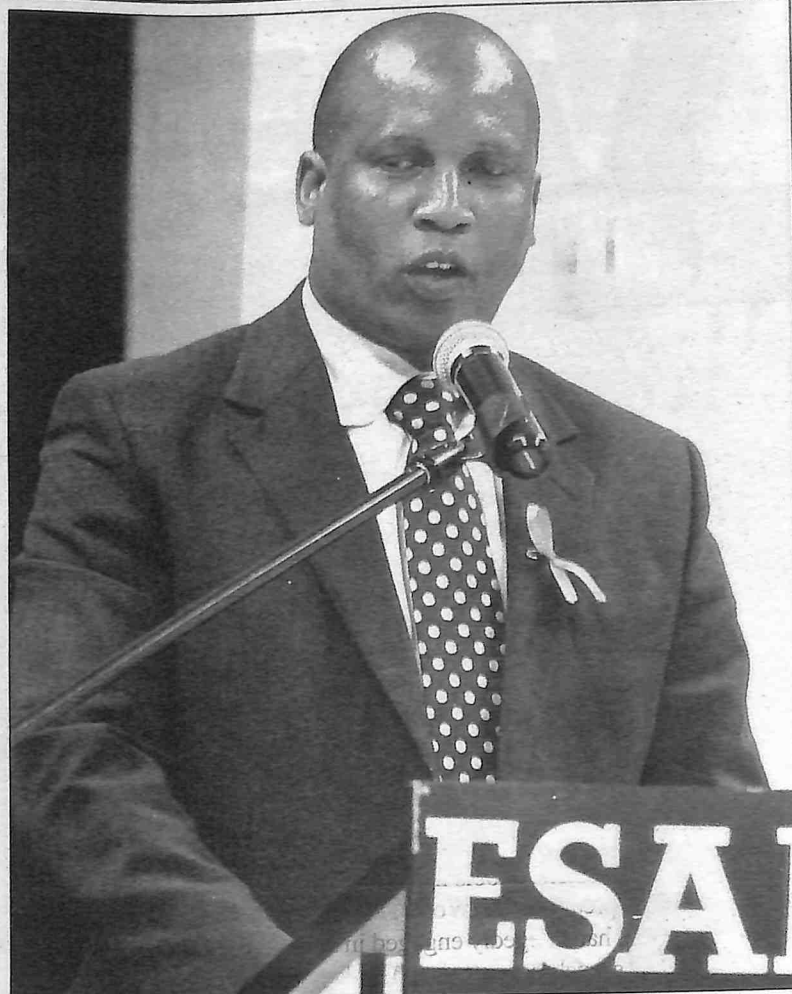
Bhembe and Mabila were a week ago arrested by the Serious Crimes Unit Officers (Lukhozi) with the assistance of the South African Hawks and have been charged with human trafficking and defeating the ends of justice.

Bhembe and Mabila are charged with human smuggling and defeating the ends of justice, an offence they allegedly committed along the country's border line.

In their affidavits filed in court last Thursday, they had submitted that they are not guilty of the charges preferred against them and will plead not guilty to same during trial.

Bhembe said he is a sickly person who has a heart condition and normally does medical check-up at Milpark Hospital in South Africa and is also

Bhembe and Mabila were a week ago arrested by the Serious Crimes Unit Officers (Lukhozi) with the assistance of the South African Hawks



DOING TIME: SWAPA President Mduduzi Bhembe.

asthmatic, further informing the court that he is a teacher by profession and resident at Ngculwini.

He said there is no reason for him to evade arrest since he is innocent of the charges preferred against him.

Likewise, Mabila submitted that he is an admitted attorney of the High

Court and should he be in continued incarceration, his job might be at stake since it is a consultative job.

He further stated that his mother is a sickly person who requires his daily attention, adding there is no way he can evade arrest, temper with evidence or be harmful to society.

SWADE
Making A Difference

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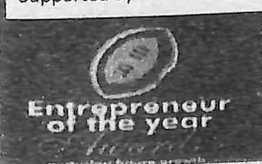
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SWADE
Making A Difference

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WEEKEND PROMO

SAVEMART

PROMOTION STARTS 07 APRIL UNTIL 09 APRIL 2017



AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING OUTLETS: MAHLANYA, MATHANGENI, NCENCE, LUYENGO

Montigny Usutu hosts Financial Wellness week

By Observer on Saturday Reporter

Montigny Usutu hosted a Financial Wellness Week, which was aimed at capacitating the company's employees regarding financial services products, savings and life cover.

The motivation for the initiative was due to the fact that end of the year has approached and the company would like the employees to start their new year on a well informed and decisive note regarding their future.

Attention

Staff members and employees attended at their own liberty and in different shifts in order for the different entities represented to be able to give the staff one on one attention when answering questions and when wanting to open accounts or policies.

The institutions represented were,

namely; SwaziBank, Standard Bank, Nedbank, African Alliance, Swaziland Royal Insurance Corporation (SRIC), Dups, Liberty Life Swaziland, Swaziland

Building Society, Asikhutulisane Savings and Credit Cooperative, Sanlam Investment Management, First National Bank, Metropolitan Swaziland, Old

Mutual and Swaziland National Provident Fund.

Montigny Usutu disclosed that it aims at empowering the staff and com-

munity wherever possible and looks forward to hosting more initiatives such as these in the future.



In The Woods Hosts Annual Charity Dinner

By Observer on Saturday Reporter

Mhlambanyatsi village recently came alive as In The Woods Guest House and Coffee Shop yet again hosted its annual ball this year themed 'A Night in Venice'.

According to Candace Kapp, the Manager of the guest house, the idea stemmed from bringing the community together as well as outsiders to see the beautiful changes in the community since the Montigny Usutu takeover from Sappi Usutu.

"The change in this community since the takeover of Montigny Usutu is amazing. This initiative is a brilliant way in order to bring not only the community and Montigny Usutu together, but for corporate companies and outsiders to see the beautiful change and hard work being put into the village since the takeover of Montigny.

"In the same way, we are able to assist the schools around us with basic needs such as food parcels and vegetable seedlings. We are really blessed to live in such a beautiful village," stated Kapp.

The evening saw many prestigious corporate entities attending such as Montigny Usutu, First National Bank Mbabane, Metropolitan, Real Image Internet and Old Mutual.

Montigny Woodworks donated furniture from their new specialised furniture shop, also located in Mhlambanyatsi village.

The attendees came out in fitting veneration themed attire and the evening was well enjoyed. Neal Rijkenburg opened the evening in prayer, and an auction led by Tharlene Ntombini, Montigny's PR and Communications Consultant saw E3 000 being raised.

"I am overwhelmed by the support Montigny Usutu and In the Woods has shown us," stated Arthur Thwala, Bhunya Primary Headmaster.

"This initiative will assist Bhunya Primary School immensely and I am so grateful to Montigny Usutu and In The Woods for what they are doing for us," Thwala stated.

"I cannot thank both the corporate and the community as well as those who support the guesthouse enough," stated Kapp.

"In The Woods is going to have more fantastic events and gatherings in the near future and we look forward to what is in store for us in this beautiful family environment. It is a very special place."



PUBLIC NOTICE



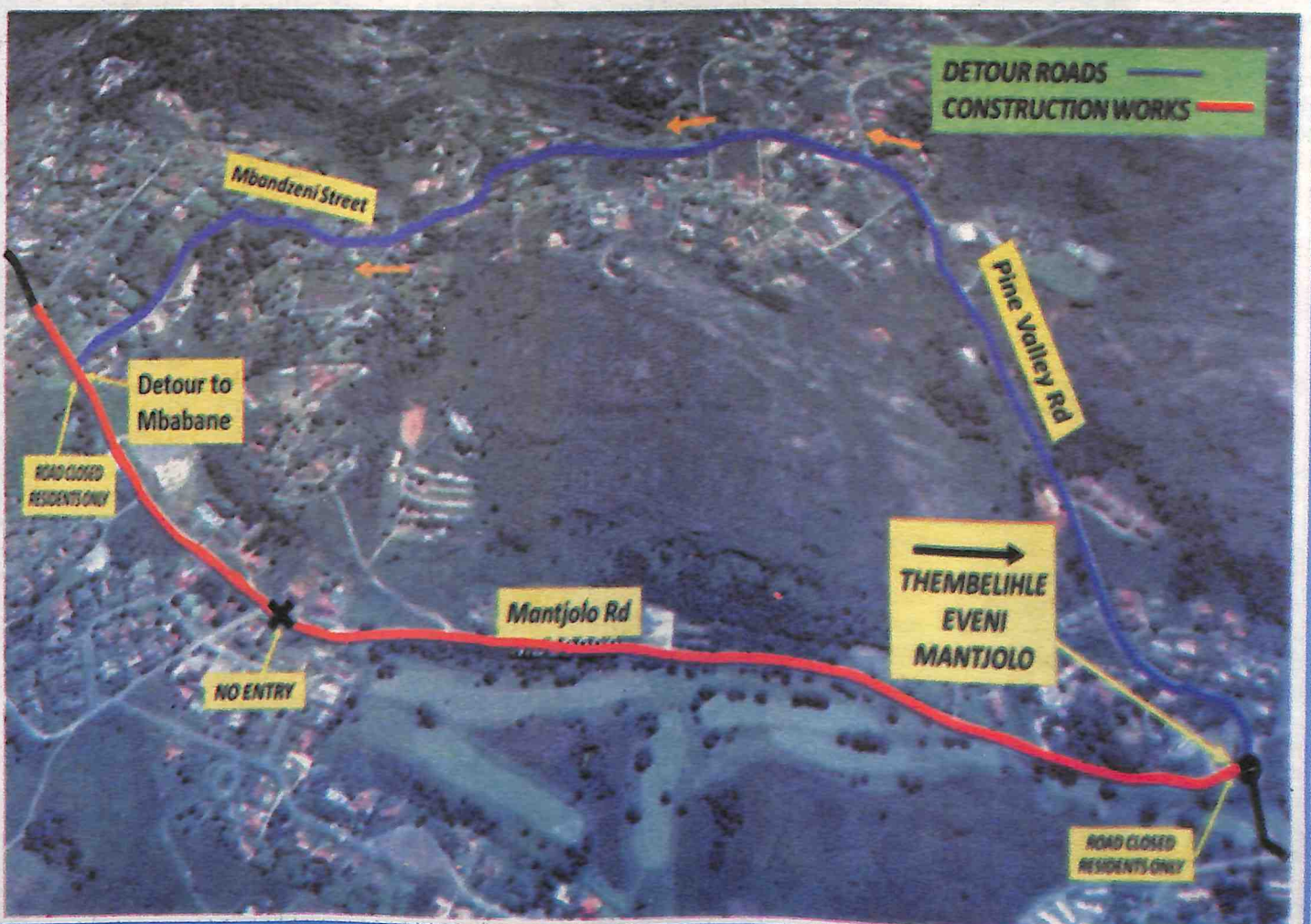
ROAD CLOSURE

Notice is hereby published in terms of Section 71(1) of the Urban Government Act No. 8 of 1969 that there will be a temporary road closure of a section of Mantsholo road for a period of four (4) months commencing on the **12th April 2017** to the **24th July 2017**.

The temporary road closure will be the section from the traffic circle intersection of Pine Valley/Mantsholo/ Gwamile road to the intersection of Mbandzeni Street/Mantsholo road. Road users may use any alternative route or the route from the intersection of Mantsholo road/Mbandzeni Street via Pine Valley road to Gwamile Street as shown below.

Any Inconvenience caused by the closure of this section of the street is regrettable.

Contact Person : Emmanuel Nsanzubuhoro (Project Manager)
Mobile : 76402991
Tel : 2518 4499 / 2518 6362



Strange auditors surface at Matsapha prison canteen

Sicelo Maziya

Following allegations of looting canteen monies at His Majesty's Correctional Services, arbitrary promotions, nepotism and corrupt practices, a can of worms has spilled once more.

Officers have called the Observer on Saturday seeking to reveal more dirt within the department. As early as Monday, officers called to disclose that following the ground breaking story in a rare occurrence, auditors were seen at the canteen meaning they might have been contracted over the weekend after the story.

However the million dollar question is who could have called in the audit firm to look into the books of accounts of the club without its members sanctioning same.

The question was posed to Public Relations Officer Bongani Khumalo on whether there was a committee or a board that ran the canteens and under pressure he said there was a board indeed in place. However, when he was asked to share the names of the board members along with their contact details, he failed to reveal them.

Question

The commissioner general had since told this publication that information was within the archives of the Swazi Observer. When the journalist adequately familiarised himself with past reports on the canteen, the question of ownership was never answered.

The question was also posed to the PRO following the audit of the canteen, with a view to understand on whose mandate was the audit team doing the audit of the canteens, why were there no monthly reconciliation statements to provide an understanding of how much the canteens made per month and where such money was utilised.

Khumalo stopped taking calls from this publication in almost all the numbers available. A text message was

● Following an investigative account of last week's edition seeking to establish who pockets the money from the massive sale of liquor at the country's correctional facilities



STRANGE: Cattle found in one of the farms of the commissioner general.

also sent to get clarity on the presence of auditors at the Correctional Services.

The audit firm was also contacted on who had hired them to audit a government institution without being given authority by any government official.

Transactions

An audit is an objective examination and evaluation of the financial statements of an organisation to make sure that the records are a fair and accurate representation of the transactions they claim to represent. It can be done internally by employees of the organisation, or externally by an outside firm.

The senior partner of the audit firm said they had been contracted by the

Correctional Services.

The senior partner alleged the canteens were different from the shops within the Correctional Services.

He said he knew about this because he had been doing the audit to other areas and he would be presenting his report in three weeks.

The senior partner contradicted himself when he said he had been doing the audit yet he had said the letter of appointment was given to him last week when he met the correctional top brass.

He said he had a letter of engagement from the commissioner general but also failed to answer on whose authority was he assigned to audit a

staff club without the knowledge of the members.

Exposed

The audit firm is seen as a ploy by officers to cook books and cover up vital information including the shenanigans that were exposed by the Observer on Saturday.

The law firm also disclosed information that they were appointed based on a sterling job they had done previously with the correctional department.

The senior partner pleaded with the journalist not to prejudge the outcome of the audit as they had an audit plan that would reveal everything if there was a need for a forensic audit that

would be recommended.

However, the partner failed to give a clear answer on why a government institution was audited by a private company. The senior partner could only say "it's too early to judge the outcome of the audit" disregarding the question of auditing a government institution.

The issue of nepotism that was strongly refuted by the commissioner general during an interview after it had been revealed that an officer who has been currently heading the Dog Unit was another typical example of nepotism in the department.

The officer is alleged to have been recruited from the Royal Swaziland Police (RSP) at a junior position and quickly elevated to a senior position.

Government has so many properties and assets, the ownership is always clear that they belong to the government of Swaziland.

However, it was not the case with the herd of dairy cattle at the Big Bend Prison. The dairy cattle are registered under the name of an individual, we can reveal.

Information also unexplained movement of two dairy cattle from Big Bend to Luyengweni dip tank. The PR Officer Bongani Khumalo did not respond to our calls.

Confirmed

We visited some farms and land in various chiefdoms in the Lubombo, Shiselweni and Manzini regions whose owner confirmed to be an official at the Corrections.

Some of the farms and land either had structures or land prepared and levelled for building, some had a number of cattle and one of the farms on the perimeters of Matsapha, towards Power Station 44, a herd of cattle was spotted being taken for meadow land (grazing) and they were confirmed to belong to the top official.

The commissioner general, on his part, told the journalist he bought cattle everywhere and that he also bought from people to help them as some approached him when they needed money desperately.

However, the number of properties and cattle the commissioner general owns was shocking for a government employee.

Officers who have been flooding the Observer on Saturday with the allegations want the commissioner general subjected to a life style audit.

Depression on the rise amongst Swazis

Sicelo Maziya

The country's analysis on depression is damming and lack of legislation for tackling depression is a course for concern to Dr. Violet Mwanjani.

The National Psychiatric Centre from January to December 2016 saw 381 females and 149 clients visiting for the first time. A shocking 3 529 females and 1 244 males are on the list of follow up clients with the centre.

The doctor also revealed a shocking number of males committing suicide which show men lacked coping mechanisms than women. The data revealed by Dr Violet Mwanjani showed 102 males and 23 females committing suicide from January to December 2017.

The doctor presenting at the Happy

Valley Hotel on World Health Organisation day revealed the country despite the alarming high number of patients visiting the Psychiatric Centre, the country has never attempted to make a study on the subject of depression.

Dr Violet said, "depression is a mood disorder which causes negative changes in feelings, thinking and behaviour. It is different from usual mood fluctuations with short-lived emotional responses to challenges in everyday life.

It affects people of all ages, from all walks of life with no geographical boundaries. It is very common and affects 121 million people worldwide (WHO 2012)."

Estimates of the prevalence of depressive disorders depends on patient population and method of ascertainment.

The doctor also revealed a two plan

solution for the challenges of depression in the country.

The doctor said individuals and care takers should understand that "there's no single and direct way to prevent depression but taking steps to control stress, is important. Friendship and social support, especially in times of crisis is crucial. Seek professional help as soon as possible because, treatment at the earliest signs of a problem can help prevent depression from worsening".

The other aspect of her plan was to policy and decision makers saying those at higher level should ensure availability of a mental health programme, good and up to date guiding documents; mental health policy, strategic plans, psychiatric treatment guidelines, training manuals, Mental Health Act etc.

The doctor further pleaded for ade-

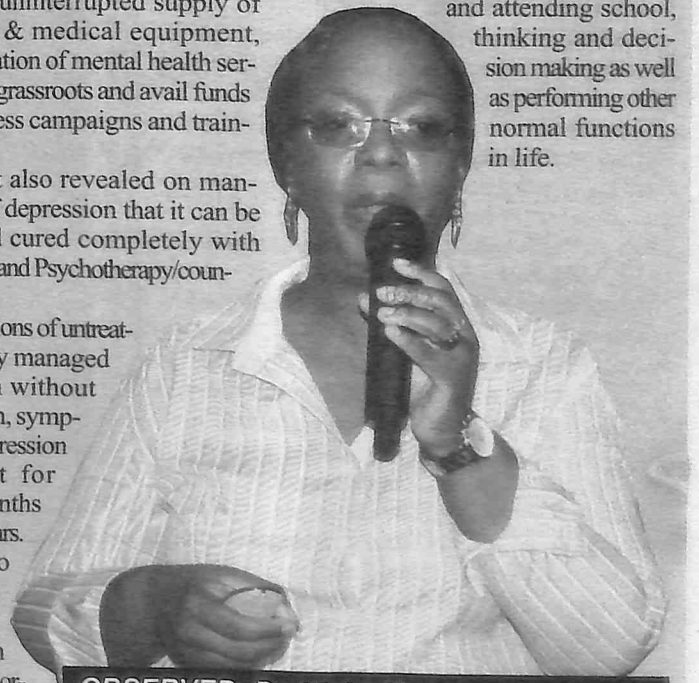
quate qualified mental health human resources, uninterrupted supply of medicines & medical equipment, decentralisation of mental health services to the grassroots and avail funds for awareness campaigns and trainings.

Dr Violet also revealed on management of depression that it can be treated and cured completely with medications and Psychotherapy/counselling.

Complications of untreated or poorly managed depression without intervention, symptoms of depression could last for weeks, months and even years.

She also said depression prevent people from conducting nor-

mal lives, such as maintaining a job and attending school, thinking and decision making as well as performing other normal functions in life.



OBSERVED: Dr. Violet Mwanjani.

SHISELWENI FOLK CAN LOSE FAITH IN JUSTICE SYSTEM - CROWN

- Had terror gang been released on bail
- They allegedly terrorised region in armed robberies
- High Court denies them bail

Stories By Sandile Nkambule

In its arguments over the opposing of bail for armed robbery suspects who allegedly terrorised the Shiselweni region, the crown stated Shiselweni folk would lose faith in the country's justice system.

Crown Counsel Beauty Fakudze

had submitted before High Court Judge Robert Magagula that if the three suspects were admitted to bail they would again cause a reign of terror and commit more crimes and the people of that region would lose faith in the justice system.

The three, Andile Vilakati, Thabani Nxumalo and Siphamandla Shabangu are facing a total of 14 counts rang-

ing from armed robbery to house breaking and theft.

Attacked

They allegedly attacked Cynthia Mkhatjwa armed with knives at her homestead, robbed her of her valuables and further robbed her of a 12 bore shot gun, which they in turn used in committing the rest of the crime they have been charged with as they



allegedly robbed shops and people.

The three were arrested by the Siphofaneni police after being sought by the Nhlanguano Serious Crimes Unit for the alleged offences. As part

of the ground of opposing bail, the crown further furnished the court with previous criminal records which indicated that some of them were involved in the robberies.

Moza man kills countryman after drinking spree

A Mozambican man has been indicted at the High Court for killing his fellow countryman after a drinking spree in Manzini.

Mario Zavale of Madonsa allegedly killed his countryman January Muthuki by planting a knife on his neck killing him instantly.

According to the indictment Zavale is said to have killed his country man while at Madonsa, an incident that happened in July 2016.

Celumusa Mgwahlaza also of the same area who has been cited as the first witness in the murder case, will according to the indictment, tell the court that he was invited by Michael

Zandamela and the deceased to come to their place for a drinking spree in the evening of the fateful day.

He will further state that he found Zavale and one Duduzile Maziya and started drinking until 10pm. After that drinking session ended they decided to go to Zavale's place where they continued enjoying more drinks.

Drinks

However, while still enjoying their drinks, they heard a knock at the door and Zavale asked who the person at the door was and it turned out to be the deceased.

Zavale refused to open the door but the deceased who had

also been drinking forced his way in by forcing the door open and told Zavale that *umjwayela kabi*.

Zavale then took an iron rod and assaulted the deceased on the head whilst Mgwahlaza was trying to separate them but failing and that was when Zavale entered his house, grabbed an okapi knife and planted it on the deceased's neck killing him instantly.

The witness tried to assist the bleeding deceased but it was already late as he had died and he then called the police who arrived at the scene.

Zavale was subsequently arrested and charged with murder.

NEWS EXTRA | NEWS EXTRA | NEWS EXTRA | NEWS EXTRA | NEWS EXTRA

Greece agrees on reforms to unlock bailout cash

VALLETTA - Greece agreed on a fresh set of reforms with its eurozone creditors yesterday with hopes that Athens could unlock bailout cash in time to avert a debt default just months away.

Eurozone finance ministers meeting in the Maltese capital of Valletta said Athens agreed on principle to the new reforms and technical teams would visit Greece as soon as possible to seal the deal.

"The big blocks have now been sorted out and now we just have the final stretch," Eurogroup Head Jeroen Dijsselbloem said after the talks.

Heavily-indebted Athens and the EU and IMF which handle the bailout had been deadlocked over reforms for months amid disagreements on debt relief and budget targets.

The deal is needed in order to stop the country from defaulting on its creditors as early as July when Athens owes about seven billion euros (\$7.4 billion) in debt repayments.

Dijsselbloem said the Greek government was now prepared to reduce pensions in 2019 and lower tax breaks in 2020 in return for a bailout payment



REFORMS: Protesters shouting slogans during a demonstration outside the Parliament building in central Athens, Greece.

despite widespread public opposition.

Greek Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos said the commitments would pass through Parliament as soon as possible, though the gamble depends on his Syriza party's razor-thin majority.

Boosted

Tsakalotos said his eurozone counterparts had also accepted that Greece boosted social spending if budget targets were met and that debt relief would also come back to the table.

"We will be ready for all the

pieces of the puzzle to fit in for the discussion on debt," said Tsakalotos, for whom debt relief is a key demand.

"I think we will have (a solution) well before summer," he added. The eurozone is under big pressure to end the feud in order to avert inflicting damage to a stalling Greek recovery. Despite projections for growth, the Greek economy actually stalled in 2016 and recent data shows that after some stabilisation, it has begun to falter again amid uncertainty triggered by the row. AFP



ICAP
GLOBAL. HEALTH. ACTION.
Columbia University
Mailman School of Public Health

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Health Research Training Program (H RTP) Fellows

The Swaziland Health Research Training Program (H RTP), a collaborative effort between ICAP at Columbia University, U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (PEPFAR/CDC) and the Ministry of Health (MOH), is offering qualified Swazi health professionals a one-year fellowship to build capacity in health research activities in Swaziland. Selected fellows will be trained on research design and implementation through didactic training modules and mentorship by experienced researchers.

During the training program, fellows will maintain their position and salary with their current employing institution. Each fellow will be expected to avail time periodically to work on H RTP-related activities including participating in ongoing research activities, developing new study protocols, and attending and completing six required training modules aimed at developing fellows' research skills.

The training program is one year in duration, with the opportunity for a second year of additional mentorship subject to funding availability.

Eligible candidates are post graduate health and related sciences professionals interested in health research, with some training or experience in clinical and epidemiologic research, and who are dedicated to public health in the Kingdom of Swaziland. Health professionals in government institutions who are in position to implement or utilise research and laboratory personnel are particularly encouraged to apply. Candidates with master's level training are preferred.

Interested candidates **must submit a complete application** that includes 1) a detailed CV; 2) an application letter; and 3) a letter of support from the current supervisor acknowledging the time commitment needed. *Partial applications will not be considered.* Complete applications should be submitted by **22 April 2017** to:

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Health Research Training Program (H RTP) Mentors

The Swaziland Health Research Training Program (H RTP), a collaborative effort between ICAP at Columbia University, U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (PEPFAR/CDC) and the Ministry of Health (MOH), is offering qualified Swazi health researchers an exciting opportunity to mentor selected fellows in a health research fellowship in Swaziland. Selected mentors will supervise fellows in research design and implementation, good clinical practice, and development of a research practicum. They will provide mentorship and support to fellows for one year, starting June 2017. Mentors will participate in a range of skills-building didactic modules.

Each mentor will be expected to volunteer 5-10% of their time periodically over the fellowship year to work on H RTP-related activities. This includes assisting the fellows on their assignments and research projects to build the fellow's research skills, such as development of concept notes and research protocols, and data analysis. This mentorship is a non-salaried activity (mentors will keep their usual jobs and salaries), but mentors and fellows will receive logistical support to fulfill their objectives.

Qualifications: Mentors should:

- have a post graduate degree in health and related sciences (preferably PhD level)
- be professionals with active or recent health research experience of at least 5 years in their area of specialty
- have significant exposure to clinical and epidemiologic research
- have participated in data analyses
- have published manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals
- be willing to devote voluntary time to the H RTP program

Previous experience in teaching or mentorship in health research-related activities will be an added advantage.

Applications:

Interested candidates should submit 1) a detailed CV; and 2) an application letter no later than **22nd April 2017**. Applications should be submitted to:

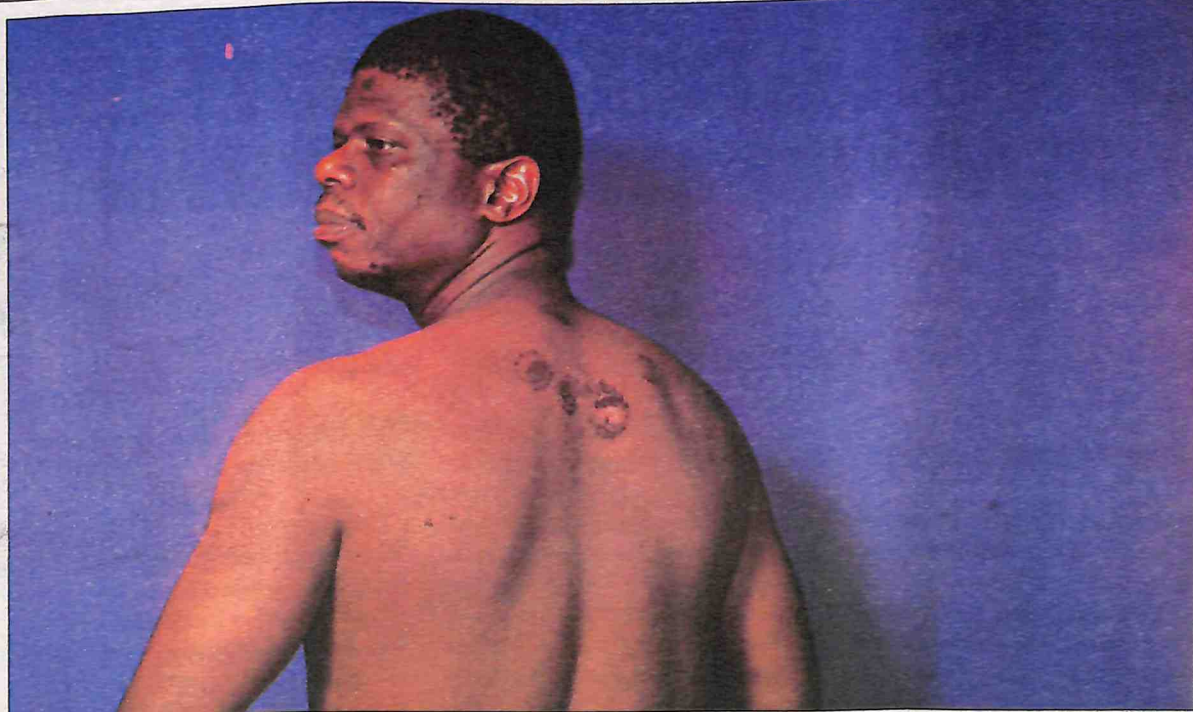
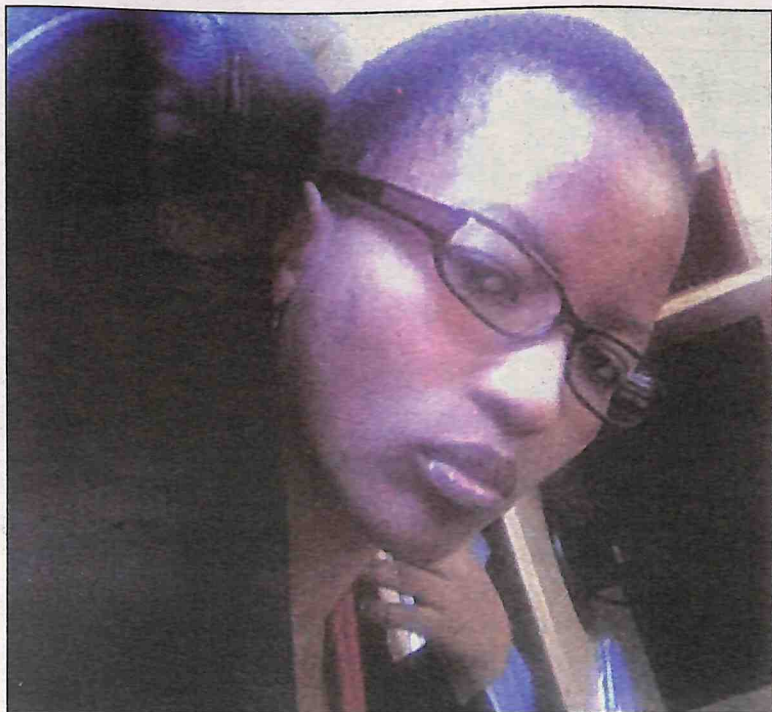
ICAP in Swaziland

JSM Matsebula road, Ligwalagwala Building

Tel: (+268) 2410-4881

Email address: icap-jobs-swaziland@columbia.edu

Attention: Nontobeko Dlamini, Research Officer



MEATY AFFAIR: Embattled Swazi TV News Editor Nkosinathi Dlamini (right) and his wife Lungile.



UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

The Vision of the University is to be
"The University of Choice in Africa"

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates to fill the following vacant positions at the University of Swaziland:

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION:

1. ASSISTANT DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS (STUDENT COUNSELOR)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

1. PROFESSOR/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND EXTENSION
2. ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR/SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE
3. SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE
4. LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE
5. PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
6. SENIOR LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
7. LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
8. SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND TEACHING
9. SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS AND MANAGEMENT
10. PROFESSOR/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR/SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT GENERAL NURSING SCIENCE
11. PROFESSOR/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
12. PROFESSOR/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR/SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT CHEMISTRY
13. PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING
14. ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND PLANNING
15. SENIOR LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND PLANNING
16. LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND PLANNING
17. SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
18. LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
19. PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
20. ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW (2 positions)
21. SENIOR LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW
22. LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STUDIES (Public Administration)
23. LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STUDIES (Political Science)
24. PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK

25. SENIOR LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK

26. SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW/RESEARCH FELLOW IN THE SWAZILAND INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE, MEDICINAL AND INDIGENOUS FOOD PLANTS (SIRMIP)

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION

1. Assistant Dean of Student Affairs (Student Counselor)

- A Bachelor's Degree in Counseling with 3 years experience in student counseling at tertiary level.
- A Master's Degree in Counseling will be an added advantage.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Full Professor-Associate Professor: PhD in the relevant field plus extensive research work supported by publications.

- Senior Lecturer: PhD in the relevant field plus teaching experience at tertiary Level.
- Lecturer: Master's degree in the relevant field plus relevant courses at Bachelor's degree qualification.

FOR DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.uniswa.sz

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

Local Candidates

Permanent and Pensionable service after successful completion of two years on probation; 10% Recruitment and Retention Allowance, Housing/Housing allowance and Medical Aid contribution.

Expatriate Candidates

Two-year contract with a possibility for renewal by mutual consent subject to satisfactory performance plus Gratuity, 10% Recruitment and Retention Allowance, Housing/Housing Allowance, Medical Aid contribution and relocation expenses.

Applications should be sent to:

The Registrar
University of Swaziland
Private Bag 4
Kwaluseni
Swaziland
OR
Email: recruitment@uniswa.sz

Only applications with the following shall be considered:

- An application letter
- A detailed CV
- Certified copies of academic and professional qualifications
- Certified copies of academic transcripts
- Three referees with their current email addresses

Closing date: Friday, 21st April, 2017

Due to the large volume of applications we receive, it is not possible to respond to each application individually. Should you not receive correspondence from the University 4 months after the closing date, please consider your application to be unsuccessful.

DOC:13274

Conclude criminal case against me - Swazi TV editor

By Ackel Zwane

Embattled Swazi TV News Editor Nkosinathi Dlamini has instructed his lawyer to request the court to proceed with the criminal trial to the end before reverting to a peace binding hearing as proposed by Magistrate Lucia Lukhele.

He was to return to court on Wednesday. Dlamini feels his image is at stake already after he had been portrayed in the duration of the hearing as some irresponsible personality who had to be dragged to court.

His discontentment is that he was the first to report the assault by his wife Lungile, who only laid counter assault charges the following day of November 23, 2016 but her complaint was the only one first acted on by the police.

He also told his lawyer Siphso Gumedze that he feels now it appears evidence is turning against the complainant in his case, as the prosecution wants to turn things round by abandoning the criminal case against him and jumping to that of peace binding; something they should have done in the first instance when he reported, especially now that they are claiming to be looking into the interests of children.

Dlamini also says he had to bare his body in court to demonstrate the extent of injuries inflicted on him by his wife for all to see and all that would go to waste if he would agree to the prosecution's sudden turnaround.

Dlamini had pleaded not guilty on Wednesday March 8 when the matter appeared before the magistrate at the Sigodweni police.

During the cross examination, the magistrate became concerned that in the midst of it all there were children born of the relationship between Nkosinathi and Lungile, whose rights could be

compromised if the evidence continued to trickle in court.

The magistrate then called both prosecution and defence to her bench where she expressed her misgivings that the evidence could not be helpful to the children of the married couple. That led to the adjournment of the case to Wednesday while considerations on the peace binding route were to be pondered.

However, Nkosinathi says the peace binding option had been made available early in the clash with his wife but was turned down even at family consultations level until the final assault on his body in which he suffered multiple injuries on his shoulders where he was allegedly bitten by his wife while he slept in bed.

On the night of November 23, shortly after

Nkosinathi says he was attacked by his wife, he went to report to the Sigodweni Police Station. He was even given the medical report form by the police, the RSP88 which was presented as evidence in court. This form he took to Mkhiwa Private Clinic in Manzini where he was treated and discharged.

It had become apparent at the hearing that Lungile had little or nothing

to produce in court as proof that she was attacked by her husband, proof in the form of sustained injuries, save that she claimed she was slapped several times.

Police also came under the wrath of the magistrate for mishandling the processes in that while Nkosinathi was first to report the criminal assault, his case was shelved but instead that of his wife was given precedence even though she only came to report that she was assaulted the following day, nearly 12 hours after the incident. The magistrate was further concerned that the couple could be 'extremely estranged' if the matter was to continue in that fashion.

His discontentment is that he was the first to report the assault by his wife Lungile who only laid counter assault charges the following day of November 23, 2016 but her complaint was the only one first acted on by the police

Kobolondo to beneficiate gold to 99.9% purity in SD

By Bodwa Mbingo

After the construction of a Central Gold Processing Plant and Gold Refinery in the country, Kobolondo Mining, within the 20-year rehabilitation process of the Bulembu Chrysotile Dump, will beneficiate gold to 99.9% in the country.

This refers to all gold mined in the country and the one that will be extracted from the Havelock Chrysotile Dump at Bulembu.

The company's officials this week clarified that Kobolondo Mining, as a condition of the mining lease granted to the company, will complete feasibility for the construction of a Central Gold Processing Plant and Gold Refinery in the country.



CITED: SRA Commissioner General Dumisani Masilela.

362 jobs at stake in Crooks Plantations, SRA battle

By Sandile Nkambule

At least 362 employees at Crooks Plantations stand to lose their jobs, should the Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA) collect a sum of E9 million from the sugar cane, citrus fruits farming company.

In fear that the company may shut down, it has ran to the High Court where its directors have filed an urgent application seeking an order to have SRA stay the collections of the money in respect of tax.

According to Crooks Plantations in its papers, they are seeking an order directing the Commissioner General Dumisani Masilela to set off in respect of tax liabilities of Value Added Tax (VAT) assessments in the sum of E9 032 321.12 against the VAT refund payable to the company in the sum of E1 114 568.7.

The commissioner general has been cited as the first respondent while the SRA has been cited as the second respondent in the matter which was before the Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala yesterday.

According to Kelvin William Gowran of the company, Crooks was actually in VAT credit position of E155 000. Making his brief submissions before the chief justice, lawyer Kenneth Simelane, who is representing the sugar cane company, applied that the order to have SRA stay the collection, be granted to his client.

He submitted that since this is a harvesting season, the company can be largely affected as it may shut down, a situation that may also see employees losing their jobs.

The matter was postponed to Thursday as it will be placed in the contested roll before another judge.

"These facilities would ensure all gold produced and mined in Swaziland, in addition to gold extracted from the Havelock Chrysotile Dump within the 20-year rehabilitation process, will be fully beneficiated to 99.9% purity in Swaziland.

"This is in accordance with the objectives of His Majesty's 2022 Vision. This Central Gold Processing would unlock the enormous gold mineral value of Swaziland by allowing gold miners to have their gold concentrates beneficiated in Swaziland," read a statement by the company that has since been granted lease to rehabilitate the asbestos remains at Bulembu.

It has been explained that the rehabilitation project will also extract a range of base metals from the chrysotile tailings, making use of sul-

phuric acid which will be a by-product of the gold beneficiation process.

This process is called leaching and will generate a magnesium sulphate.

It is this product that will need to be exported because the beneficiation of the magnesium sulphate into magnesium metal (the final end product) requires a massive smelter and base metal refinery.

Investment

These facilities will require substantial investment and is limited by the high price of power from ESKOM and the insufficient economies of scale. Therefore, the beneficiation of these base metals in Swaziland is currently seen as not economically viable for the country.

"It is imperative to note that this is first and

...Rehabilitation project at Bulembu will also extract a range of base metals from the chrysotile tailings and only magnesium sulphate will be exported because the beneficiation of the magnesium sulphate into magnesium metal (the final end product) requires a massive smelter and base metal refinery therefore requiring a close to E20 billion investment

foremost a rehabilitation project. The process of extracting the base metals from the Chrysotile tailings (dump) destroys the chemical composition of the remaining asbestos, leaving a safe and inert silica sand afterwards.

"The project, therefore, achieves three objectives, which is the tailings dump is rehabilitated; the Central Gold Processing Facility and Refinery will provide the platform for the re-emergence of the Swazi gold mining industry; and the extraction of the base metal concentrate will generate revenues and foreign exchange for Swaziland," further read the statement.



SWAZILAND NATIONAL PROVIDENT FUND

NOTICE: TO ALL EMPLOYERS

CHANGES IN THE LAYOUT OF THE NPF 200 FORM

The Fund is in the process of introducing the Personal Identification Number (PIN) as the primary member identification number as opposed to the current Graded Tax number. To ensure that this change process is seam-less, employers shall be required to submit both the members' Graded Tax number and the PIN on the NPF 200 Forms as per the spaces provided therein henceforth.

AMENDMENT

This development has necessitated the amendment of the NPF form to accommodate this new information. Subsequently, the columns for **year of birth** and **sex** have since been removed to create space for the PIN column.

NEW NPF 200 FORMS

The first NPF 200 form showing the above-named changes will be for the month of April 2017 going forward.

Employers' cooperation in this regard will be much appreciated. Should there be queries or requirement for additional information, please feel free to call our toll free number 800 6002.

Both the Electronic (Excel) and Printable Soft (PDF) versions are available for download from the SNPF website (www.snpf.co.sz).

**PRINCE LONKHOKHELA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Lidlelantfongeni Building, Corner Ngwane & Martin Streets, Manzini, P. O. Box 1857, M200
Tel: (00268) 2508 2000, Fax: (00268) 2508 2001 | Email: info@snpf.co.sz | Website: www.snpf.co.sz



SNPF_SD



Swaziland National
Provident Fund

SD IS WORLD'S FOURTH

By Bodwa Mbingo

...Chief among the many factors contributing to the nation's poor health is the HIV/AIDS epidemic and TB

Swaziland has been ranked the fourth least healthy country in the world.

This is according to 24/7 Wall St which stated that many factors contribute to the health of a population, and worldwide health varies to the extreme. While most Americans are aware that these global health disparities exist, a look at the health outcomes of each country's population reveals the extent of these massive health differences.

In the United States, which has its own well-documented health issues, the average person born today can expect to live to be about 79 years old. In the Southern African nation of Swaziland, life expectancy is three decades shorter. It should be noted that the US ranks behind 30 other nations in longevity.

Although it is certainly important, the quality of a country's health care system is not the only factor contributing to the health of a population. Poverty, the regional presence of disease, and health behaviours all help determine both quality and length of life. Reviewing health factors such as life expectancy, maternal and infant mortality rates, and the incidence of tuberculosis, 24/7 Wall St. identified the healthiest and least healthy countries. Based on their analysis, Iceland is the healthiest nation, while the Southern African nation of Lesotho ranks as the least healthy.

The relative affluence of a region can have wide-reaching implications on the health of its populace. Extremely poor populations are more likely to live in conditions that put them at greater risk of illness. They are less likely to be able to afford proper nourishment, and more likely to experience stress, which can affect health as well.

Those with little or no disposable income are also much less likely to be able to afford proper health treatment. On a national level, governments and private health enterprises with fewer resources are less likely to be able to provide needed treatment.

Greater health spending is by no means a guarantee of better health outcomes. For example, health spending per capita in the United States is higher than nearly any nation on Earth, but US health ranks behind dozens of nations on this list. However, there appears to be a minimum threshold of health spending necessary to maintain adequate public wellness. The world's healthiest nations tend to spend more on health than others, and in many of the least healthy nations, spending amounts to a tiny fraction of that in the most developed countries.

In each of the 10 healthiest nations, spending ranges from at least US\$1 610 per person to US\$9 674 per

person. Among the least healthy nations, health spending ranges from US\$570 per person in South Africa to just US\$15.60 per person in the Central African Republic.

The relationship between spending and health outcomes likely points not to prices of care, but to access and use of treatment. It is probably no coincidence that many of the healthiest nations have some form of government subsidised or wholly-funded health care. In Iceland, not only is health care provided by the government, but registration with a general practitioner is compulsory, which contributes to residents' access to care and increases preventive practices.

One of the major differences between the healthiest and least healthy nations is the presence of preventable illnesses. While tuberculosis, a treatable illness with an existing vaccine, has been effectively eliminated as a threat in most industrialised countries, it remains a serious problem in developing nations. TB's widespread presence in these nations points to an unsophisticated or inadequate health infrastructure, with minimal vaccination.

In the United States, there are just 3.2 new reported cases of TB per 100 000 residents annually. In South Africa, one of the least healthy nations, there are 834 new report-

ed cases each year per 100 000 people. In Swaziland, TB leads to seven per cent of all deaths, making it the third leading cause of death in the country.

While TB is a serious problem in many of the nations on this list, Americans are likely more familiar with another deadly illness, HIV/AIDS. While infection rates of the blood-borne virus have slowly subsided in the United States, the disease continues to decimate large segments of Africa, particularly in Southern Africa, where four of the 10 least healthy nations — Lesotho, Swaziland, South Africa, and Mozambique — are located. In Swaziland, nearly 30% of the population lives with the virus.

Below is how the least healthy countries have been ranked:

The Least Healthy Countries

10. LIBERIA

Life expectancy: 60.8

Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births): 52.8

Health expenditure per capita: US\$46
GDP per capita: US\$875

Still recovering from a bloody and destructive civil war in the 1990s, Liberia today lacks many of the infrastructural elements necessary for good public health. Less than 10% of the population has access to electricity, and roughly one in every four residents lacks access to sanitised water. Such poor access to basic necessities likely heavily contributes to Liberia's poor health outcomes, which are some of the worst on the planet. The infant mortality rate in

Liberia, at 53 deaths for every 1 000 births, is one of the highest of any country. While the maternal mortality rate in many advanced countries is less than five maternal deaths per 100 000 live births, in Liberia an average of 725 women die per 100 000 births — nearly the highest rate of any country.

9. SOUTH AFRICA

Life expectancy: 57.2

Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births): 33.6

Health expenditure per capita: US\$570

GDP per capita: US\$13 209

Tuberculosis, a potentially deadly disease primarily affecting young adults — common in impoverished countries — is a major problem in South Africa. There are 834 new incidents of tuberculosis for every 100 000 people annually, the highest TB rate of any country considered.

The country also faces a serious HIV problem. Nearly one in every five South Africans between the ages of 15 and 49 are HIV positive, one of the highest such shares in the world. A lack of education surrounding the disease may be partially to blame. The country's President, Jacob Zuma, famously claimed he once showered after having sex with an HIV positive woman to reduce the likelihood of being infected.

8. COTE D'IVOIRE

Life expectancy: 51.6

Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births): 66.6

Health expenditure per capita: US\$88
GDP per capita: US\$3 359

While there was relative peace in Ivory Coast for several decades after the country gained independence from France in 1960, a military rebellion in 2002 ignited a period of violence and instability that left thousands dead and much of the nation's infrastructure in disrepair. Just 56% of the Ivory Coast population today has access to electricity, and nearly one in five residents lack access to sanitised water. The average life expectancy at birth in the country of just 52 years is nearly the lowest in the world and 27 years less than the US life expectancy of about 79 years.

7. MOZAMBIQUE

Life expectancy: 55.0

Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births): 56.7

Health expenditure per capita: US\$42

GDP per capita: US\$1 192

Many Mozambicans lack access to basic infrastructure that people in healthier countries take for granted. Only about half of the country's population has access to clean water, and only 20% have access to electricity. Such access is even scarcer in the country's rural areas. Lack of access to modern amenities likely contributes to the country's low 55-year life expectancy.

Like many unhealthy countries, health spending in Mozambique is relatively low. Combined annual public and private health care expenditure amounts to only about US\$42 per capita. In comparison, annual US health care spending tops US\$9 400. Low investment in health care is partially the consequence of weak economic conditions. The country's official unemployment rate of 22.6% is among the worst in the world.

6. GUINEA-BISSAU

Life expectancy: 55.2

Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births): 60.3

Health expenditure per capita: US\$37
GDP per capita: US\$1 511

Childbirth is far riskier for both mothers and infants in Guinea-Bissau than it is in most other countries. Infants are over 10 times more likely to die within the first year of life in the West African nation than in the United States. Similarly, the maternal mortality rate during childbirth is nearly 40 times the US rate.

Progress, as measured by health outcomes, is likely hindered by inadequate infrastructure and education. For example, slightly more than half of the population of 1.8 million lives in rural areas, many of whom lack basic amenities. Only 60.3% of the country's rural residents have access to clean water, and 21.5% have access to electricity.

5. NIGERIA

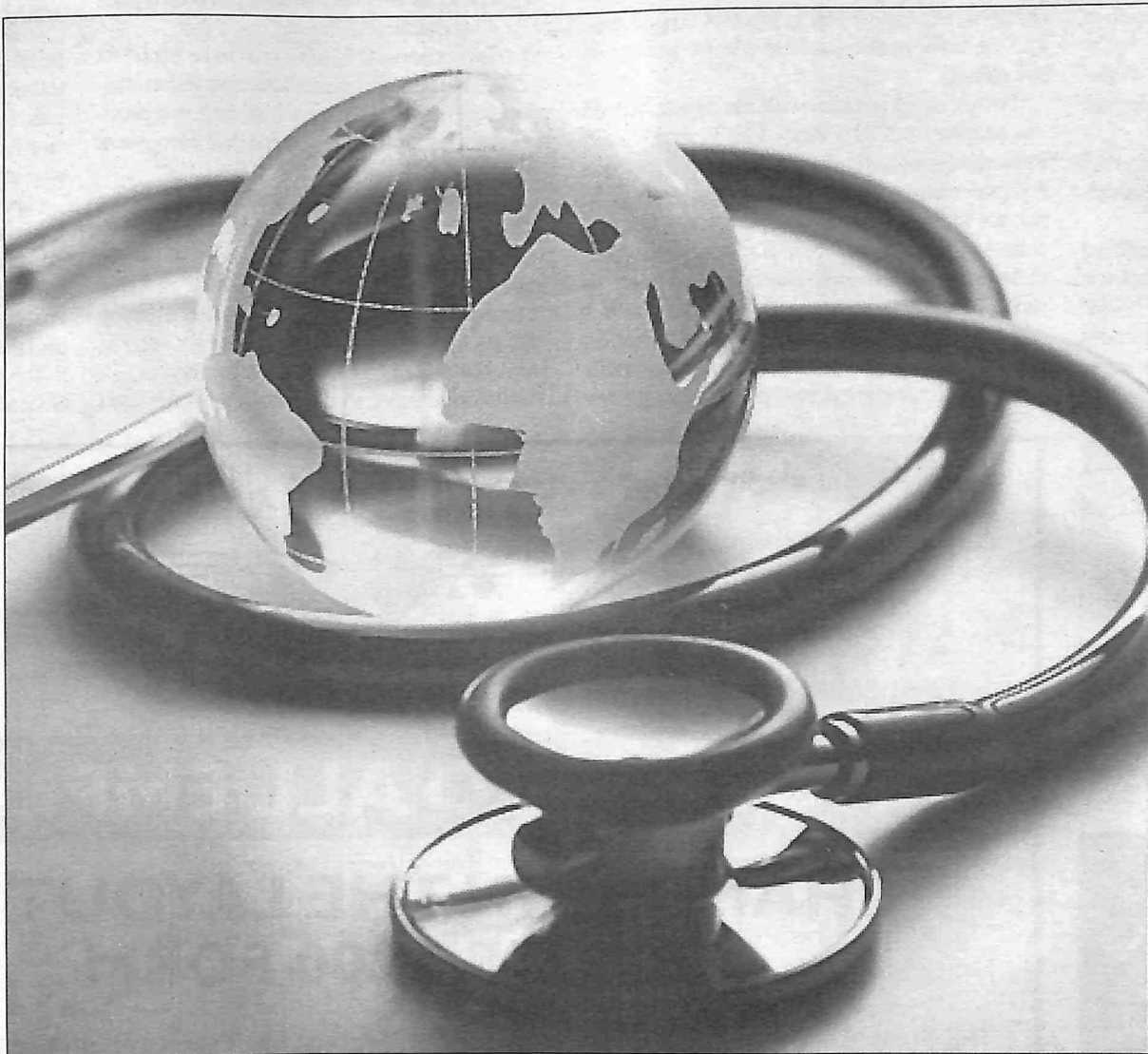
Life expectancy: 52.8

Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births): 69.4

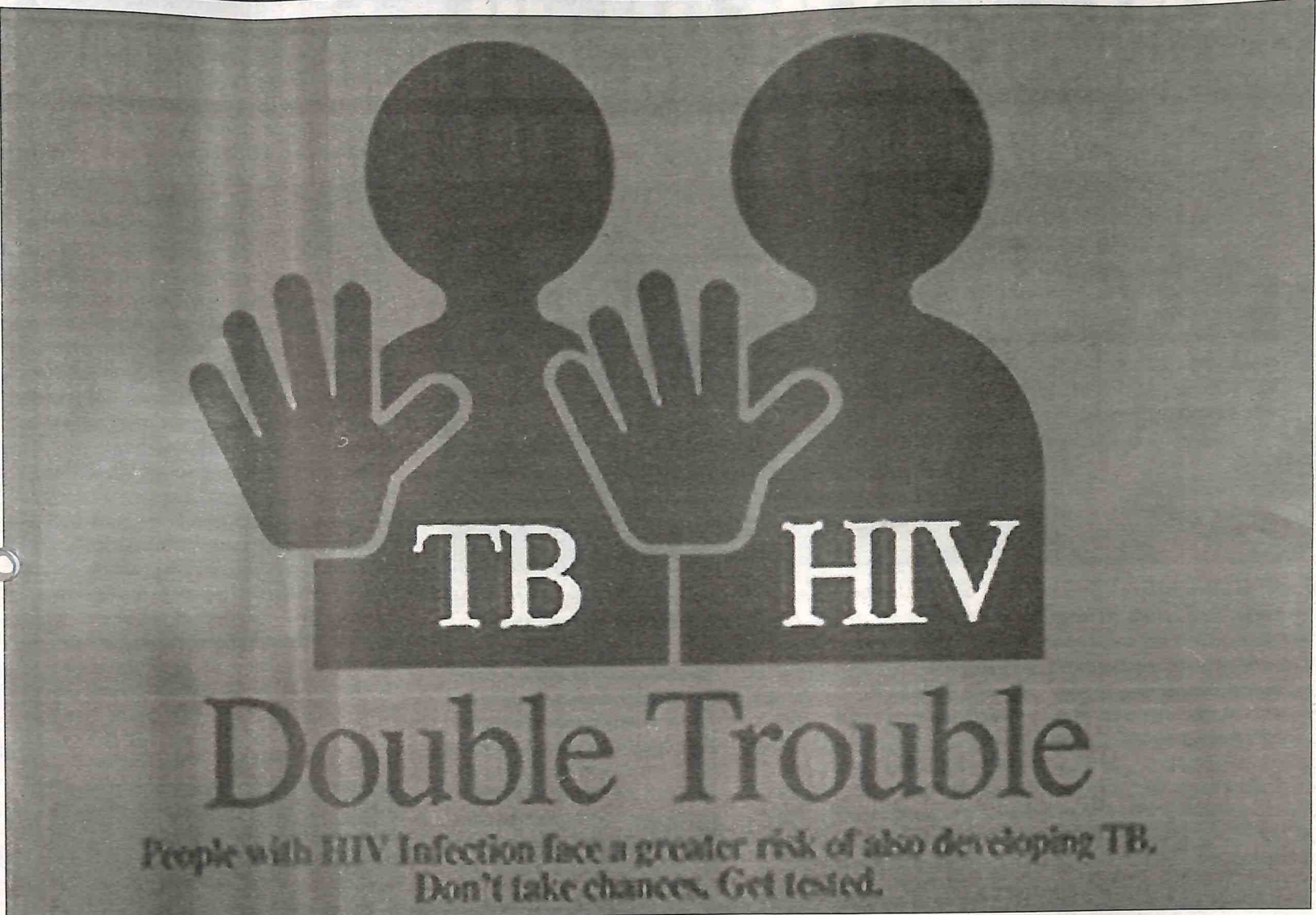
Health expenditure per capita: US\$118

GDP per capita: US\$6 121

Despite Nigeria's vast proven oil reserves — the second most of any country in Africa and the 10th most in the world — instability in the region has hindered foreign investment and limited economic development. Currently



LEAST HEALTHY COUNTRY



the seventh most populous country, Nigeria is expanding at a rapid pace and is on track to be the third most populous in the world by 2050. With resources spread thin across the nation, just US\$118 spent on health care per Nigerian annually, approximately one per cent of the health care expenditure for the average American. The country's average life expectancy at birth is just 53 years, 26 years less than the US life expectancy.

4. SWAZILAND
Life expectancy: 48.9
Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births): 44.5
Health expenditure per capita: US\$248
GDP per capita: US\$9 712
The average person born in the Southern African monarchy of Swaziland today is expected to live to be just 48.9 years old, 30 years less than the average person born in the United States today. Chief among the many factors contributing to the nation's poor health is the AIDS epidemic. According to UNICEF, Swaziland has the highest recorded incidence rate of HIV on Earth. The World Bank estimates that a staggering 28.8% of the population aged 15-49 is afflicted with the virus.
HIV/AIDS is not the only deadly disease presenting a national health crisis in Swaziland. The country has nearly the highest annual incidence rate of tuberculosis. Approximately seven per cent of deaths are due to TB, making it the third leading cause of death in the country.

3. SIERRA LEONE
Life expectancy: 50.9
Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births): 87.1
Health expenditure per capita: US\$86
GDP per capita: US\$1 593
Indicative of poor overall health and health care facilities, child birth is significantly more deadly in Sierra Leone than anywhere else in the world. Some 1 360 mothers die during childbirth for every 100 000 live births each year, by far the worst maternal mortality rate of any country considered. Not surprisingly, life expectancy is also extremely low. At birth, the typical Sierra Leone resident is expected to live only 50.9 years.
Sierra Leone resembles most other unhealthy countries in several measures. Slightly more than 60% of the country's 6.3 million residents live in rural areas, and many lack basic amenities. Only 47.8% of the nation's rural population has access to clean water, and almost none have access to electricity.
2. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
Life expectancy: 50.7
Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births): 91.5
Health expenditure per capita: US\$16
GDP per capita: US\$628
Infant and maternal mortality rates are often used as proxies for both the health of the population and the quality of the health system. In Central African Republic, about 880 mothers die for every 100 000 live births, and roughly 90 children die before the age of one for every 1 000 live births — each nearly the highest rate in the world.

The country's poor health outcomes are also tied to conditions accompanying extreme poverty, such as the population's minimal access to medical treatment and healthy food. The nation's GDP per capita of US\$628 is one-89th the U.S GDP per capita. As might be expected, annual health spending in CAR is also extremely low, at just US\$16 per person. In dozens of nations, at least US\$1 000 is spent per person on health.
1. LESOTHO
Life expectancy: 49.7
Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births): 69.2
Health expenditure per capita: US\$105
GDP per capita: US\$3 003
Lesotho is encompassed entirely by South Africa, another country with some of the worst health outcomes in the world. Like its neighbour, both TB and HIV are major problems in Lesotho. For every 100 000 people, there are 788 new cases of tuberculosis annually, and 22.7% of country residents aged 15-49 are HIV positive — each the second largest share of any country with available data. Some unhealthy behaviours vary considerably by gender. While only 0.4% of women smoke, slightly more than half of men do.
Like many unhealthy countries, Lesotho is primarily rural. Only 27.3% of the country's 1.9 million residents live in urban areas, which tend to have greater access to basic amenities like electricity and clean water.
Below is how the world's healthiest countries have been ranked:
The Healthiest Countries
10. SPAIN

Life expectancy: 83.1
Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births): 3.5
Health expenditure per capita: US\$2 658
GDP per capita: US\$34 861
9. NORWAY
Life expectancy: 81.8
Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births): 2.0
Health expenditure per capita: US\$9 522
GDP per capita: US\$6 8591
8. SWITZERLAND
Life expectancy: 82.8
Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births): 3.4
Health expenditure per capita: US\$9 674
GDP per capita: US\$5 8647
7. UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
Life expectancy: 77.4
Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births): 5.9
Health expenditure per capita: US\$1 611
GDP per capita: US\$6 7217
6. FINLAND
Life expectancy: 81.1
Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births): 1.9
Health expenditure per capita: US\$4 612
GDP per capita: US\$4 1109
5. Sweden
Life expectancy: 82.0
Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births): 2.4
Health expenditure per capita: US\$6 808
GDP per capita: US\$4 8199
4. SINGAPORE
Life expectancy: 82.6

Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births): 2.1
Health expenditure per capita: US\$2 752
GDP per capita: US\$8 5382
3. ITALY
Life expectancy: 82.7
Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births): 2.9
Health expenditure per capita: US\$3 258
GDP per capita: US\$35 781
2. JAPAN
Life expectancy: 83.6
Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births): 2.0
Health expenditure per capita: US\$3 703
GDP per capita: US\$38 142
1. ICELAND
Life expectancy: 82.1
Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births): 1.6
Health expenditure per capita: US\$4 662
GDP per capita: US\$45 666

The small nation of Iceland ranks as the healthiest country in the world. Iceland performs better than most nations in life expectancy, infant and maternal mortality, and incidence of diseases like tuberculosis.
Like many of the healthiest nations, health spending is quite high in Iceland, with the equivalent of US\$4 662 per capita spent on health care. Iceland has a state-funded, universal health care system. Icelanders are also required by law to register with a physician, which may further increase the frequency with which residents receive preventative care.
Methodology
To determine the most and least healthy countries, 24/7 Wall St. reviewed infant mortality rates (per 1 000 live births), maternal mortality rates (per 100 000 live births), life expectancy at birth, and the incidence of tuberculosis — a widely-used approximation of disease incidence — in 170 countries from data published by the World Bank. "We normalised values using the min-max method and took the geometric mean to compare countries."
"Up-to-date health measures comparable globally are often very limited. We only considered data that was available for at least 75% of the countries on our list, and we excluded countries with fewer than 250 000 people. We used data for the most recent year available."
"In addition to health measures used in the ranking, we collected data on access to health services. We looked at the share of a country's population with access to clean water, clean air, and electricity — all data came from the World Bank."
"We also reviewed per capita health expenditure by public and private sources, as well as adult literacy rates, unemployment rates, population counts, and smoking rates." *All economic data came from the World Bank.*

SIPA TELLS CLEANERS: EMPLOYMENT ENDS APRIL 30

...ATUSWA intervenes, calls for emergency meeting last Tuesday in which parastatal was to justify why it was taking the work of the cleaners to give private companies

Stories by Ackel Zwane

April 30 is the final day at work for the 17 Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority cleaners based at the Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre.

Amalgamated Trade Union Congress of Swaziland (ATUSWA) Secretary General Wonder Mkhonza, says on receipt of the letter from SIPA informing the union that they were rendering the workers redundant, retrenched or retired, they immediately wrote back the other week to demand clarification, more especially because the reaction came after the cleaners intimated that they would want their issues handled through their union. Mkhonza says the meeting was scheduled first for last week Friday but had to be rescheduled to last Tuesday to allow for the series of meetings the union has with the visiting International Labour Organisation team.

On the other hand, the cleaners say they wonder why management was now issuing letters to them coming from the board because all along the board had not been in existence in that it had not been involved until their grievances were reported to the minister and to Parliament, through Manzini South Member of Parliament Owen Nxumalo.

The board had also not been involved when then minister Gideon Dlamini promised to look into the grievances submitted by the cleaners but now resurfaces to say it owns the retrenchment exercise. They say it was the same board



TO BE CLEANED OUT: A snap of SIPA cleaners taken secretly while they were chatting over the lunch hour several weeks ago at the height of growing threats that they would all be sent home by the CEO. (Pcs: Ackel Zwane).

that sent the Chief Executive Officer, Phumelele Dlamini, on special leave but she refused to honour the instruction saying she was hired by the prime minister, it is now baffling as to why the board can now turn around and give her instructions. "In the corporate governance of SIPA, the board of directors report to the CEO, which is unheard of the world over," say the workers.

PM

The working environment has turned bitter at the Trade Centre, especially in the presence of an inspector of works who is alleged to be telling the workers in the face that they are on their way out 'ngoba vele niyahamba'. During the preparations for the trade fair opening, a company associated with the inspector suddenly emerged from nowhere to do work that is otherwise done by the cleaners. The

cleaners say when they arrived at Mavuso in 2014 the government trade exhibition facility was in shambles and they worked their back backwards to turn it around given the prospects of employment. They immediately made it viable for Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini's wedding to Joy Maziya and for the King's birthday celebrations of the same year over and above preparing the facility for the international trade fair but now their work is being given to companies owned by relatives of those in top management at SIPA.

At the SEDCO Pavilion, for instance, another company has already been contracted to do work otherwise that should have been done by the cleaners.

The company is painting the pavilion following that it housed burnt goods from Power Stores in downtown Manzini.

Mkhonza says the union is aware that the intended outsourcing is to give work to companies owned by those close to top management so they can benefit indirectly, an argument that will also be on the table for management to answer in trying to explain the reasons for the retrenchments, redundancy or outsourcing.

Meanwhile the cleaners in Manzini submitted 17 grievances to management while those in Mbabane also submitted 36 of their own; all complaining about the style of management and abuse of office from the top. It is feared that the sudden silence by the commerce minister on the plight of the workers, despite they having alerted him and he having promised to act on same when he sent then Principal Secretary Jinnoh Nkambule to address them, all because he bears the same family name as the SIPA CEO.

Produce resolution giving CEO those powers, ATUSWA tells Board

Amalgamated Trade Union Congress of Swaziland (ATUSWA), before anything could be deliberated upon regarding the fate of the cleaners, wants the board to provide an authentic copy of the resolution taken by the SIPA Board of Directors instructing the chief executive officer to hire, fire and give direct instructions to cleaners at the Mavuso Trade Centre.

This comes after a series of failed attempts to realise talks between the union and SIPA representatives. Wonder Mkhonza, the Secretary General of the union, said they had met and agreed previously that the representatives at the talks would bring with them proof of an instruction from the board to the CEO giving her the mandate to take decisions unilaterally. However, for over a week, the proof has not been forthcoming until yesterday when the meeting was again shifted to Thursday and thereafter April 18.

"If there is no such resolution, then the process will have to collapse to revive only after the resolution is provided to us. It is only then that we can restart the process of negotiating on behalf of our members, the cleaners. We basically want to discuss why they take away the work of the cleaners to give it to others where they have vested interests, the idea is at least to force them to give the cleaners the tender instead of dismissing them. If they go ahead with their decisions to remove the cleaners, we shall have no option but to rush to court to stop them."



SUBSTITUTE: This man captured painting the SEDCO pavilion is employed by a company that has been hired already to take the work of the cleaners.

Bandiswa releases 'Story of a psychologist' book at 18

By Nomfundo Sifundza

It took nine months only for an 18-year-old girl to compile and publish a book in which she tells the story of a psychologist.

The former Sifundzani High School pupil said she has always wanted to explore the world and paths that are less travelled by her peers and age mates.

Bandiswa Vilane's book titled 'Broken Affections' was released on Monday and made available for sale on online store 'Amazon.'

Worth noting is that psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and its functions, especially those affecting behaviour in a given context. In turn a psychologist is then an expert in this field.

The 18-year-old poetess and playwright has a history of public speaking but her desire to share something more deep and realistic with a larger and older audience

propelled her to gather all the words in her faculties into one book.

The book tells the story of a Swazi born psychologist who left the country in pursuit of greener pastures and a clean slate as she tried to forget her dark past.

"During her stay in America, her past haunts her and she later gives birth to a child that she encounters problems in raising because she is emotionally tied to her past," Bandiswa elaborated.

However the youngster refused to unpack all details of the story as she said she would only do so if it sold out as many copies as possible.

In 127 pages, single mothers could learn a thing or two from this book as the youngster said it was written with a single mother at the back of her mind.

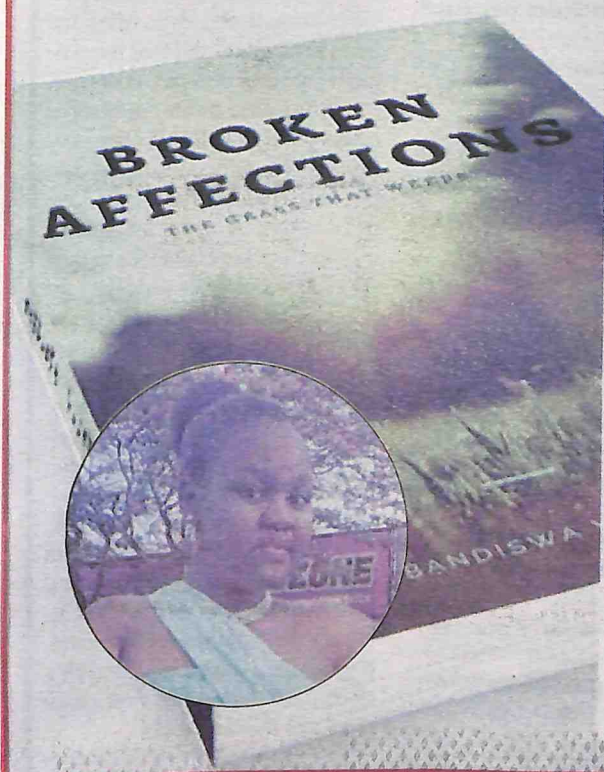
Asked if she was raised by a single mother herself, Bandiswa laughed and said "well I was raised by both parents and I am the third in five children."

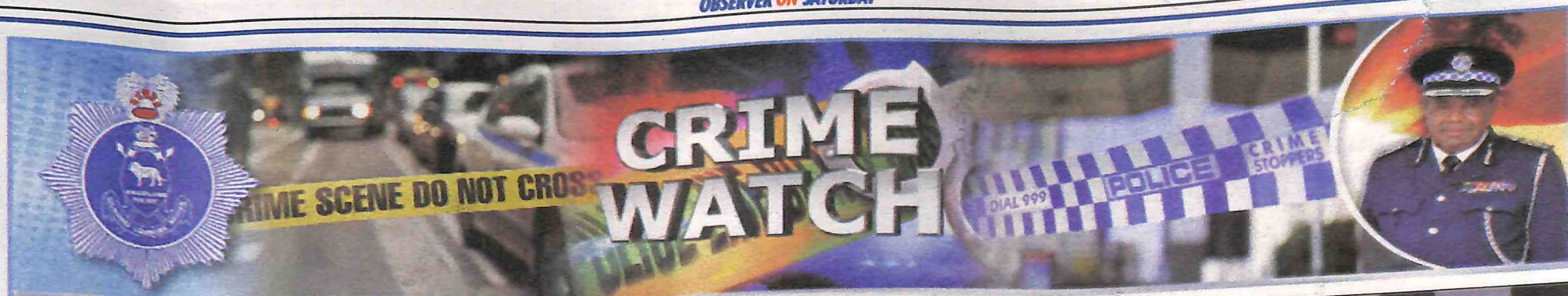
Bandiswa, an English Language and Literature 'A' pupil said her failure to obtain an A in her Form Five final examinations could not hold her back into pouring out the best of her English Language knowledge in a book.

"I believed in myself and my English Language teacher also encouraged me saying she knew in her heart that the B symbol I came out with was a good result despite that they had anticipated an A* from me."

Bandiswa ironically does not want to pursue journalism or anything to do with writing in tertiary as she declared her interest in Economics. She also confessed her love for Philosophy but her utmost fear was not finding a job upon graduating.

The youngster is yet to host a launch of the book in which she hopes to have people who would benefit from reading it, the main target of course being single mothers.





POSE: National Commissioner Isaac Magagula and a member of his delegation posing with INTERPOL's Vulnerable Communities team.



FOLLOWING: The national commissioner and Inspector Mazwi Ndzimandze following proceedings.

NATIONAL COMMISSIONER HONOURS INTERPOL INVITATION

The National Commissioner of Police - Isaac Mmemo Magagula honoured an invitation from INTERPOL structures to attend an international Security Conference held in Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates (UAE).

When attending this three-day Conference (March 28-30) for ministers, police chiefs, senior government officials and representatives from the private sector, the national commissioner was accompanied by the Head of Criminal Investigations in the Lubombo Region - Senior Superintendent Sikhumbuzo Fakudze and an officer from the Police Information and Communications Office - Inspector Mazwi Ndzimandze. The conference was co-sponsored by INTERPOL and the UAE government under the theme "Unity for Security - Responsibility for a Safer World". Its purpose was to facilitate the sharing of best practices among Law Enforcement Agencies and the Private Sector tackling Terrorism, Organised and Emerging Crimes and Cybercrime which are proving to be a major threat to global security.

In confronting these global threats, INTERPOL developed a five-year systematic project funded by the UAE government to the tune of \$50M to focus on crimes affecting vulnerable categories, global terrorism, cybercrime, vehicle crime and illicit drug trade. The money will be staggered in \$10 million installments annually over the five-year strategy execution timeline.

During the meeting which was officially opened by the UAE Minister for Interior - His Highness Lieutenant



PARTICIPATING: Magagula and Senior Superintendent Sikhumbuzo Fakudze during the conference.

General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, participants noted that human trafficking and people smuggling continue to cause human suffering with women and children being abused and exploited at an alarming rate. These phenomena which are modern forms of slavery are perpetuated and perpetrated in a syndicated fashion across global jurisdictions through a maze of deception as victims are promised employment only to be turned into sex or labour slaves. In some cases, children are remotely exploited through the internet for online pornography to audiences across the world which can be damaging and polluting to young minds.

On global terrorism, case study of recent terrorism incidents in various countries around the world showing the ugly face of this form of criminality and the malicious loss of innocent life it results in were reviewed.

The meeting explored vehicle crimes

as the theft, trafficking and smuggling of motor vehicles across jurisdictions which has adverse effects on the economies of countries particularly on insurance companies. The observation was that vehicles are stolen, smuggled and trafficked for the furtherance of other organised crimes such as terrorism and robberies.

On cybercrime, the meeting noted that this was a worldwide phenomenon with devastating effects on the economies of all jurisdictions which takes place mainly through the manipulation and hacking of computer systems, taking advantage of the exponential explosion of the internet and other financial technologies that are used in the banking sector.

Also explored was illicit drug trade and trafficking which continue to be a major challenge for all countries. It was observed that proceeds from drug dealing were the life blood of

organised crime cartels used in committing other forms of crime such as terrorism.

Participants resolved that to confront human trafficking and smuggling effectively, there was need to strengthen the intra-country legislative frameworks to deter perpetrators. Countries were urged to be more vigilant and circumspect to avoid being caught up in the web of criminality as either places of origin, transit and destination of trafficked humans. On terrorism, the most viable counter strategy identified was building strong intelligence to identify and monitor the movements of terrorist suspects.

To combat vehicle theft, an urgent need for a vibrant mechanism of motor vehicle profiling based on vehicle registration and owner verification was recommended. There was also emphasis on public education on measures to prevent vehicle theft such as the installation of tracker systems and anti-theft gadgets. On Cybercrime, countries were urged to have internal cybercrime interdiction strategies that would enable cooperation with other entities in the financial sector which will be based on trust and confidence. In combating drug dealing and trafficking, the resolution was to conduct joint operations to dismantle syndicates, arrest couriers and seize drugs.

Strategies identified as applicable in combating all the phenomena included the need for capacity building, information sharing, collaboration and cooperation between law enforcement and the private sector to facilitate the exchange of vital intelligence and expertise to combat these

global threats.

During the sidelines of the Conference, the national commissioner had a private meeting with the UAE Minister for Presidential Affairs, His Highness Shaikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan where they shared ideas on policing systems and models.

This was cognisant of the low crime rate in that country as a result of professional policing and crime prevention frameworks in place. His Highness extended an invitation to the national commissioner for future visits to the UAE where policing models could be discussed in greater detail.

The Swazi delegation also met with INTERPOL officials who are experts in crimes affecting vulnerable categories to solicit support to combat this form of criminality which is proving to be a menace in Swaziland. Following these discussions, the INTERPOL officials pledged to avail their services to come to Swaziland to assess the extent of the problem as well as to craft a dedicated strategy to deal with the phenomenon. They further invited Royal Swaziland Police Service officers involved in dealing with cases affecting vulnerable categories to attend a regional workshop due to be held in Cape Town.

The delegation from Swaziland further visited and held discussions with the Swaziland Ambassador to the UAE - Prince Geina who undertook to follow-up on the discussions held by the national commissioner and the minister for presidential affairs.

Compiled by police information and communications office.

TAIWAN MEDICAL MISSIONS REACHES OUT TO 500 AT MTSAMBAMA

By Bodwa Mbingo

The Taiwan Medical Mission in Swaziland continues intervening in the breaking of the clutches of poverty that prevents disadvantaged communities from accessing proper and timely health care around the country.

This is done through the mission's outreach programme where medical experts from Taiwan, courtesy of the mission, go around the country to administer free medical check-ups and treatment to all community members, especially the elderly, who can no longer travel long distances to access such. The Mtsambama Inkhundla community at Hlatikulu in the Shiselweni region was the last beneficiary of the benevolent gesture extended by the Taiwanese government in the country. At least 500 residents from this area received treatment from a total of seven medical practitioners, who dedicated the entire day of last Saturday to take care of this needy community.

This was a combined service of medical outreach and donation of food parcels as the Mtsambama people's day started with them receiving food and clothing from Tex-Ray Charity under the Tex-Ray Group in the country. This took place at the Salem Primary School under Mtsambama Inkhundla and Tex-



ONE ON ONE: Dr Shih Neng Shuan talking to two patients at Salem Primary School. This was during the Taiwan Medical Mission's outreach programme at Mtsambama Inkhundla last week. (Pics: Bodwa Mbingo)

Ray Charity donated an estimated E600 000 in the form of rice, cooking oil, mealie-meal, clothes, and blankets. The organisers of the event included the Taiwan Medical Mission, Tex-Ray Group, Taipei Medical University Hospital and the Taiwan foreign mission in the country.

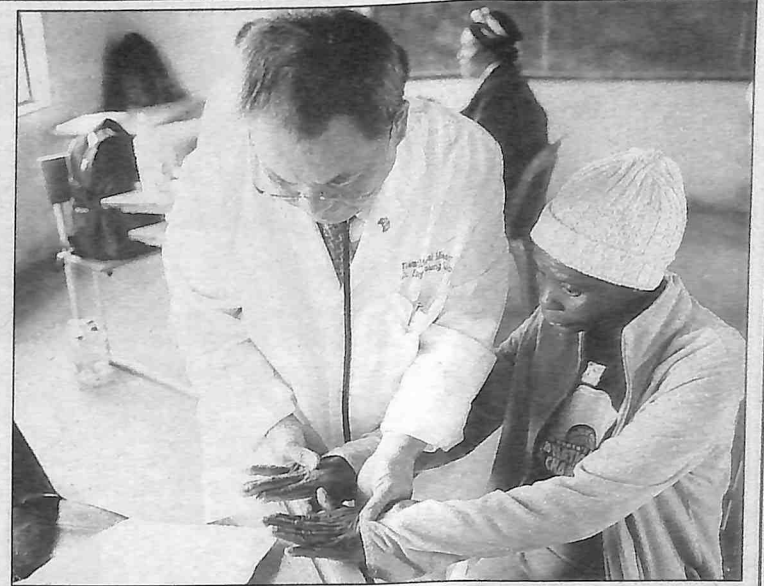
The medical specialists in the check-ups concentrated on, amongst others body weight, body height, blood sugar, BP, and physical check-up. On the consultation aspect there were three specialists of general surgery, internal medicine, orthopedics, neurosurgery, allergy-immunology-rheumatology, and five general practitioners.

The team of doctors was made up of the Mission's Chief Dr Tu Chi-Cheng (Neurosurgeon), the Deputy Chief Dr Liao Say-Tsung (Rheumatologist),

Shih Neng-Chuan (Orthopedic) as well as Chen Kuan, Chiu Hsu Huai, Chang Sheng-Jie and Chen Po-Jui, who are all medical officers. The team was completed by volunteers from the Taiwan Technical Mission and Amitofo Care Centre (ACC).

Republic of China on Taiwan Embassy Minister Counsellor Liang reiterated his country's stance in continuously assisting the disabled, elderly and needy through their various missions in the country. "Taiwan is honoured to be Swaziland's development partner," he said briefly.

Philani Maswati Charity Organisation Chairman Lutfo Dlamini, who was also present during the event, thanked the Taiwanese government for the series of outreach gestures around the country.



EXAMINATION: Dr Liao Say Tsung checking this community member's hands during an examination.



LET'S SEE: The doctor examining this woman's arm.



POSE: Some members of the Taiwan Medical Mission to Swaziland and volunteers pose for a group photo during the event.



ATTENDED: Mtsambama residents queue to be attended to by the medical practitioners.

Mpolonjeni receives E257 187 sorghum mill

By Sicelo Maziya

A sorghum mill that will benefit about 120 farmers associations has been handed over to Mpolonjeni Constituency where the mill will be based.

The mill will benefit many farmers as it's an initiative for sorghum farmers and is most likely the sorghum beneficiaries will be constituencies as far as Lugongolweni, Matsanjeni North and Lomahasha.

The mill will help the community as it simultaneously processes sorghum and mealie-meal. The mill will, therefore, benefit farmers mostly engaged in farming mainly for commercial purposes.

The sorghum mill was acquired through assistance of COSPE Swaziland to help the communities in processing their harvest.

The project is as a result of the support from the Taiwanese Technical Mission which initiated a process of promoting sorghum as a drought tol-

erant crop suitable for the Lubombo suitable markets.

At least 24 sorghum blocks (associations) were developed by the initiative, but only 11 are still fully operational now after the Taiwanese Technical Mission pulled out its support in 2011. These remaining 11 blocks are pursuing a vision of adding value to their product through processing and packaging in order to sell directly to the consumers/retailers in an effort to realise better income.

Cospe Project Coordinator Bheki Bulunga revealed during the handing over ceremony the historical background of the farmers. He said the farmers had formed their own umbrella body called Lubombo Sorghum Board, which is responsible for representing sorghum farmers interests, promoting production and finding



sary equipment the sheller and mill for processing, necessitated the intervention of the Swazi Project, funded by the European Union to assist the farmers.

The Swazi Project implementation involved many stakeholders with sorghum production training in collaboration with the ministry of agriculture, management plan, marketing, cooperative training, mill machine operation.

Bulunga further said "the farmers plans was mainly to have a central place where they can deliver their product for milling and packaging and sell directly to retailers or end-users".

However, Bulunga said farmer's lack of resources for purchasing the neces-

The project further implemented infrastructure development that involved rehabilitation of the mill structure and electricity connection at a cost of E76 254.97, provision of the ROFF Mill with a rate of 550kg an hour at a cost of E257 187.00.

Capacity

Bulunga said the project also provided institutional capacity to the sorghum farmers in strengthening their sorghum board, facilitated their trading license and as well as supported the process of the legal registration of the board as a cooperative.

The project also facilitated the business aspect of the sorghum farmers' cooperative where a contract of milling 75.8 metric tons of mealie-meal in a space of three months was facilitated.

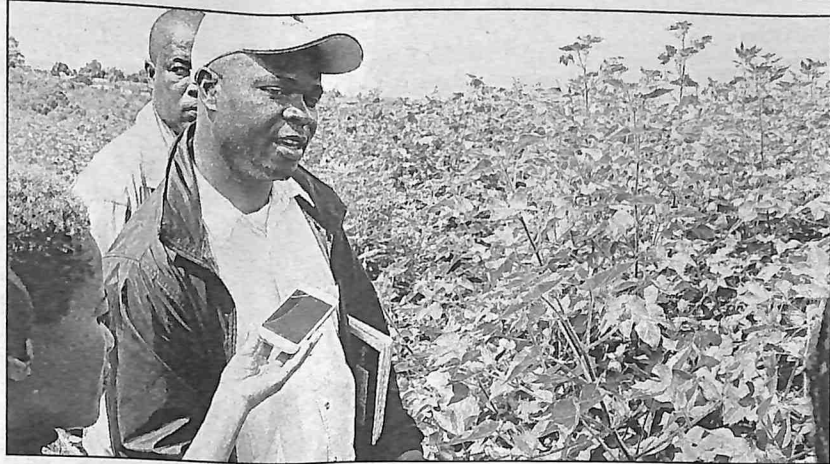
The farmer's project was also affected by the persistent drought over the last two years, Bulunga said the project failed to bring any returns to the farmers during that time hence the mill couldn't handle the packaging and marketing as there were no products due to the drought situation.

The project coordinator also highlighted the issue of sustainability of the project saying "The Pro Swazi Project has been inhibited by failing to assist the farmers as they would have loved but due to financial and the drought constrains, the sorghum processing and marketing have been compromised."

However, Bulunga said he believed with the money the farmers association got from the contract facilitated by the Swazi Project where they were able to process 75.8 metric tons they will be able to carry out their business. Bulunga also assured farmers that the ministry of agriculture will continue to assist them with technical expertise on production and marketing.

The project coordinator also said the Swaziland National Agriculture Union will also be available to provide some technical expertise through their marketing officer.

Mpolonjeni is situated in the lowveld, an area which is good for farming of sorghum and other drought resistant crops such as cotton and beans.



EXPERTISE: Agronomist Nhlanhla Hlophe responding to questions from members of the media and scientists (r) with Dr. Phumzile Dlamini (2r) demanding strong guarantees that the technology will not fall in the wrong hands of Indians.



Lessons to be learnt from Burkina Faso's decision to drop GM cotton

The thorny topic of genetically modified (GM) crops was recently thrust into the global spotlight again. Speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Bill Gates said GM crops are a necessary tool to fight hunger and poverty in Africa. But something Gates did not discuss was the news that the largest and most significant African adopter of GM crops – Burkina Faso – recently began a phase out of Bt cotton. Bt cotton is the most widely grown GM crop by poor farmers in Africa. Why would Burkina Faso, a nation that struggles with hunger and poverty, turn its back on the very tools Gates and others so ardently support?

ASIANS PROLIFERATION: FEAR BT TECHNOLOGY COULD FALL ON INDIANS

Stories by Ackel Zwane

Participants at a recent workshop on the introduction of genetically engineered (GMO) cotton seed to farmers on Swazi Nation Land raised concerns that Indians, currently making major inroads into Swazi business activity, could take over the new technology ahead of local farmers.

This happens when the country is still anxiously waiting for a parliamentary investigation into the proliferation of Asians into Swaziland space where they acquire such rights as those of land and business on Swazi Nation Land. Parliamentary probe team leader Zombodze Emuva Member of Parliament Titus Thwala could only say the report is 'very close' to coming out.

However, officials from the Swaziland Environment Authority (SEA) felt there was no need to press any panic buttons because all the regulatory mechanisms for safety had been put in place through the Biosafety Act of 2012 which also took into account socio-economic considerations.

On the parallel, in particular Dr. Phumzile Dlamini, wanted these specifications played out in the regulatory provisions that local farmers will not find themselves competing for the limited land with Indians who boast a financial muscle and are known to penetrate all spheres of legal structures to have it their way as they have done in many areas of business. This brief debate took place during the tour of the Malkerns trial farms, ahead of a similar tour to Big Bend, both organised jointly with the Swaziland



BOLLWORM: Swaziland Cotton Board's Daniel Khumalo is extremely worried by the presence of bollworm that devastates the cotton bolls hence Bt cotton is not only an answer but a liberator of the local farmer. (Pics: Ackel Zwane) Cotton Board.

The other pressing problem was that of Swazi Nation Land being made available to Indians even when there is sufficient legislative framework and regulation to protect the indigenous Swazi from any form of domination, especially in the area of land ownership. It must be made known that the providers of the technology are from India. Also to fuel this debate was the cost of the technology itself, whether the average Swazi farmer would be able to afford the seed. It was later understood that once the technology is available to the local farmers, it will indeed be affordable with multiple returns than the present costs associated with conventional cotton.

Experts agree that a few studies have reported some of the costs associated with bringing to market genetically-modified (GM) crops but no comprehensive studies exist on the

real cost of the entire process of developing and releasing one GM variety by a not-for-profit institution in a developing country for sustainable agriculture. Despite the lack of documented studies, it is commonly assumed that such an undertaking is cost prohibitive, based on mere hearsay, and on two private sector cost assessments. A study that assessed the costs and the time expenditures to two not-for-profit programmes, one lead by CIP and the other by Cornell University, of developing a late blight resistant (LBr) potato variety for release in one developing country. CIP's costs run to USD1.6 million over eight years, while Cornell's costs amount to USD1.4 million over nine years. Exogenous disturbances might result in insignificant increases in cost, but can increase time expenditure significantly. A sensitivity analysis revealed that the total cost is markedly influenced by technical parameters determining the pro-

duction and identification of the pre-commercial Br transgenic event.

At Malkerns, agronomist Nhlanhla Hlophe said the trials began on November 28 and were within the timeline but usually farmers are advised to start planting between September and the first three weeks of October their conventional variety. The research is undertaken as per request by the Swaziland Cotton Board with the Bt seeds from India and trials conducted with the assistance of the Malkerns Research Centre of the ministry of agriculture. The seeds were replicated six times and these are for JKCH 1947 for Bt and JKC 724 Non Bt; the ALBA PLUS QM 301 non Bt and the JKCH 1050 Bt. Hlophe said the conventional variety grown traditionally in Swaziland is the best in Africa (in which the Bt is introduced) but only that boll worms simply love them, hence the technology to get rid of this weakness. "For Swaziland it was to raise the potential to introduce the gene for the best product."

On November 15, 2016 SEA Acting Executive Director Isaac Gcina Dladla issued the approval to conduct contained use activity using genetically modified organisms (GMOs) by issuing Approval Number: 001, the first of its kind that is valid until May 31, 2017. "In accordance with the Biosafety Act, 2012, I hereby grant the approval to undertake Confined Field Trials (CFTs) of genetically modified (GM) cotton to the institution mentioned in this approval," this being the Swaziland Cotton Board, specification of the GMO: Bt Cotton; Quantity Approved 20kg, intended use confined field trials (at Big Bend Lowveld Experimental

Station and Malkerns Research Station).

The approval was granted subject to conditions: the Swaziland Cotton Board conducts the field trials only on the two sites that were approved by the National Biosafety Advisory Committee (NBAC); the confined field trials (CFTs) should have restricted public access; the Swaziland Cotton Board is responsible for protecting the seed during entry into the country, transportation, storage (lock and key), use, until at post-harvest (crushing), and the Swaziland Environment Authority should be informed of the status at all stages; the Swaziland Cotton Board should submit a crop management programme for the 2016/17 planting season for both sites. This should include, but not limited to: transport of seeds to the different sites for planting and the planting dates, harvesting, transportation of seed-cotton to the gin, crushing of the seeds, transportation of any material from the GM crop to neighbouring countries. The SEA should be informed if there are any changes from the information that has been submitted as Schedule 1 and Schedule 5 of the application to conduct CFTs. The Swaziland Cotton Board shall be responsible for the implementation and supervision of the day-to-day activities in both sites and will always be expected to be on sight when monitoring or inspection (announced or unannounced) by the competent authority is done. The approval is not transferrable and is valid for: one cotton grown season (2016/17 season).

HOW BURKINA FASO CAME TO BE AN EARLY ADOPTER

In 2003, Burkina Faso became one of the first African countries to begin field trials of Bt cotton. This was done in partnership with the agriculture company Monsanto. Bt refers to a toxin – *Bacillus thuringiensis* – that kills one of the world's most common and pernicious cotton pests, the bollworm. Monsanto agreed to backcross the Bt gene onto local Burkinabè varieties, which were subsequently released to farmers in 2008.

Burkina Faso's adoption of Bt cotton made big news. Not only is Burkina

Faso consistently one of Africa's largest cotton producers, but cotton is also seen as the engine driving rural development throughout large parts of the country. The introduction of Bt cotton has reportedly boosted total cotton production. In 2014, Burkina Faso had the largest number of total GM crop producers on the African continent. It has more than 140 000 small-holder farmers cultivating Bt cotton.

Burkina Faso's success story has been celebrated as an example of how GM crops can help poor farmers.

Many farmers have enthusiastically adopted the technology, and for good reason. Studies show that Bt cotton has increased yields and profits. The average Bt cotton farming family gained 50% more profit than from conventional cotton.

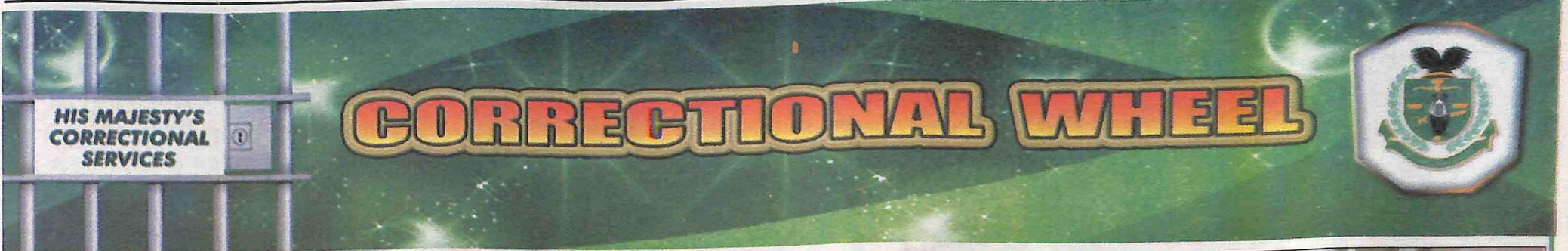
This is despite the very high cost of Bt cotton seed. Bt cotton growers also use significantly less pesticide. The total number of sprayings has gone down from six to two, reducing exposure of damaging chemicals and saving valuable labour time.

Why the reversal

But Bt cotton hasn't been a blessing for everyone.

The inferior lint quality of Bt cotton has caused severe economic losses for Burkinabè cotton companies. This has prompted a complete phase out of all Bt cotton production over the next two years. Company officials and Monsanto representatives cite two problems with lint quality. Bt varieties produce shorter, less desirable lint. The shorter length means poorer quality, which in turn means a lower price on the international market. Even though cotton

yields are up, the amount machines are able to extract from the picked cotton has diminished. In other words, Bt cotton produces both less cotton lint, and lint of an inferior quality. Inferior lint quality is not a big deterrent for farmers, who sell their cotton at a guaranteed price to the cotton companies. But it is a critical issue for the companies themselves. The combination of shorter staples and lower lint quantities substantially undermines profits. These cotton companies also control the provision of seeds and inputs to farmers and were able to unilaterally phase out Bt cotton. This is much to the dismay of many Bt cotton farmers. (The Conversation.com Feb 2016)



TOGETHERNESS: Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Edgar Hillary, Commissioner General Isaiah Mzuthini Ntshangase and Principal Secretary Lorraine Hlophe pose with senior Correctional officers and staff at Vulamasango. This was during the minister's tour at the Malkerns Correctional Complex on Thursday.



SUPPORTIVE: Commissioner General Isaiah Mzuthini Ntshangase addressing officers and pupils at Vulamasango.

MINISTER HILLARY TOURS CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

The dictionary is the only place where 'success' comes before 'work'.

Working hard is the key to success while hard work will help you accomplish anything. Determined to climb the ladder of success over the years, Correctional officers and pupils from Vulamasango School have long embraced this quote by the late veteran columnist Stubby Currence.

A visitation by the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Edgar Hillary on Thursday added a cherry on top of the cake by rejuvenating the spirit of unity, respect and determination amongst staff members and pupils.

Hillary visited the Malkerns Complex, which included the Malkerns Young Persons Centre (MYPC) as part of

his regular touring programme. In his address, the minister encouraged officers and pupils to remain dedicated to their work in order to be successful in life. Commissioner General Isaiah Mzuthini Ntshangase, who led the tour that was also attended by the Ministry's Principal Secretary Lorraine Hlophe, also shared words of wisdom for both officers and pupils. He applauded the staff for showing great enthusiasm in their work, which was evident through the good academic results that the school has attained in the past. A mentor himself, Ntshangase was also lauded by the minister, officers and pupils for his relentless efforts in shaping the future of the department, aligning it with international correctional institutions.



LEFT: Minister Hillary receiving a gift from Lungelo Dube. **RIGHT:** Commissioner Phindile Dlamini and Senior Assistant Commissioner Bongani Khumalo listening attentively as the commissioner general makes his presentation.



THAT ONE: Vulamasango Principal Dan Mavuso showing Minister Hillary some of the artwork by pupils at the school.



POSING: Hillary, Ntshangase and the principal secretary pose with senior correctional staff and officers at MYPC.



IMIZWILILI: Minister Hillary, the commissioner general and PS Lorraine Hlophe join Vulamasango Choral Choir on stage.



TECHNOLOGY: Vulamasango Principal Dan Mavuso explaining a point to the minister and his entourage at the Computer lab.

Analysis & Opinion

Editor's Pen @ Work



WITH: Alec Lushaba

Observer On Saturday
Editor

NOW IS THE TIME

...the signs have been there for a long time, and it is time Swaziland's economy stands its ground.



Next year the country will be marking 50 years since its independence was declared by Great Britain.

Swaziland was not per se colonised but protected by the British.

However, our economy somehow has been tied to that of the Republic of South Africa, ever since the creation of the South African Customs Union in 1910.

In recent years our economy has suffered mainly due to our over reliance on SACU receipts which are controlled by Pretoria, South Africa.

This week credit rating agencies are reviewing South Africa's political stability situation, following their concerns about leadership issues within the ruling party, the African National Congress, in particular the leadership of President Jacob Zuma.

In December 2015, Pretoria's rating was on the verge of being downgraded when the president dismissed then finance minister Nhlanhla Nene and replaced him with little known MP Des van Rooyen.

Van Rooyen spent only four days as finance minister and was replaced by former finance minister Pravin Gordhan, who steered the ship and kept the rating agencies at bay.

However, Gordhan was fired last week together with his deputy Mcebisi Jonas and replaced with then home affairs minister Melusi Gigaba.

It is this raft changes in particular within the treasury that saw the rating agencies downgrading South Africa's credit rating into Junk status, which means business and global financiers have no confidence in the leadership of the Republic and cannot even guarantee that investors are now in safe hands with Pretoria.

This is where as Swaziland, Namibia and Lesotho we found ourselves in today. The downgrading of South African economy into junk status has by extension had a direct effect into our economic situation.

These countries are in the same monetary area and our currencies are pegged equally to the South African Rand.

Only Botswana, which is also a member of SACU, is not going to experience adverse effect because its currency is not pegged to the Rand.

The question we should answer now is how we should position ourselves such that much of what is happening in Pretoria does not affect us.

We don't have much of a choice but to ensure

that we grow our economy to a level where we reduce our dependence to the Republic of South Africa.

Catalysts

One of the major catalysts are the Special Economic Zones which we have announced, that are targeting certain sectors of our production industry.

Government has announced for instance that Israeli investors will be given a 20 year tax free incentive so long as they establish their industries here and export their goods from Swaziland.

We hope such a move will see, not only Israeli companies benefiting, but we may find ourselves attracting some big corporate from our neighbours who are export oriented in nature setting their base in Swaziland because more than just the tax-free incentive we offer them

a political stable and peaceful environment for their businesses to flourish.

Improve

But we are clear that we will not jump many steps to deliver big industries, but we still need to improve our power generation capacity to the level where we are self reliant.

Big economies are supported by reliable and cost effective energy resource. We are happy to note that there are indications that the cost of communication will also be attended to shortly and be in a position to provide first class telecommunications and high speed data services.

Experts say the Republic of South Africa will take a while to recover from the junk status. If it is short, it will be two years, but on average it is between five and seven years.

The downgrade of their economy into junk status will hit all of us in that debt will be expensive for not only government but individuals will now pay more than they had anticipated in bonds.

The costs of commodities will also increase; companies may be forced to close down their businesses as it will be close to impossible to break even, thus the rate of unemployment increases and so does the cost of living, which is inflation.

So as a country we need to move in a speed of a Cheetah to ensure that we begin to develop our economy independent from Pretoria.

Such a scenario will not be new for Swaziland, as during the apartheid era we had big businesses that were setting shop in Swaziland.

Such a situation can still be rekindled, this time around having everything in our control. The political situation in South Africa may not improve anytime soon, as the ruling party is on the verge of imploding.

Implode

Political scientists have already indicated that it is the nature of liberation movements that after 20 years or so in power they tend to implode.

So what is happening is not unique to them and this should tell us that we need to be ready and prepare for such times.

It is South Africa that is a young democracy not Swaziland. As a country reaching 50 years we now need to behave in a manner that shows that we have seen these situations before and we must use this opportunity wisely.

Time has come for Swaziland to explore the Singapore experience and that of smaller countries like Switzerland.

The Israeli Ambassador has been trying this week to encourage us to discover our uniqueness and use it to our advantage.

We have fed ourselves the lie that smaller populations are a problem to economic growth and it is time we clean ourselves from that lie.

Swaziland needs to be an export economy and be self reliant at the same time. Whilst our neighbours are busy trying to find their way through radical economic reforms, let us discover our key selling points and insulate our economy from Pretoria.

It will definitely take some doing, as we have many corporate managed from Pretoria or Cape Town, but ours should be making them to reconsider their positions and see Swaziland as the perfect place to set up their base.

It is time the King's vision is met with some real action on the ground. Let's empower every Swazi to take advantage of the situation developing within our neighbours.

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Dealing with Diabetes

WITH: Nomalungelo
GinindzaDiabetes
Swaziland PR

Periods may be accompanied by changes in blood glucose

Different stages of the menstrual cycle may have different effects on your blood glucose levels and the effect can also vary from person to person and from month to month.

Recording your blood glucose results can be helpful in finding patterns in your levels and helping you to better control your diabetes.

Why will my period affect my sugar levels?

There is not a definite answer to this as periods affect each one of us differently.

However, many women report having higher blood sugar levels a few days prior to their period starting.

During your period, you may experience high blood sugar levels but some women notice a sharp drop in sugar levels so it's best to be prepared for unexpected changes to happen.

Why does blood sugar rise before or during periods?

Before and during your period, changes in the level of the hormones estrogen and progesterone can induce temporary resistance to insulin which can last for up to a few days and then drop off.

Some girls and women have consistent effects as to how their period affects blood sugar whereas other women may find the effect on blood sugar varies from one month to another.

Coping with periods

The effect on blood sugar as a result of periods can change from one month to another so keeping a diary of your blood glucose numbers can help you to see if there are any patterns in your results across different months.

If you are finding your blood glucose levels go very high before or during your period, you may need to either inject more insulin (if insulin dependent) or reduce your carbohydrate intake.

If you increase your insulin, be careful to avoid hypoglycemia as your insulin sensitivity can sometimes return quickly.

Speak to your health team if you need advice on how to manage your insulin doses or carbohydrate intake.

Increased appetite

You may also experience an increase in appetite before your period. It is best to avoid refined carbohydrates (such as white bread and sugary foods) in response to cravings as these foods raise blood glucose levels which then causes further hunger.

It is better to stick to your normal balanced meals as best as you can.

Contraceptive pill and effect on blood glucose levels

If you take a contraceptive pill, you may experience a different effect on your blood glucose levels than when you weren't taking the pill.

According to a study by the American Diabetes Association, Women with type 1 diabetes had more menstrual problems (long cycles, long

menstruation, and heavy menstruation) before age 30 years than sisters and control subjects. These differences were all statistically significant, except for heavy menstruation at age <20 years. No differences were observed after age 30 years. Women with type 1 diabetes experienced later menarche, earlier natural menopause, fewer pregnancies, and more stillbirths than women without diabetes. Multiple regression analyses revealed that type 1 diabetes caused an approximate twofold increased risk of any menstrual problem before age 30 years. These were primarily related to long cycles and long menstruation in women aged <20 and 20-29 years, as well as with heavy menstruation from 20 to 29 years. Oral contraceptives were protective for any menstrual problem and heavy menstruation from 30 to 39 years of age. With history of pregnancy from 20 to 40 years of age, any menstrual problem and long menstruation were more likely.

Since everyone is different, the only way to manage blood sugar in a setting where sensitivity to insulin changes, is to test and record blood sugars four or more times a day the week before, during and after your period for at least two or three months to find your own pattern. This allows you to adjust your insulin doses and carb intake both before and during this time to better control your blood sugar.

Premenstrual symptoms (PMS) can be worsened by poor blood sugar control. It helps to chart your feelings such as tenderness, bloat-

ing, grouching for a week before, during and after your period. Charting will help you know when your PMS reaches its peak during your period so that before your PMS is most severe, you can check your blood sugar more often and take extra insulin or exercise to bring high blood sugars down

Diabetes can affect a woman's reproductive health. That's because the hormones that control menstruation can cause changes in blood glucose levels. So it's important that women with diabetes learn to monitor patterns of blood glucose changes that correlate to their menstrual cycles.

Managing diabetes and you cycle

The key to knowing how your menstrual cycle affects your diabetes and vice versa is careful monitoring. You will need to track menstrual cycle changes which relate to your diabetes as closely as you would your blood sugar levels.

Experts recommend that you note any changes you observe in a record book. Watch for correlations between your menstrual cycle and diabetes over time, with the understanding that these links can change with age and other factors.

After you have established some patterns, your doctor might recommend adjusting your insulin at different points in your menstrual cycle in order to keep blood glucose levels stable.

Women with type 2 diabetes should also add regular exercise during episodes of insulin resistance in order to lower blood glucose, particularly if they are not taking insulin as part of diabetes management. Exercise can also help with premenstrual symptoms, such as bloating, water retention and food cravings.

Not all women have a regular four-week menstruation cycle; cycles can range from between 20 to 40 or more days and in some women the cycle length changes regularly. Diabetes, a condition in which a person has higher than normal blood sugar, can cause damage to the heart, eyes, kidneys, nerves, and other organs.

Unusually long, extremely irregular, or infrequent menstrual cycles may be linked to insulin resistance and the development of type 2 (or adult-onset) diabetes.

Unusual menstrual cycles may indicate metabolic changes that increase a woman's risk for insulin resistance. Insulin resistance hinders a woman's ability to process sugars and can cause type 2 diabetes over time. If you typically have very long or short menstrual cycles, especially if your menstrual cycle is highly irregular, take extra precautions to prevent the onset of type 2 diabetes.

MENSTRUATION AND DIABETES

- Women with type 1 diabetes experienced later menarche, earlier natural menopause, fewer pregnancies, and more stillbirths than women without diabetes. Multiple regression analyses revealed that type 1 diabetes caused an approximate twofold increased risk of any menstrual problem before age 30 years.



Issue # 130

Lifestyle, E, Entertainment

MOZAIK

THE OFFICIAL SBNL MUSIC PRODUCER

Pages 4,5

*Nkamba Nkamba's
double decker delight*

PAGES 2,3



WRITER'S NOTE



WITH: Phumelele Mkhonta

This was one of the quietest weeks for me; hibernation, I guess! Or I was agro agro, mid-month blues. LOL. But I had a lot of time to think, about many things. This and that. Mainly my thoughts surrounded the topic 'Friendship'. Friends are family that we choose and influence many parts of our lives. They make your life easy and better but, if not careful, they can still your shine and distort your

destiny. I remember words which most old and wise people say 'be careful of whom you choose as your friend'. These words we normally take for granted but in all honesty, they struck bad when all plans shatter and friends are nowhere to be found. Other questions that I did not find answers to are when to let go of a friendship? Is life sustainable without friends...? Any who, these are questions that need answers so #back-

tohibernation. Enough of philosophy and seriousness, this week has been exciting, well, in the entertainment scene. Mozaik the Producer clinched a lucrative deal with Sibebe Friday Night Live as the official producer of the SNFL EP which will include 80 Script, Flameboy Universe and Shepherd Brothers. Big ups Muzi Ngwenya. Catch more on the new revelation on Pages 4&5.

On another lighter note, a talent-

ed duo has invaded our entertainment scene and L&E is so excited about them. 'DJ My Piano' uses the decks and a piano to display their music and they have been getting booking. We had a brief chat with them and there's a lot we got from them. Read all about them on Page 5. As per usual, we have all other funny and fashionable features inside.

Enjoy your read and have a lovely weekend guys

BRACE YOURSELF...

NKAMBA NKAMBA'S DOUBLE DECKER DELIGHT



Now some creative juices of certain souls just kept being emitted; no matter the circumstances or challenges of this life.

Perhaps that's the aptitude and attitude of rising hip hop star Nkamba Nkamba, real name Mloni Mngomezulu. Whilst some have opted to unleash an EP, a single or an LP, Nkamba would be releasing a double decker of his latest works soon. His latest CD album Bowl of Milk would concurrently be unleashed into the market with a video he has just finished titled; **Cheated love**.

Now those are traits of a sleeping giant having been awakened and opting to come out with something refreshed, revitalised and rejuvenated.

Get this clear; this hip hop act likes experimenting with things and it's small wonder he's worked this latest adventure or undertaking with another equally gifted and talented soul in tenor soloist Zweli Msibi, who himself would soon be going into the studio to have his talents etched in the history books through being recorded.

No longer confining himself to choral, Zweli is now into opera, classical (romantic and gospel tunes).

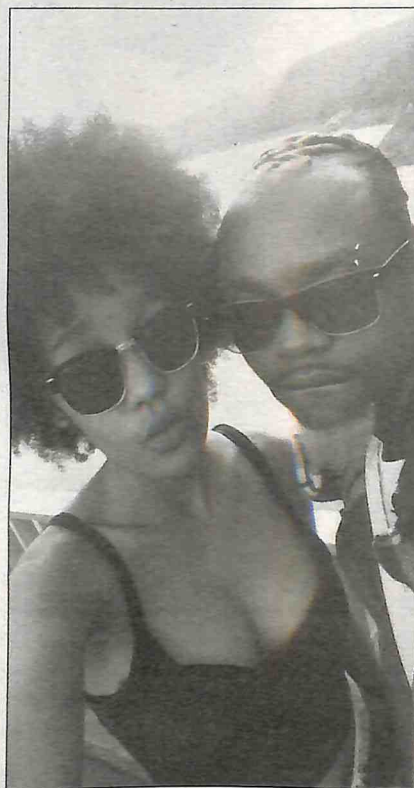
Nkamba collaborated with Zweli on three tracks; *Ngeke Baze Bangkhone*, 'Where I am from' and 'Jesus peace' in the yet to be released album.

But to ensure the process of releasing the video alongside the album later this month was expedited and enhanced, Nkamba had to work a sweat.

"In it is in that light that over the past weekend myself and crew were in Jozini (SA) where we were doing clips in certain locations for the upcoming works. We've also finished the editing and mastering of the album so we're presently working on a few touch-ups to ensure everything is on point.

"Otherwise work is proceeding smoothly and we are certain the full album will be out soon," he says.

Nkamba says they decided to have the



video alongside the CD for fans to get something unique and interesting from him.

He hopes by month end the album would have hit the store shelves.

Overall he is proud of his works and the collaboration with Zweli, oh! boy he just can't stop singing his praises.

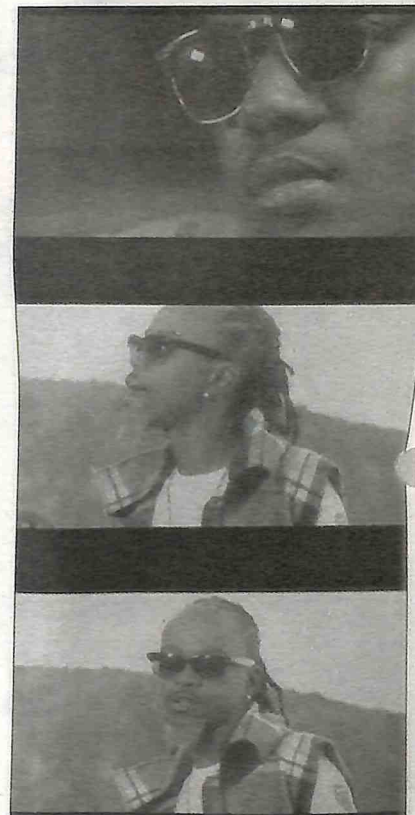
"That guy is talented and definitely going places with his craft you know. It was an honour and a privilege to work with him".

Evidently Nkamba ascribes to the saying that if you're keen on taking a walk go at it alone but if undertaking a journey, then you need company for you to reach far so that the hurdles, trials and tribulations are easily overcome.

Insight

Asked to give insight on the title track **Cheated love**, he notes that nowadays faithfulness in most relationships is a foreign element.

In some of the video shots of **Cheated Love**. He featured other musicians too.



Well latest indications are that Swazis are not sitting back anymore now as they are allowing their creative instincts to work out a sweat in them. The results are enviable to all observing characters.

Confidence

Those watching at a distance can attest that this country's artists have arrived on the big stage with a bang. I there any second to this motion of confidence and endorsement about to be passed on our local artists? Time to salute and appreciate the Swazi artist has come as daydreamers and naysayers are put to shame.

Even our neighbours (South African radio stations and print media) have saluted the latest acts to emerge from this side of the Equator. At first they dismissed as a fluke when gospel acts were a dominant force in Southern African region such as Ncandweni as well as Shongwe and Khuphuka but behold hip hop acts are also demonstrating local artists are no pushovers in stand-

WE ARE WOMEN

TREND COATS YOU'LL HAPPILY WEAR

(Intro by Phumelele Mkhonta)

It has been showering rains since summer commenced and the rains have brought along a lot of cold with it. That being said, trench coats have evidently become a 'season less' must have; be it winter, summer or spring. Here are the currently trendiest trench coats according to Elle Magazine.



ing their ground at the big stage. Isn't it not South Africans who were left bewildered at the talent of the trending Sandziso 'Sands' Matsebula?

Now all arise and salute the talented acts from the beautiful Kingdom of Swaziland. Evidently it is not only on the gospel front where Swazi artists are raising the country's flag at high mast locally and beyond.

Take the talent of Zweli who collaborated with Nkamba, for instance. Zweli conquered Southern Africa with his musical talent (tenor soloist category) whilst still a pupil of Elangeni High School.

Back to Nkamba's works now. This born and bred soul says he wants to remain in the music industry for as long as his creative juices emit something of interest to both friends and foes alike.

Journey

Indeed his is not scaling virgin land as some have undertaken a journey in the past so why should he be afraid?

We've got the likes of Illa Pennboy and KrTC who have both represented the genre flawlessly and effortlessly over the years so it's welcome and soothing news that another soul has joined them.

Bowl of Milk ad Cheated Love indicate that a soul is hard at work. Releasing two projects simultaneously!

He assures the nation they won't regret supporting him as he attests they've applied themselves with his team on the upcoming production.

There goes another talented soul willing to share his trade with the greater Swazi populace and generally all ador-

ing and admiring fans.

Ezobisi ('Bows of milk') takes music lovers through a sensational musical journey through the predominant vehicle of hip hop a growing genre in the kingdom of Swaziland. The tyrant journey infuses elements of all music kinds including a touch of soul, a brush with rhythm and blues, choral and kwatio music. Bowls of milk portrays a musical journey that travels through time yet remaining fresh and modern by appealing to a wide range of an audience which include the young energetic hip hop heads, the laid back executives, the staunch kasi dwellers and lovebirds throughout generations. Nkamba Nkamba is the local artist responsible for driving us all through this incredible musical journey.

Ezobisi, the project, manages to transport all through this intriguing journey by harnessing the top talents of Swaziland local artists and performers. The project is able to display the cream de la ream of Swazi talent including the hip hop pioneer, KRTC, hip hop sensation 80 script, R n B artist Tiyas King, top rapper SWITCH, South African rapper Tru Vilakazi, the angelic voice of Rethabile, lyrically gifted hip hop artists C2K, Paige, Owakhe, Jei, the bowls of milk include soul artist CJ as well as the country's leading chorister in Zweli Msi'bi.

The **Bowls of Milk** is a project that is well regulated with masterwork creativity through production by the country's leading producer SubJamz, other tracks are produced by the Usual Suspects.

Promotional releases have seen the pro-

ject enjoy releases of singles in the fold of KaSo (Ft Tru Vilakazi) which recorded over 60 000 downloads on data file host, *Lubhambo Lwami* (ft. Rethabile), that has been performed in local stages during events.

It's apparent that the journey is at the beginning, it's absorbing that Nkamba Nkamba displays such high levels of talent creating more curiosity of what more is to come as we will 'drink from the bowls' well served.

Fact file

Name: Mlondi Mngomezulu
Stage name: Nkamba Nkamba
Occupation: Artist, model at Cava Wear
Influences: J. Cole, J. Z, 2Pac and the Notorious B.I.G
Record Label: The Usual Suspects – Swaziland
Producers: SubJams, Ziyawa, Slim Q and the Usual Suspects
Released singles: Lubhambo Lwami ft. Rethabile, Ka So (ft. Tru Vilakazi SA), Staying Power (ft KrTC and C2K)
Previous projects: Former member of hip hop group Young Envy (As MiL Dee)
Recent performances: Big 5 24-hr Crossover 2017, Party 1st annual weekend 2016, Mega Sound Crossover Party 2016, UNISWA Freshers 2016, Miss Wings 2016, SADC Fashion Show 2016, UKZN Cyphers, Ezulwini/The Pub n Grill weekend events, etc.
 (By Njabulo Dlamini)

SA Celebrity News

ANGA MAKUBALO TO CAST IN 'RING OF LIES'



JOHANNESBURG - Former Generations actor Anga Makubalo surprised many of his fans on Wednesday when he announced that he had joined the cast of Mzansi Magic's popular drama series *Ring of Lies*. The second season of the boxing-themed series debuts in July and will feature Anga as one of the new additions to the show. The star took to Instagram to post a picture of his script on the show, next to the caption: "More work, more opportunities, more blessings. Newest addition to the *Ring of Lies* season 2 cast."

However Mzansi Magic played coy and didn't want to confirm his appointment, telling TshisaLIVE that the cast list for the new season of the show had not yet been finalised. "Rings of lies season 2 is still in development. New characters and story arcs are not finalized yet. We will confirm any developments closer to the broadcast date at the end of July," Mzansi Magic spokesperson Nondumiso Mabece said. *Times Live*



KO BACK WITH ANOTHER #FREEKON

JOHANNESBURG - K.O fans, get ready for another #FreeKon. On Sunday 30 April K.O and Cashtime Life will host another free concert as a show of appreciation to the rapper's fans. This comes after the first #FreeKon which was held on 21 October 2016 at Bassline as a launch event for K.O and Okmalumkoolkat's collabo, Don Dada.

With the second edition of the concert the star aims to get 10 000 people together for a stellar show which will include the likes of Kwesta, DJ Vigilante, and DJ Fresh. The event will take place at Groova Lounge in Cape Town. *Channel 24*



KHULI ROBERTS SNEAKS IN SNAP WITH BRA HUGH

JOHANNESBURG - Bra Hugh Masekela has made it known that he is anti-weave and his fans have accepted that the mere sight of a hair piece irritates him faster than most things. But somehow Kuli Roberts managed to get a picture with the legend- with her weave intact. Bra Hugh was a guest on Kuli Roberts and Bob Mabena's Kaya FM show this week and, in addition to signing autographs, posed for some pictures.

There have even been reports of the musician increasing his security to stop women wearing weaves near him, and his attitude seemed to be no different when it came to celebs. Just a week ago, radio presenter Dineo Ranaka had to cover her weave so that she could take a picture with the legendary jazz artist. But it was not the same for Kuli. *Times live*



SOMIZI BUYS MEALS FOR HOMELESS

JOHANNESBURG - Somizi's giving spirit never ceases to amaze us. Not too long ago the star made a waiter's day by leaving him a hefty tip, and now he has made the day of many more people by giving meals to those who can't afford

them. Somizi says he was inspired to do the good deed after he noticed some homeless people who could not afford to buy burgers at McDonalds on Tuesday even though they were on promotion for only R10. *News24*

BREAKING ALL BOUNDARIES | BREAKING ALL BOUNDARIES | BREAKING ALL BOUNDARIES | BREAKING ALL BOUNDARIES |

MOZAIK

NOW THE OFFICIAL SFNL MUSIC PRODUCER

Cover story

Through his works and achievements, Mozaik the Producer has gained a lot of respect in the music industry.

Not only has he gained respect but he has made remarkable deals and collaborations, being endowed as the official Sibebe Friday Night Live EP Producer as one of them.

Actually, this is a great mark in the whole history of Swaziland, that a highly-esteemed entity like Swaziland Beverages would commit itself to a producer and artists in the production of an Extended Play (EP).

Just to sum it up, the SFNL winners, namely 80 Script, Flameboy Universe and The Shepherd Brothers will drop singles which will be produced by Mozaik. All the three tracks will be compiled into an EP that will not be commercially used but be promotional material.

Mozaik, whose real name is Muzi Ngwenya, has done multiple and mega projects since the establishment of his brand in 1998.

"When I was approached about the idea of producing an EP for SFNL winners, I was excited, specifically because it is something I have always thought about

proposing to them.

"I can't be too sure about the internal processes at Swaziland Beverages, but as a global entity, I know that they have a rigorous procurement selection process. We were sent a detailed brief and invited to submit a quotation for the job. I suspect that their selection was based on the work we have put into the local music industry and for the quality of our material," said the producer, artist, music writer and deejay, explaining on his selection.

Such great achievers, mainly in the entertainment stream captivate this publication and we had an educating and entertaining interview with this dynamic soul. Here is what he told us:

When was the deal finalised and when are you getting in the studio with the winners?

The deal was finalised last Friday when I got the call that we got the job. We plan to start working in studio as early as next week.

What kind of craft are you hoping to produce?

I am hoping we can get a product that will represent the Sibebe Brand, the artists and the country as a whole. Meaning there will be some experimenting with each artist's sound and

style without straying from what Sibebe is about as a brand. It is about marrying the brand with the artist.

When should people expect the EP?

The EP should be out by the weekend of Bush Fire, but I think that can be better communicated by Swaziland Beverages.

Have you ever worked with any of the artists to be featured in this EP?

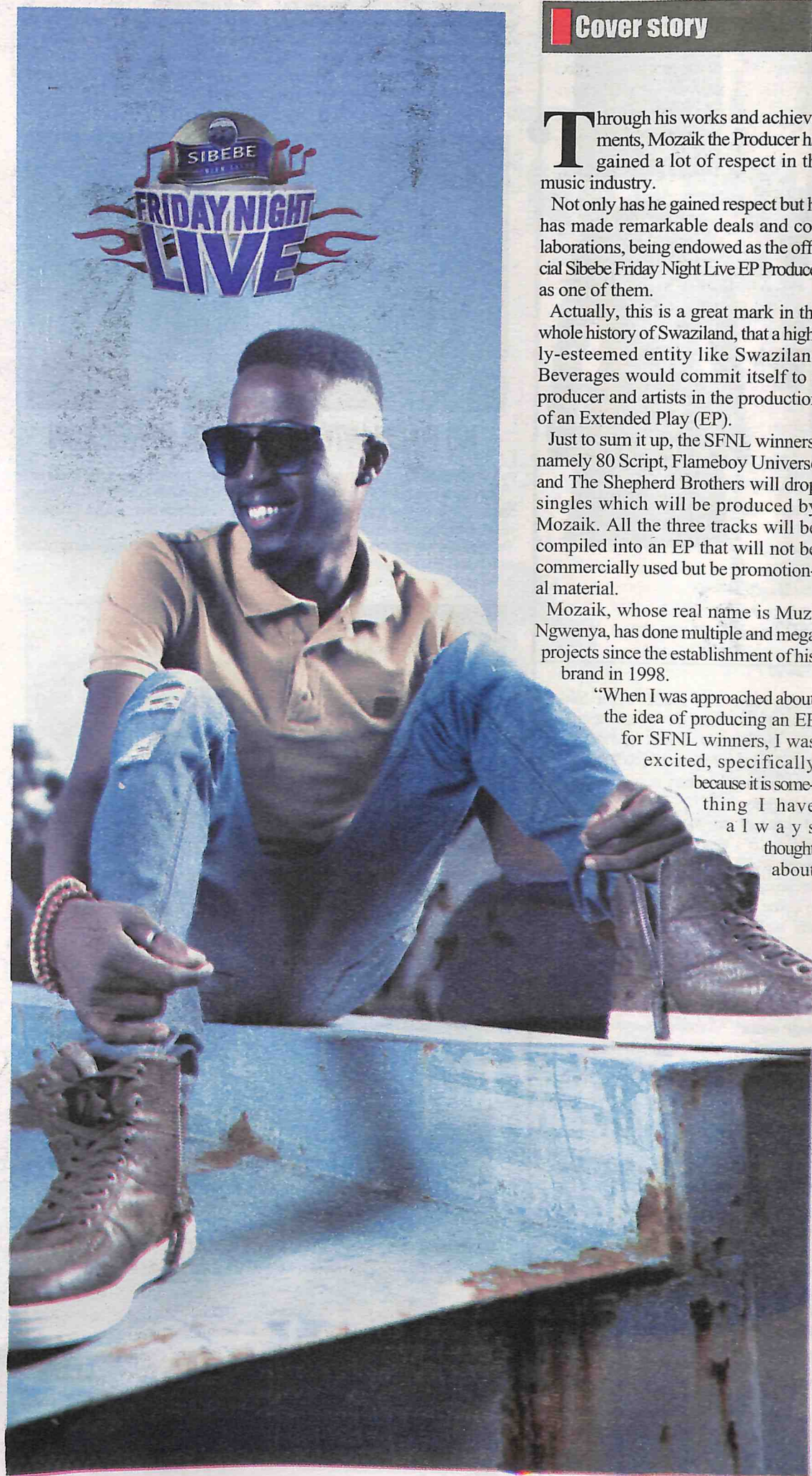
I have worked with 80 Script, recently even. Flame Boy Universe, not since years ago. The Sheperd Brothers I haven't worked with them, fortunately I've seen them perform so and I have an idea of their sound also.

What kind of a relationship are you looking to form with them now and in the future?

I think for every producer, working with artists, building lasting relationships with artists is a goal as you need to be the guy they call when they need a song, at least. So, I am hoping we can all work well together and solidify that.

What advice would you give to aspiring producers?

My advice to aspiring producers would be: Learn the difference between a Producer and a Beat maker... And don't



POETRY CORNER

P.O.E.T
(Person of Extraordinary Thinking)

UNITITLED

...By Anonymous

I do wonder
where she
Hails from,
like
Thunder and lightening
She has taken me by storm.
Trying to find a signal apt
to catch her attention
As my eyes Roam
To her most immediate
vicinity
At every given moment
Praying & hoping
She falls into
My network.

Sbhalabane,
Emehlo ngatsi tibane
Temazulu
Tona letikhanyisa
umhlaba wonkhe;
E Natali toti kuleli laBhuza
Ngihleti ngiyatibuta
Kutsi uwekuVelaphi
Buhle ngatsi uphuma ku TV
Imbali yelukhetselo ngisho
Nakubetive;
Kepha nangiyiBuka
Lengilozu ngatsi yase Zulwini.

Sobonile kutsi ngimbukile
Sisi
Uhl'atsi kungeba kancane,
Imphela ingibhukile nayi
Intombi ungafunga kutsi
Sengiyakwenetisa.
Emehlo ngatsi atsi "Ngiyakwenetisa?"
Tihlatsi,
ngatsi lilanga selijahe
Etintsabeni.
Sekusele etinkhulumeni
Kutsi ngimcele kutsi
Sike siyawubetwa ngumoya
Kepha ngiva ngimbandza,
Utsi akaphumi khona ka Hlatsi?

Angimtsandzi nje
Ngimubutsa phansi,
Webantfu.
Ngitsi ngimutsatsela
tinyatselo,
Emanti agcwaile emadvolweni.
Imile intombi yakabo
iKukhanya emgwacweni
longena edolobheni
kaManzini;
Akafanelwa kunyatsela
Phansi
Ingatsi ngabe undizela etulu
njengetingculungulu,
She gives one a very
Fair view,
Akusima curves
Kufa
Ngimbuke ngemehlo labovu,
Licking my lips
And looking at those hips,
Naye ugcwele kuhle
Kwemiti yakanokusho
Lapha engculwini.

Lwami lutsandvo
Lubovu
Njengensimbi ishiswa malahle.
Ngikhuluma umcondvo
ulahlekile,
Ngiyatlolonga
Ngentela kubamba ematfuba
Incasa alahla.
Ngimbona sekagcotjiswa libovu,
Tinkhomo takitsi tiya kubo,
Mine naye se simunye
Akusiko kutsi ngimbone
Ngahawukela
Lipaka lakhe la shukela.

Look, I'm no Steve Jobs
But I could tell
almost immediately
That she was the Apple of my eye.
But I wondered
How could I make things work
Between myself and a girl
Like her,
Ngingu Msebenzi nje.
As my thoughts wandered off
To a world of fantasies
She had vanished into the
Sea of people
As quickly as she had appeared
And I was left wondering
Where she hailed from
Like
Thunder and lightening,
She has me taken by storm,
A perfect storm;
I add,
This woman who now
reigns supreme.

DIARY OF A WORKING SINGLE MOTHER

Dear Diary

Tell you what; people will hate you for just being you. Sometimes you will be too good they will feel threatened when you are around.

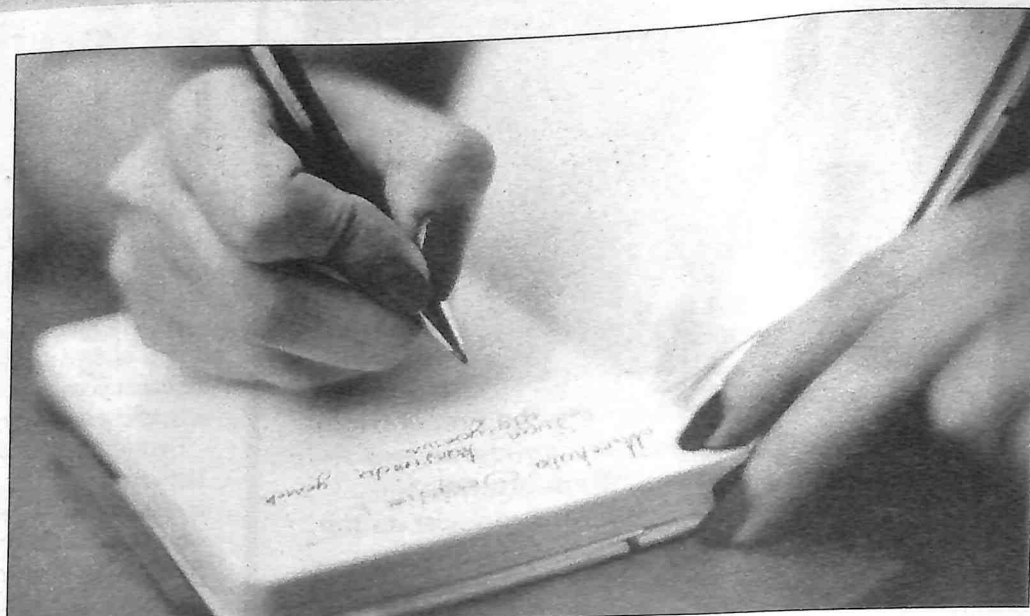
Without even knowing they will be going behind your back, telling whoever cares to listen, how bad you are or anything else bad to taint your reputation.

Once you tell them what they need to hear, to stay on their lane, suddenly you are a bad person. Isn't life just funny sometimes?

Yes that is planet earth and I tell you witchcraft is real. I do not know about voodoo but the heart of human beings has so much hate, hey.

I generally am a patient person, I walk away, ignore and keep to myself but I have limits too. When I have had enough, I will tell you some of the things I have been bottling in. I am toxic when pushed to my limits.

To be honest just as I did not choose to be born, I do not care if half of the world's population hates me. As long as blood still circulates in my body, the heart still beats and few people that I have love for are still around, I am going to be rolling. rolling with myself, that's okay. Let people keep throwing bricks at me and watch God perform His miracles.



I have no hate in me, none at all; it's just too much to carry. I love myself too much to give another person(s) that much of me. I am not intimidated by anyone though; I refuse to be treated badly more than three times, that is just a sign of disrespect.

Favour

One rule of life is that, if people show you respect, return the favour. So I have been

showing respect to retards all my life and all they do is take and never give. Now when I give them a piece of their bull, they start hating.

Well, anyways life goes on and che sara sara, I am going to keep on shining anyway.

Too many bad people are in this world, some have fake and forced smile on their faces. Power corrupts.

Memes of the week

If you didn't own & ride one of this
vrrrr phaaaaa when you were still
young then your childhood was
boring



@larrythelame

After skipping the first slice of bread
for so long and now it's tough days
and it's looking at you like



When people are talking about
earthquake and you didn't even hear
anything... haibo yini? Where did it
happen?



When you realize you will no longer
be called "bunch of losers" anymore



You didn't grow up well if you don't
know this kind of measurement as a
boy



If you don't know these couples,
you're are still young for real



Blockword Puzzle

Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions. Words may overlap but do not share letters.

Words meaning "Ugly"

N	R	E	P	U	G	N	A	N	T	E	R	L	Y
I	I	S	A	P	P	A	L	L	I	N	G	I	L
S	I	S	G	N	I	L	L	E	P	E	R	Y	T
S	E	U	R	I	S	H	O	R	R	I	D	L	S
R	U	O	L	U	O	F	E	I	E	N	O	Y	A
G	Q	E	S	U	O	R	T	S	N	O	M	R	E
R	S	D	A	U	N	S	E	E	M	L	Y	L	B
I	E	I	E	L	R	E	P	U	L	S	I	V	E
S	T	H	A	M	U	I	Y	P	A	S	V	P	S
L	O	L	S	R	M	I	S	S	H	A	P	E	N
Y	R	N	E	M	O	S	H	T	A	O	L	R	O
D	G	E	R	L	U	F	T	H	G	I	R	F	E
S	Y	L	T	H	G	I	S	N	U	L	G	N	A
S	R	S	U	L	H	S	S	S	O	R	G	E	E

MISSHAPEN
HIDEOUS
REPULSIVE
REPUGNANT
LOATHSOME
UNSEEMLY
GRISLY
APPALLING
FOUL
GROTESQUE
HORRID
UNSIGHTLY
FRIGHTFUL
GROSS
REPELLING
MONSTROUS
BEASTLY

WIN WITH SWAZI OBSERVER AND LESERATO EVENTS

(Get the name correctly in the puzzle and stand a good chance at winning E100 worth of airtime, as well as a month long supply of Observer on Saturday copies, delivered to your door step. Have them dropped at Swazi Observer offices in Mbabane by Wednesday and be amongst the best candidates to win such prizes)

NAME:

CELL:

Cartoon Corner

Baby Blues



Blondie



Hagar the Horrible



SOAPIE WATCH | SOAPIE WATCH | SOAPIE WATCH | SOAPIE WATCH



Wednesday 12 April

Mpiyakhe has a notable breakthrough. Jabu and Zama start a new life together. Thandeka has a breakthrough moment with Ma'Khanyi.

Thursday 13 April

Mpiyakhe is drawn to the river. Mehlemamba and Fezile are intrigued by Zakhiti's defence of Nonhlazi.

Friday 14 April

Zakhiti reveals the shocking reason why she can't let Fezile or Mehlemamba act against Nonhlazi. Beauty gets very bad news. Siphokazi's guilt proves unbeatable.

Monday 10 April

Qondi arranges for Beauty Ngwenya to surrender and apologise to the Zungus. Meanwhile, Thandeka proves herself the dutiful makoti.

Tuesday 11 April

Kwa'Manzini receives explosive news from Fezile. The walls start closing in on the Ngwenyas while Thandeka and Mabuyi share a moment of reconciliation.

ISIDÍNGO

Monday 10 April

Kgothalo threatens Angie, telling her she'll drive her out of HD. Nina tells Mthombeni to tell Lincoln the deal is off. Morongwa complains that Lerato fooled her and Matlala tells her to beware of abomashonisa.

Tuesday 11 April

Lincoln becomes murderous when Nina stabs him in the back. Nikiwe and Kgothalo's budding friendship experiences a hiccup. The pressure to pay his parents' debt cripples S'khumbuzo.

Wednesday 12 April

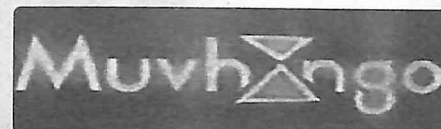
Nikiwe tries to convince the board why they should merge SG and Hi - will they buy into it? An emotional Angelique discovers she's being investigated for foul play in the Lincoln murder case - could this signal the end of her career?

Thursday 13 April

Nikiwe has a kitchen disaster trying to impress Gabriel with a home cooked meal. Angie finds the wait unbearable, and finds an outlet for her anger and anxiety. Meanwhile, Nina gets pulled back into Lincoln's escape plan after being held up at gun-point.

Friday 14 April

Nina doesn't need Gabriel on her backside, she will not take his threats. She decides to tell Nikiwe the truth and immediately Gabriel changes his mind. He realises he can't play Nina.



Monday 10 April

Nonny suspects Sthe knows more about his father's body's disappearance than he's letting on. Rendani blames Ndalamo for the woes in her relationship with Lwazi. Teboho is up to her mischievous deeds again.

Tuesday 11 April

Sthembiso finally sees through his father. But is it too late? Nothing could prepare Rendani for her new career path. A mysterious business card slips out of Busi's portfolio.

Wednesday 12 April

Thandaza and her family receive a visit from an uninvited guest. Rendani shows a side her friends never knew existed. Teboho is up to her no good, again.

Thursday 13 April

Pule presents Nonny with an antenuptial contract. Mudi is not happy with KK Azwindini wants Thandaza and her family to go to Venda for the thanksgiving ceremony.

Friday 14 April

Azwindini hosts a thanksgiving with the entire family. Nonny's hurt that Pule thinks she's marrying him for money. Vusi is forced to do right by Katlego.



Monday 10 April

Lungelo is shocked to realise Getty was telling the truth. Has an innocent kitty-cat managed to soften the hardest heart of all? Nolwazi says her final goodbyes to her one true love.

Tuesday 11 April

The clock is ticking but will Fana find the grave in time? Lesedi's innocent question catches Lucy off guard.

Zitha is shocked when the police arrive to arrest her.

Wednesday 12 April

Mrekza pitches at the shebeen with a special gift. Zach and Namhla make a breakthrough. Jack puts a price on Thabiso's head.

Thursday 13 April

Getty decides to follow her sister's advice and play the victim. Smanga isn't happy to hear why Tau is so intrigued. Gadafi is furious when his revenge play falls flat.

Friday 14 April

Wandle tries to explain herself but Lungelo is not interested. Lucy is furious about her late-night visitor. Nolwazi's paranoia gets the better of her.



Monday 10 April

Alexa is suspicious of Mariaan's strange behaviour. Xander sees an old acquaintance in Hillside. Aggie prepares for her next challenge in Mej Volondrovou.

Tuesday 11 April

Charmaine helps Vanessa deal with the tough times that lie ahead. Vince is worried when he realizes that Cecile has the best lawyer on her side.

Wednesday 12 April

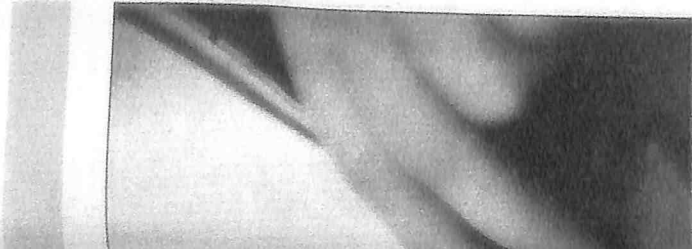
Petro spills Connie's secret... is this the end of André and Connie's relationship? André prepares Vince for the court case that lies ahead.

Thursday 13 April

The Welman kids are shocked to learn that their family has more secrets. Bonita supports Vince in this difficult time.

Friday 14 April

Alexa won't allow anyone to walk over her. The Bruynwaves team find themselves in a difficult position.



tards all my life and all
ever give. Now when I
their bull, they start hat-

oes on and che sara sara,
n shining anyway.

e are in this world, some
it smile on their faces.

e talking about
you didn't even hear
yini? Where did it

No chill in Mzansi



hese couples,

g for real



No chill in Mzansi

NTOKOZO DLAMINI eGebeni



PASTOR NTOKOZO DLAMINI OF EGEBENI LAUNCH HIS 4TH ALBUM

Pastor Ntokozo Dlamini of eGebeni launched his fourth album at a not-so-well attended show at Light of Christ Ministries at Ndlunganye on Friday night.

Pastor Dlamini is the founder of Family Praise Ministries which has two branches in Matsapha and Gebeni which is his home area. The event which was an all-night show failed to attract a good number of gospel music lovers but the artists present rendered their best of performances. Artists lined-up for the night included Nkosingiphile NeNsali KaJehova, Nonhle Mthethwa, Scara Maziya and Make Simelane among others.

The launch was graced by Minister of Agriculture, Moses Vilakati who is also Ntondozi MP where Dlamini hails from. Also present among other guests was seasoned gospel artist Freddie Msimango.

Pastor Dlamini launched his album titled 'Unkulunkulu Akakhohlwa' which follows three other albums namely 'Baphi Abalimele', 'Umlanga Oficekile' and 'Blessed Assurance'.

(By Simon Shabangu)



VOC Radio personality Njabulo Mkhali in a conversation with the host, Pastor Ntokozo Dlamini while Minister Moses Vilakati looks on. This was during Dlamini's album launch at Light of Christ Ministries. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



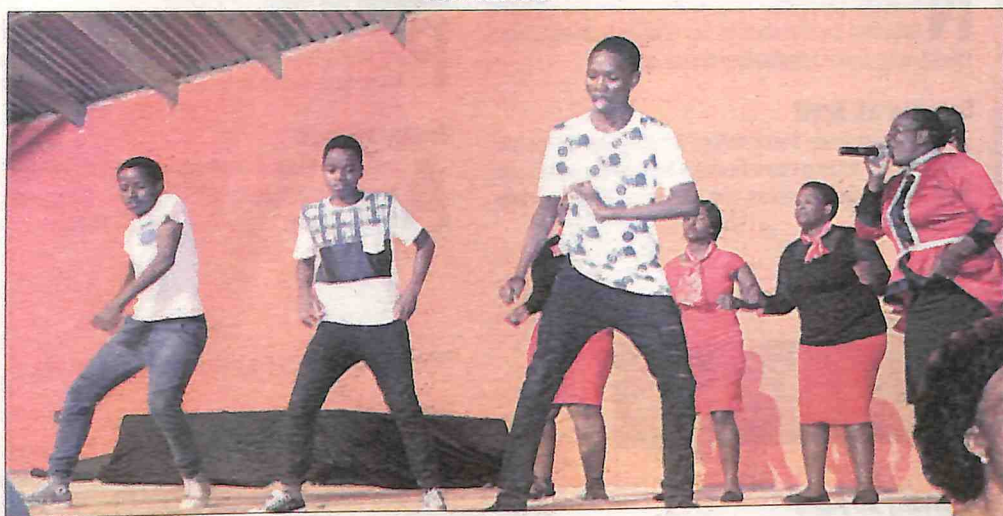
Nkosingiphile Shongwe leading Insali KaJehova in song.



Scara Maziya in high spirits during his performance.



Nkosingiphile Nensali KaJehova rendering their performance.



Make Simelane and her group were a marvel to watch as her boys displayed their dancing skills.



Gospel music lovers dancing up a storm.



A section of the gospel music lovers who attended the show having a great time.

Nonhle joined by her mother Amazing Mthethwa and Menzi Mthethwa in a performance.

SWANCEFA



With: Thulani Lushaba

Pre-vocational or pre-technical education programmes are mainly designed to introduce learners to the world of work and to prepare them for entry into further vocational or technical education programmes.

In Swaziland, the Pre-Vocational education programme was introduced to respond to a Parliament Motion No.6 as stated in the "National Education Review Commission (NERCOM, 1985)", policy document.

The "Skills for the Future (1990)" report also came as a result of the committee that had been established by this Parliament Motion.

The 2011 Swaziland Education and Training Sector Policy places skills building at the centre of the country's education agenda and a way of improving the country's economic competitiveness regionally and globally. The education sector policy state that: "If Swaziland is to become regionally and globally competitive, and a major regional exporter of skilled human resources, there is an urgent need to re-position and market technical and vocational education and training".

The ministry of education and training (MoET) established the Prevocational and Education programme to improve the efficiency of the education system by diversifying the curriculum to include more practical subjects such as Technical Studies, Business Studies, Home Economics, and Agriculture. This was intended to equip pupils who enrolled in this programme with knowledge, skills and attitude that will enable them to start personal enterprise for profit projects, further their education in institutions of further education and training and acquire employability skills for gainful employment.

According to the Prevocational Education and Training Senior Inspector in the Ministry of Education and Training Earnest Simelane the prevocational education in schools started operating in the year 2004 in 16 selected High Schools in all four regions of the country.

The names of the schools are as follows; In the Hhohho region Sikhunyane High School, Entfonjeni High School, Motjane High School, Somnjalo High School and Lobamba National High School. In the Manzini region the schools are as follow; Swazi National High School, Emvimbeko High School, Ngcoseni High School and Ekukhanyeni High School. In the Lubombo region the schools are as follows; Vuvulane High School, St Phillip's High School and Lavundlamanti High School. In the Shiselweni region the schools are as follows; Evelyn Baring High School, Salem High

PREVOCATIONAL EDUCATION, TRAINING

Technical Studies

Carpentry
Building Drawing
Building & Contr
Metal Fabrication

Home Economics

Fashion & Arts
Family Life
Food & Nutrition

Business Studies

Accounting
Marketing
Office Mngt
Hospitality & Tourism

Agriculture

Crop Production
Apiculture
Horticulture
Aquaculture
Animal Health

School, Franson Christian High School and Ngwane Central High School.

All these schools are assisted with resources to operate the practical subjects. The state of equipment ranges from one school to another depending on support from management and economic status of the community of the school. In business studies, the equipment has been overtaken by changes in technology.

According to Simelane it is the wish of their department that prevocational education and training is extended to all secondary and high schools in Swaziland.

Economy

Simelane said prevocational training responds to the immediate needs of the Swazi economy which is shortage of skills to empower the youth to start entrepreneurial projects.

The thinking behind the introduction of prevocational education is to assist young people to develop personal daily living skills and entry level career competencies by providing a nurturing and flexible learning environment which supports the development of responsible citizenship and acceptable work-force qualifications. According to the senior inspector, prevocational curriculum promotes students achievement by establishing identified expectations and processes for recognising demonstrated success.

He said students in prevocational develop competencies that are measureable in an objective and consistent manner.

Competencies

Acquired competencies can be applied in the school and home setting immediately and in the future as students make a smooth transition into adult roles in the family, community, workplace and further education studies.

"In prevocational education students begin developing a range of individual basic skills which support their own personal background or interest areas that may lead to employment," said Simelane during an interview.

He added that as a result of integrated educational experiences, students also better understand their role in society, becoming more knowledgeable consumers and productive citizens.

The prevocational programme consists of four content areas and that is Agriculture studies, Business Studies, Home Economics Studies and Technical Studies. Learners have to choose one from these four practical options.

In prevocational education learners have to do two prevocational core subjects which are Information Technology and Entrepreneurship and five basic core subjects which are English, SiSwati, Mathematics, Physical Science and Religious Education.

Challenge

One of the major challenge of prevocational education and training in Swaziland according to Simelane is the fact that in the past, subjects under prevocational training were not accredited by Cambridge.

He said they are currently in talks with Cambridge to ensure that these subjects are accredited.

In the past, pupils studying prevocational education would receive two set of certificates, one from Cambridge and the other one for prevocational training.

According to Simelane if the plans for the ministry of education and training are successful, this will be a thing of the past.

The education and training sector policy further notes the "current uncertainty about demand for technical education and skills training compounded by under-enrolment in secondary, prevocational courses and negative perceptions about vocational courses".

For many years the Swaziland education system at the final level prepared students for further training in tertiary and not emphasised in building skills that will empower them to be self-employed and economically self-sufficient.

Simelane believes economies grow because people are able to make money and use that money to buy and support local markets.

"Prevocational training has the potential to reduce the amount of goods we import while increasing exports," said the senior inspector.

He also believes the economy of SADC will grow if SADC member countries Industrialise. Through prevocational training and education the country has skilled so many pupils in carpentry, building and construction, metal fabrication, fashion and arts, food and nutrition and hospitality and tourism.

To respond to these articles email us at swancefa@gmail.com or call us on 2404 9617 or like our Facebook page Swaziland Network Campaign for Education for All (SWANCEFA).

TECHNICAL & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TRAINING



- Developing life skills
- Provide skill based training
- Open a whole new set of doors
- Providing students with resources
- Help students identify their interests
- Make students to be independent as possible

ECONOMICS
TODAYWITH: George
Choongwa

There has been an old assumption that when it comes to business wise, the bigger the better.

However, the paradigm is changing towards the opposite these days. Most business people these days have taken the dimension of the opposite. The new trend in business development has it that the bigger the worst, hence it has become the duty for every creative and successful business person to maintain relatively small size when it comes to business.

However, others might argue by stating that what matters is the definition of success and not size that matter in business circles. This makes it much more challenging in the sense that when it comes to doing business, people have different views and goals. To some, it is all about making money on profit, others; it is about making a name for the business, still to some, it is about passion and social impact. The list goes on and on; bearing this in mind, it is important to argue that from the point of if there is any relationship between profit and size when it comes to business.

The case of Facebook and Instagram

One of the interesting cases in this topic is that of the case of Facebook and Instagram. Facebook purchased Instagram at a value of about \$1 billion with only 13 employees. This case somehow creates a broader base of debate with regards to the firm size and level of profitability.

From the academic point of view, Niresh and Velnampy (2014:57) argue that it is important to state that the size of a firm is a primary factor in determining the profitability of a firm due to the concept known as economies of scale which reveals that contradictory to smaller firms, items can be produced on much lower costs by bigger firms. In accordance with this concept, a positive relationship between firm size and profitability is expected.

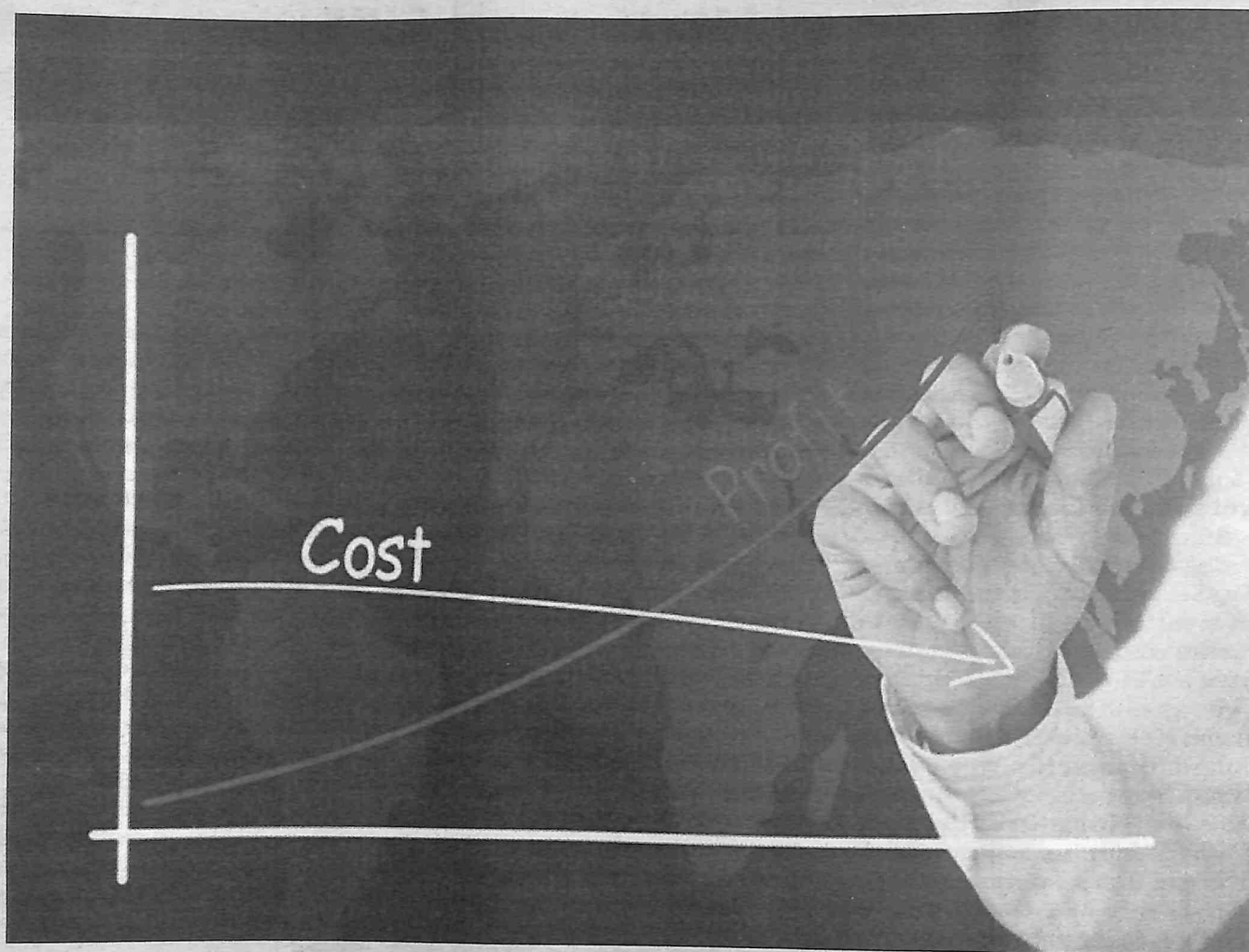
Kim and Ployhart (2014:363) gives a clear situation analysis by stating that the relationship between firm size and profitability lies within several factors of which resource management and allocation was fundamental. These researchers argue that as production increases without corresponding increases in human capital inputs (e.g., hiring more staff), costs are reduced while profits are raised, thereby increasing financial slack resources. Slack resources can then be used to expand operations, pursue new product innovations, and reach new customers. The situation illustrated here brings to light the relevance of an interplay relationship between two variables in question namely profit and firm size.

Pursuing self interests

On the other hand, Niresh and Velnampy (2014:57) states that alternative theories of the firm advise that larger firms come under the control of managers pursuing self-interested goals and therefore managerial utility maximisation function may substitute profit maximisation of the firms' objective function. The concepts established by these two schools of thought namely those who advocate for the firm size and those who do not create a much broader perspective of analysis; an entrepreneurial perspective argues that the smaller the better because all the interest of the business

DETERMINING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROFIT, SIZE OF A BUSINESS

- One of the interesting cases in this topic is that of the case of Facebook and Instagram. Facebook purchased Instagram at a value of about \$1 billion with only 13 employees. This case somehow creates a broader base of debate with regards to the firm size and level of profitability.



were directly being taken care of.

Structures of communication are clear and straight to the point. Employees are few and strategically placed, making the process of creativity and decision making much easier. Other groups argue a firm must increase in capacity for strategic reasons, the bigger the firm, the easier it becomes because the additional costs of sourcing, becomes relatively low, the firm begins to provide for itself, hence reducing cost of production which is also called the internal economies of scale. The understanding by Niresh and Velnampy (2014:57) is supported by the views of Quangyen and Yezhuang (2013:229) who argue that in as much as it is important to up scale the profile of a business with the bid of maximising profits, the fact of training and inducting new staff in an organisation can be reducing agent. The more the staff in an organisation, the more expensive it might take especially in the early stages of an organisational cycle.

Technical capacity demand

However, it is important to argue that the

degree of employee expansion in an organisation was detrimental to the level of capacity demand due to the expansion in operations. It is therefore relevant to point out that organisations are influenced by many factors which come from their dynamic surrounding or from the organisation itself, it is very challenging to argue that there is a relationship between the profit and the size of the firm. The understating to this notion is that profit and size of the firm come into play as a result of the other factors such as level of productivity of that firm which was also determined by factors like demand and supply of a commodity. With regard to this notion, it then becomes relevant to argue that it is not the size and the profitability that matters in terms of business development, rather the nature of the industry in which the business was operating from, as in the case of Facebook and Instagram, the demands of the industry is not labour driven rather intellect because most of the work was done by the machines. (Quangyen and Yezhuang (2013:230).

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Southern African Research Foundation for
Economic Development - SARFED
Nurturing sustainable growth

Untipping The Societal Scales

WITH: Dumisa Dlamini



A noble man and a good woman would never date another whilst their spouses live. If they ain't doing it out of love for the character they are married to, they would execute their faithfulness out of reverence for the holy matrimonial institution.

Society lacks, acutely so, noble men and suffers kwashiorkor from being denied a breed of good designs of Eve's kind.

Be that as pathetic the situation, there still are good men who just lack nobility, a fair share of calculative but not so good women.

You see, a good man will date another woman whilst his marriage subsists and then protect the latter from his lover in all ways possible.

He doesn't want anything bad to befall his wife which is an ultimate result of his illicit affair. He only lacks the nobility to honour his commitment without going astray.

Your calculative woman will only date another man when she is certain there is something to gain from him which she lacks from her masculine legal husband and would be so neat about the affair *angaphikelwa nguyona lendvodza yakhe kutsi akajoli!*

The balance of the matter is that both men and women married today have extra-marital affairs which come back to harass and haunt their marriages.

Societal scales ain't worried about this ungodly malpractice of love 'sex' and marriage. The imbalance comes in when the offending partner, be it a man or woman, tends to say, tell on or discuss something about his spouse to and with the other (wo)man.

The question is, what's there to say about your husband or wife to your secret lover. Look, the mere fact that you are dating another person whilst she lives *anemabele lama-bili naye* like all women is loud and clear statement enough. *Sewushito lokunengi ngaye* to the other woman you love and those who happen to know that you are cheating on your wife or husband.

Manipulate

As said earlier, a good man *logangako kodvwa* is not to say anything about his wife to his Nancy, Thembisile or Okuthandayo, anything good even.

The other woman would manipulate whatever you say about her to her advantage. *"Uyati mine angati kutsi utokwentani la* when you're busy glorifying *umfati wakho kimi*". The man had just complemented his wife being a good mother to his children.

Scales has said this to you *bafati*, in the hands of another woman your husband becomes something else; something you have never known or seen him to be. Some men would have an open-ended discussion about their wives with their other women.

You certainly giving the other woman wings because she would be doing what she doesn't do and refraining what she does so as to win you unto her side.

Your wives' limitations, weakness, shortcomings and even askew character is best dealt with by yourself and kept in your heart.

One old man kaMaphilingo gathered his grandson around *bacokotela esangweni*. He specifically warned them against the dangers to go and see your other girlfriend in the interim you have had a fight with your wife.

You are most likely to be tempted to tell on your wife *nekutsi nicabaniswa yini*. Rather, go drinking and get the council of other man

labanebafati. They will listen to your story and with the encouragement of *emambawu* they will come straight and honest with you, *"icinisile iVroe yakho mfethu, kubhuce wena."*

They will further make you see where you missed the point in the argument and eventually fight with your wife. That would clear your mind, attitude and you shall stealthily go home *ucolise* if *uyindvodza sibili kumake waMcicimuki*.

Don't tell on your wife even if your girlfriend is fishing for information which she is likely to. *"Ungumuntfu lonjani make, unelulaka?"* or "how do you like your breakfast, *uyenta njani make ekhaya?"*

Flippant

Once you entertain those flippant but well calculated questions, you shall find yourself *sewumtjele nekutsi umkakho akakwati kupheka wena nje udla luklabhiya* everyday.

This good but not noble man once deflated the ego of his girlfriend who thought she had come across some dirty on the fellow's wife.

She was so willing to tell and wanted an open ear and a collaborative tongue. In a cool but emphatic voice the man cut her short, *"Asingakhulumi ngaye ngoba naye uma anami akakhulumi ngawe, akakakwati"*.

That was end of story and nothing was ever said ever again about his wife. The question is why you would tell on your wife when you say nothing to her about your girlfriend. That would be amiss and an imbalance.

Discourage your wife even to engage you in

a discussion about your girlfriend *uma asamati*. You may be cornered to defend her in the event she wrongly accuses her and call her names. *"Uyamcala lomntfwanebantfu"* and your wife will go ballistic discovering you have got your side-kick under your strong wing against her, your legal spouse.

Calculate

You see these beautiful creatures called women, *abaganeli lite* outside their marriage. She would calculate and weigh things the new man is bringing versus the husband.

If the grass is truly green across the fence, *uhamba wonkhe, nenhlitiyo yakhe yonkhe, neMcukutfu wakhe wonkhe*. She will certainly tell everything on her husband. That other guy will know that you are such an irresponsible husband who drinks his entire weekend and wallet away.

His ears are patiently listening to her endless tale how you are tied to your mother's apron and failing to come to the party of our marriage with her. In the interim you tell on your husband, you are also exposing your own faults and weakness as a woman. He may disappear without any explanation.

Men are terrified of the dependant syndrome especially from *umfazi womunye umuntu*. He can see where all these complaints are leading to. Principally you are fishing money from his pockets to replenish what her husband ain't giving her.

Some women would even divulge the weakness or non-performance of *umumzane* in

bed. *"Angisamniki mbamba Gamedze mine dali, udlala ngami lomuntfu."* She would claim that she is all reserved for *lesigangi sakhe lesinguwe*. The guy is also married and he does not declare anything about his wife.

He is not even going to tell you about their bedroom life. The moment he realises he is the only man for you, *uyabaleka lomuntfu* because *naye unemcukutfu wakhe* at home rightfully reserved for him *afuna angafuni, akhona angakhoni*. There is acute danger really to discuss your spouse with your other.

The latter may soon be a roadway of spreading the news to other avenues where your wife will get to know. Why, this man who had said everything to Lomantshonsho his girlfriend got the shock of is life when his wife came back to confront him about every detail of the said stuff.

Apparently Lomantshonsho *loyo, acetfuke abheke etulu* at the salon *bamklavula tinwele* was telling a friend for all to hear *ngalesidvwebesha semfati waBae* he would part ways with soon.

The wife was in the very same space awaiting her turn *yekushaywa inkhwetfu enhloko* like all women in this small steamy rooms.

She listened to all and heard all. A good man who lacks nobility though and an equal woman will not tell on their spouses noma *sekum-nandzi kwani ekugangeni kwabo!*

Catch Scales, if you can at
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SAY NOTHING ABOUT YOUR SPOUSE TO YOUR SECRET LOVER

● As said earlier, a good man *logangako kodvwa* is not to say anything about his wife to his Nancy, Thembisile or Okuthandayo, anything good even. The other woman would manipulate whatever you say about her to her advantage. *"Uyati mine angati kutsi utokwentani la* when you're busy glorifying *umfati wakho kimi*"



PET OBSERVER

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Many kind animal-lovers are cruel to their pets through ignorance – docking a puppy's tail, never taking a dog for a walk, keeping a dog on a tight leash so it cannot exercise its powerful sense of smell, not vaccinating, not sterilizing, etc.

Sometimes a starving animal is punished for stealing food. Yet, it is the person who failed to feed the animal correctly who should be punished. Over thousands of years humans have bred dogs into dependency. They depend on us for everything. We are responsible for them. But this is not the same as active cruelty.

Cruelty is a lack of empathy and is a psychological disorder common to serial killers, violent criminals and child abusers. People who are cruel to animals are likely to be or to become a danger to society and need psychological help. There are several causes behind cruelty.

Domestic violence

Domestic violence is the most common background for childhood cruelty to animals. Children who abuse animals may be repeating a lesson learnt at home; like their parents, they are reacting to anger or frustration with violence. Their violence is directed at the only individual in

CRUELTY IS DANGEROUS



the family more vulnerable than themselves; an animal.

Conversely, animal abuse is an important sign of child abuse. Animals are abused in most families treated for child abuse.

The cycle of violence

Children of violent homes often experience or witness sexual, domestic or animal abuse. Sadly, a significant percentage of child abuse victims go on to become violent abusers themselves. Animal cruelty plays two main roles in this cycle of violence: firstly the adult abuser uses dominance and violence towards house pets as a psychological weapon to manipulate and hurt the human victims. Secondly, child abuse victims will often express their intense suffering through real or represented (stories, drawings) cruelty towards the same house pets or other animals.

When children knowingly harm animals their capacity to empathise is reduced and the cycle

of violence, sexual, domestic and/or animal begins again.

In fact, the link between animal abuse and interpersonal violence is so well documented that many US communities now cross-train social-service and animal-control agencies in how to recognise signs of animal abuse. Veterinarians and other people who work with animals are required to notify the police of cases and of suspected cases of animal cruelty and neglect as possible indicators of other abusive behaviours.

Behavioural/psychotic disturbance

Apart from emotional and psychological trauma, cruelty may also result from disturbances to biological brain functions and development. Underdeveloped or improperly functioning parts of the brain related to behaviours such as impulse control and specific emotions such as empathy and anger may be the cause of some violent behaviours.

Lack of connection to nature

Relationships between humans and the natural world influence human behavior towards individual living beings and the planet as a whole. People who have no relationship with the natural world in some form are less likely to understand, relate to or empathise with animals and their welfare. A lack of connection to and understanding of other living beings creates a gap in which indifference and abuse can develop.

Culture, religion and the media

Certain cultural and religious beliefs can influence what is considered acceptable treatment of animals.

Cruelty should never be excused through tradition or repetition. The media, whether real or fictional, can also affect what society finds acceptable and what impressionable young minds absorb.

Children must understand the difference between fiction and reality.

In terms of the Laws of Swaziland (The Cruelty to Animals Act 43 of 1962) people accused of animal abuse are liable to be charged with such an offence. Report all cruelty to the Police and SAWS.

Respect for animals should be something that all the citizens of Swaziland should aim for as in the words of Gandhi *"the greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated"*.

Swaziland Standards Authority

By: Kenneth Shongwe
Information Officer



The Government of Swaziland has a mandate to turn the economy and the country around in order to reach First World status by the year 2022.

To be able to reach the first world status as envisioned by country's authorities, the country needs to refocus its economic policies on the growth of the economy through export of locally produced goods to international markets.

The country being a member of WTO and having signed a number of trade agreements with global trading blocs makes it very possible for any Swazi business to enter international markets.

Thinking about it from our perspective, before a country can enter successfully and gain value in foreign markets, its exporters should be aware of standards/technical requirements of the countries where they want to send their products and thereafter take the necessary steps to meet those requirements.

The WTO requires therefore that members should notify WTO on all technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures that are to be put in place in a particular country. The WTO then notifies other WTO members to give them a chance to comment on the proposed technical regulations.

This is done to avoid WTO members putting in place technical regulations that would pose

WTO/TBT NATIONAL ENQUIRY POINT



as barriers to trade. Exporters therefore need to have a designated place from which to access this wealth of export information to make informed decisions on products.

There are various reasons for this. Firstly an exporter has to gather up to date information about the applicable technical regulation in the target markets.

This can be a challenge for businesses especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to access information on these requirements, which may constantly be changing.

Secondly, exporters have a duty then to adapt their products to meet the target export market requirements.

Thirdly, once a company has done the adaptation process on a product to meet requirements of a targeted market it has to show that it has complied by being certified by competent nation-

al authority.

The company, therefore, has to produce at the export market a certificate of compliance to the required regulations.

To help local companies meet these challenging technical requirements and to ensure that their products have easy access to foreign markets, each WTO member country is required by the WTO through its obligations as per the TBT Agreement, to set up a National WTO/TBT Enquiry Point.

The WTO recommends the establishment of national enquiry points so stakeholders from here and afar could easily obtain information about TBT and related issues, without having to identify and directly contact the agency responsible for any given function in another country.

Mechanism

The WTO/TBT Enquiry Point therefore is a mechanism set up to keep track of current and upcoming technical requirements for products of export interest so that they can be disseminated to exporters on time and in the latest available version.

The Swaziland Standards Authority (SWASA) as per the WTO TBT agreement is the designated WTO national enquiry point for Swaziland.

To fully meet its obligation as per the agreement SWASA's WTO/TBT national enquiry point has been funded by USAID Project. The National Enquiry Point, receives notifications from WTO which are basically from WTO member countries on their proposed technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures.

A summary of those that are relevant to the Swaziland economy is made and then disseminated to relevant stakeholders to make their comments. A 60 day comment period is then allowed to elapse.

The comments are to be sent back to the SWASA WTO/TBT national enquiry point which then forwards them to the WTO. All this is done in an effort to sensitise local exporters about technical regulations proposed in those countries which are targeted as markets.

The transparency requirement of the WTO requires its members to as much as possible, notify of their technical regulations to avoid standards and conformity assessment procedures becoming technical barriers to trade.

SWASA still has a pending responsibility in that we still have to conscientise the Swazi industry on the importance of the notifications, more especially responding to them in good time.

SWASA as a National Enquiry Point receives notifications from WTO which are basically from WTO member countries on their proposed technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures.

In order for Swaziland to reach the First World status through economic growth businesses in the country and organisations such as FESBC and the FSE&CC are therefore encouraged to use the Swaziland Standards Authority's WTO/TBT national enquiry point to obtain information regarding standards, technical regulations, food safety measures and conformance assessment requirements of products of their interest in the international target markets. Businesses especially SMEs are also encouraged to cut costs and use SWASA for certification of their products which are destined for targeted international market.

FOR QUESTIONS AND MORE INFORMATION
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LIVE SMART, BE ACTIVE, EAT WISELY

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Guavas are one of those fruits that no one thinks highly of in Swaziland. In fact, they are easily dismissed by many grown-ups and are mostly left for small children and birds to enjoy, especially in the rural areas.

You will rarely find guavas stocked in any of the fruit stores, stalls or supermarkets in the country. Guava is another tropical fruit rich in high-profile nutrients. With its unique flavour, taste, and health-promoting qualities, the fruit easily fits into the category of new functional foods, often labelled as "super-fruits."

What is guava good for?

Guava helps to protect immune system, regulate blood pressure and lower risk of diabetes. It further helps to strengthen the digestive system. Due to the unique and high concentrations of minerals and vitamins, guavas can also help increase energy, relax the nerves and decrease the amount of stress hormones in the body.

Weight loss

Interestingly, there is a zero amount of cholesterol in guava. Additionally, the carbohydrates only exist in guava with relatively low amount as well. Meanwhile, guava contains many proteins, minerals and vitamins, not to mention its richness of dietary fiber.

Therefore, guava is an ideal choice to make your appetite satisfied easily. You will feel full for a longer period of time after consuming guava. Surprisingly, even thin people can benefit from guava, which is supportive for weight gain. As it is full of nutrients, guava can enhance your metabolism and nutrient absorption from foods.

Scurvy

When it comes to Vitamins A and C, guava surpasses numerous fruits, even some common ones, such as orange.

Therefore, it is a bright star regarding the prevention against problems related to the lack of Vitamin C.

Undeniably, one of top health benefits of guava is to prevent scurvy.

Eyesight

Guavas are extremely good sources of Vitamin A, which is well known as a booster for vision health. It can help slow down the appearance of cataracts, macular degeneration, and general health of the eyes. It can not only prevent degradation of eyesight, but even an improvement in eyesight once it has begun to degrade.

Diarrhoea

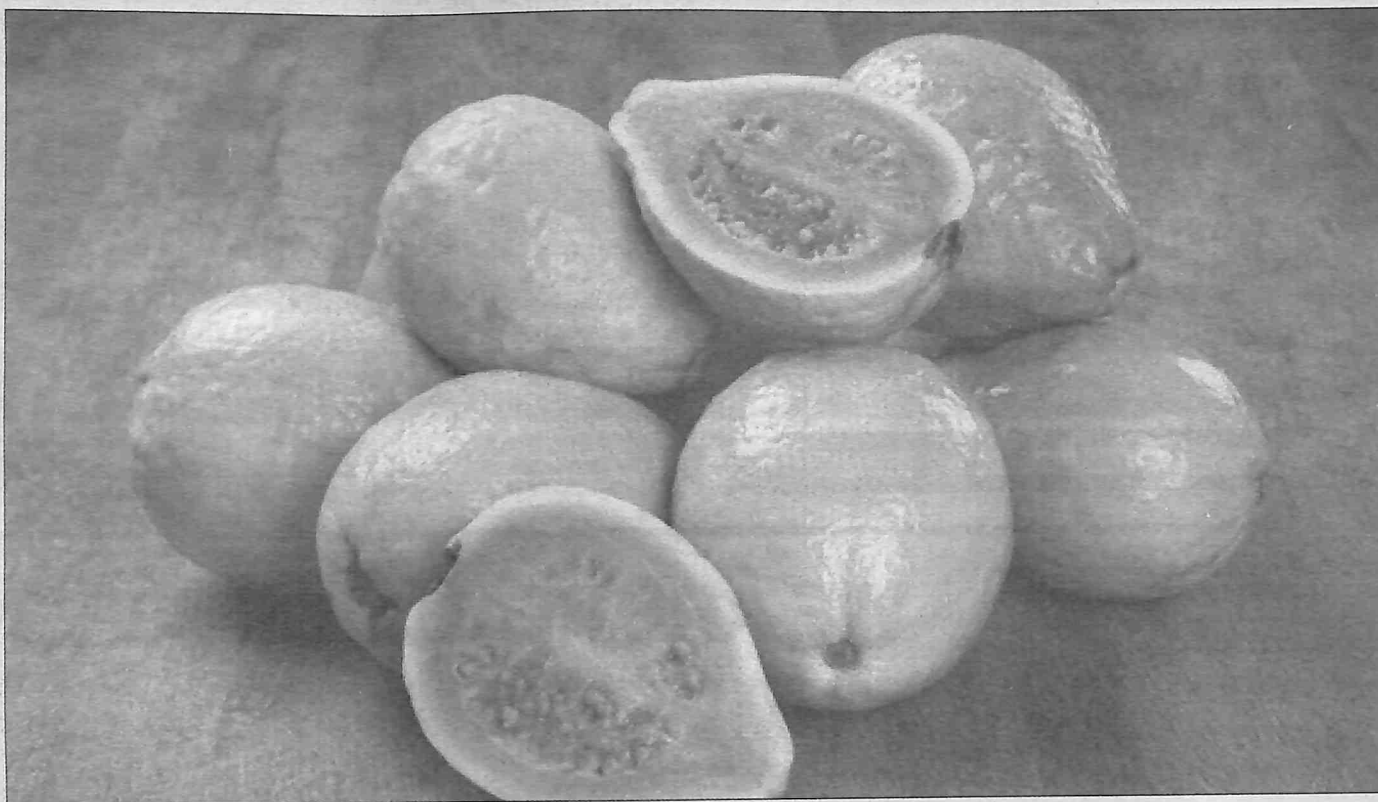
Containing many astringents, guava plays a vital part in the smooth function of the bowel movements.

We can infer to benefits of guava on the diarrhoea treatment.

Its alkaline nature and antibacterial quality contribute to limiting the concentration of mucus in your intestines.

WHY WE SHOULD EAT GUAVAS

● Guava helps to protect immune system, regulate blood pressure and lower risk of diabetes. It further helps to strengthen the digestive system.



Besides, you can profit from numerous nutrients in guava, like carotenoids or potassium, to promote your digestion.

Brain Health

Vitamins B3 and B6 constitute benefits of guava on the brain – one of the most important parts in the body.

Niacin which is Vitamin B3 promotes the blood circulation to the brain, which enhances your cognitive function.

This substance is necessary if you want to stay away from cognitive issues that often occur to elderly people, such as Alzheimer's.

Selection and storage

In the tropical region, guavas can be readily available year around. Red flesh variety such as "Thai maroon" flesh guavas are rich in nutrition than green-apple guavas. Oftentimes, the fruits are left to ripen on the tree to experience their intense, natural flavour. They can also be picked while green but mature and later allowed ripening at room temperature. Ripe guavas have a characteristic colour and pleasant aroma.

In the stores, buy fresh fruits featuring intact skin without any cuts, bruises, or patches. Placing the fruit wrapped in a paper with a banana or apple will hasten its ripening process.

Mature, yet green fruits may be stored for two to five weeks under ideal, regulated temperature between 46°F and 55°F, and relative humidity of 85 to 95 percent. Over-ripe fruits may keep well inside the refrigerator only for

few days.

Preparation and serving methods

Wash them in cold running water in order to remove any dirt or insecticide residues. Fresh ripe guava is best enjoyed with its skin. Remove any floral remnants (sepals) at the apex, and then trim either ends with a sharp knife. It can be cubed, or sliced into, as in apples.

Here are some serving tips:

- Eat fresh guava as it is, to enjoy its natural flavour and unique taste.
- Guava fruit juice is a popular delicious drink in many parts.
- Sliced guava-cubes are a great addition to fruit salads.
- It is also often used in dessert preparations.
- The fruit is also extensively used to make candies, preserves, jellies, jams, marmalade, etc.

Recipes

Guava Jelly Ingredients

- Three cups guavas, peeled and chopped
- Three cups water
- One tablespoon apple cider vinegar
- 3/4 cup sugar
- Two limes, juiced
- One teaspoon salt

Method

1. Place all of the ingredients in a medium

saucepan. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer for 30 minutes.

2. Remove from heat and let cool. Pour mixture through a fine mesh sieve to separate the seeds. Using a large spoon, press down on the solids to release the juices.

3. Return the now seedless mixture back to the saucepan and return to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and let simmer for 40 minutes or until thickened.

4. Remove from heat and let cool. Pour into jars and refrigerate until use. The jelly will thicken as it cools.

Side effects from eating guavas

There are no known negative side effects for consuming guavas for healthy people. One concern whenever you drastically increase your fibre intake could be the increase in fibre can cause some temporary digestive side effects such as: bloating, gas or change in bowel movements.

Any time you increase your fibre intake, make sure you also increase your fluid intake.

If you have a health condition that warrants a lowered intake of potassium or fibre, speak with your doctor before adding guavas to your diet.

So next time you come across some guavas, make sure you help yourself to some, if not for the taste, then do it for the health benefits!!

Contact me:

Xolisiwe Simelane: 2404 7231/ 2404 6363



Sisterly love

"Knock! Knock! Is it safe to come in?" Anele asked peeping through the door and watched her little sister turn on the bed to face the wall without saying any word. She entered and sat on the bed. "Look, I don't want us to fight so I'm here to propose a truce", she calmly said.

"The thing is, I am not perfect and I don't judge you. I am only looking out for you in a way that no one did for me. You have always been here and you saw how everything unfolded and how low and far I landed, taking everyone with me when I had a baby at sixteen. I experienced and felt all that you are feeling today and even believed that Clement loved me like I did him so I gave him my whole life". Anele waited a bit to let her say something but Bongi said no word or signs that she was listening or least interested but she continued. "I know you don't want to talk to me or mom about things like this but I may have the next best thing for you that helped me. There is Dreams on Wheels for adolescent girls and young women like you who are uncertain about some things and the changes in their lives". Bongi turned around but still uttered no word but did something with her phone. Anele's soul sank but she chose not to show it and continue. "You can get facts there and the help I never got but needed when I was your age".

Silence befell the room for a long five seconds. "So where can I get or find this Dreams on Wheels you are talking about," Bongi asked dismissively? The sudden interest was great but Anele chose not to show her joy knowing how her sister is. "It is mobile clinics branded; Dreams on Wheels in purple and blue on the sides and has a picture of three ladies. They are found in various places since they move from one place to the other. You could check their Facebook page; Dreams on Wheels and send a message or check their timeline for where they will be on the day you will be able to go see them. I'll leave you to think about it."

She got up and advanced for the door and before stepping out she turned around to look at her sister who was fiddling with her phone and said, "I may not get to say this much but I love and believe in you. Be wise and learn from my mistakes and choose life over the moment's glory," and she left the room.

For more information and updates please call 2518 7676/5 or toll free number 1212

Don't forget to also connect on cyber space with us via:



THE PASTOR'S KID

with: Zamokuhle Shongwe



Last week I discussed about knowing and understanding God's purpose about you on this planet earth. I also gave a few guidelines on how to actually do that. So today I want you to understand why we are said to be different, as the Pastor's Kids (The PKs).

First of all, **we do not have our own parents**, you know why? Because we have to share them with other people, and we are completely fine with it because it is something we actually do not have control over.

But the problem arises when the pastor is just never around for his biological children but is always with the spiritual children. Now that's a problem because the joy of having a father is stolen from us.

Difference number two would be that, **church is not optional for us**. What reason would you actually give for being left in the house when everyone else is going for church? Not unless you're very sick and or literally throwing up. We just can't afford to miss church. It is amazing how we get to hear people saying they can't even recall the last time they set foot in church. I personally don't think I'd survive.

Another factor would be, **having to be nice to everyone** that I personally consider to be quite impossible. When your focus is entirely stuck on being nice, there's a high possibility that you may end up giving little or no attention to your own feelings and what you want. People may even mistreat you because you're just too nice to actually voice it out.

You are non-opinionated. You are allowed to have opinions and still be nice. In church, you should or at least try to be nice to everyone but note that you should be able to share your opinions to people, they may somehow view you as

WE ARE REALLY DIFFERENT



● Everyone knows everything about you. Having people know everything about you is not right, but when you're a PK it's really hard to stay low key, you know why? Most people will make sure they know all about you to use you as an example or excuse to justify their actions, and also because our fathers always, or rather mostly, use us as examples while ministering to the church.

dynamic.

Everyone knows everything about you. Having people know everything about you is not right, but when you're a PK it's really hard to stay low key, you know why? Most people will make sure they know all about you to use

you as an example or excuse to justify their actions, and also because our fathers always, or rather mostly, use us as examples while ministering to the church.

At times you'd be shocked as to how much knowledge they have about you, some things

you don't even know yourself. Everyone also knows you when you don't.

We will always have people tell us "watch your steps and be exemplary". We can't do things the way we want to because we have to consider that someone is watching somewhere. One wrong move is a bullet, and we will always be an example to others. People will constantly remind you who your father is. We are to set a very good example to the others.

However, if daddy is a pastor, you just get some kind of respect and honour that no other ordinary being would actually receive.

That is why you'll have people coming to you to introduce themselves and wanting to associate their children with you. Every new child will be introduced to you and you'd have to be with them the entire service, and introduce them to the rest of the brethren of course.

So, I might as well agree with the perception that PKs are somehow different from the rest, to some extent of course.

We ought to do or at least try to do things differently from the others, because we are just bound to. We can't be late like the rest; we must greet whoever we meet, not because we are the PKs but because it is just the right thing to do. In fact, this should apply to all of us.

People tend to do all the wrongs because "everyone" is doing it after all. Now I am reminded of a guy who was invited to my school to motivate us about how to take on life. He mentioned something about crowds. He suggested that in "life you just need to step out of crowds and rather be in a tribe" because in crowds you can't make your own decisions. In crowds stupidity is viewed as being wise.

This made me realise that I can't be so stupid to actually want to do things like any other ordinary person. I am a preacher's kid after all and whatever I do should not be the same with whatever crowd does. I should act differently just as we are viewed. If the crowd feels politely greeting people belittles them, I feel it commends me. It's the little things that matter. We are different from the rest.

Focus on SA scene

ZUMA TARGETS APARTHEID-ERA SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT

PRETORIA - President Jacob Zuma has challenged local government leaders to tackle apartheid-era spatial planning to facilitate what he calls radical economic transformation.

Zuma told local government leaders at a summit in Midrand that apartheid spatial planning ensured the majority were housed away from city centres and economic hubs.

He said this, in turn, perpetuated their exclusion from the economy.

The president said this must change and that radical economic transformation was now his main focus until the end of his term.

"They must include effective public transport infrastructure that must be developed by us, as well as new integrated and sustainable human settlements and post-apartheid cities that are more connected, liveable, smart and green. That is at the heart of what we need to do as municipalities. Change the face of South Africa to a democratic South Africa away from the face of apartheid South Africa," said the president.

But municipalities said they face a myriad of challenges.



TARGET: President Jacob Zuma.

Speaking at the same event, South African Local Government Association President Parks Tau revealed the total debt owed to municipalities amounts to R117-billion. Ironically, Tau said, government was among the main debtors.

He added that the situation constrains municipalities' ability to service debts to their creditors, including power utility Eskom.

"In fact eMalahleni is a particularly typical environment that we're dealing with. What is owed to

eMalahleni by government and what eMalahleni owes to Eskom, actually cancel each other out.

"So the question is how do we manage both situations of government paying eMalahleni so that it's able to meet its obligations, over and above the obligations that residences and businesses have to eMalahleni. That's why we're calling for a comprehensive review and a look at the entire situation, so that we can have a long lasting solution to this problem," said Tau. **eNCA**

ANC cannot punish MPs if they vote against Zuma - Motlanthe

JOHANNESBURG - Former deputy president Kgalema Motlanthe says ANC MPs cannot be punished for voting in favour of the motion of no confidence in President Jacob Zuma.

ANC MPs are facing threats of disciplinary action should they vote in favour of the motion of no confidence in the president on April 18.

This has led to calls for a secret ballot, with UDM leader Bantu Holomisa threatening to go to court if National

Assembly Speaker Baleka Mbete does not reply to his request for a secret ballot on the motion.

Motlanthe told Daily Maverick that to vote against Zuma would not be an offence in terms of the ANC Constitution.

He said the parliamentary caucus was not a structure of the ANC. "Those people ... take an oath as parliamentarians to be public representatives. They can't be treated the same way as you treat an ANC branch." **TMG Digital**



'People resign, we replace them'

JOHANNESBURG - African National Congress Secretary General Gwede Mantashe has criticised former ministers who have resigned as MPs this week after they were dropped from President Jacob Zuma's Cabinet.

Mantashe said on Thursday that former Energy Minister Tina Joemat-Pettersson, Transport Minister Dipuo Peters and Deputy Finance Minister Mcebisi Jonas should have learned from SACP MPs who had previously stayed on in Parliament when Zuma fired them in 2014.

The three resigned as MPs one after the other — after being sacked last Thursday by Zuma.

Mantashe lashed out at the now former MPs who quickly resigned in a clear attempt to preserve lucrative pension benefits, accumulated through their ministerial jobs, which were likely to plummet had they stayed on as ordinary legislators who earn less than members of the executive.

"The pension structure of Parliament as you know, people are removed as ministers, they resign to protect their pensions. When people get to the back benches they lose their pensions. Their pension will be calculated at the rate of a backbencher," said Mantashe.

"In the past when Derek [Hanekom] was removed as a minister [of agriculture], Derek remained in Par-

liament as a backbencher.

"He was reappointed as minister and therefore you can expect it from Derek that he will not resign. A communist minister like Ben Martins, didn't resign when he was removed [in 2014]. A communist minister like Yunus Carrim didn't resign when removed [also in 2014]. All the other ministers when removed they ... go and try to protect their pensions," said Mantashe.

Hanekom confirmed on Thursday that he would not be resigning. "No I'm not [resigning]. My plan is to remain until the end of the term," he said. Peters and Jonas could be reached for comment.

Joemat-Pettersson said in a statement that Parliament was "not the only site of struggle for radical economic transformation." She planned to "continue to make a small contribution" in the national executive committee of the ANC. But when contacted by The Times, for comment she said: "I'm sorry, I'm busy right now okay, bye."

A technical glitch on the part of Parliament fuelled speculation that MPs such as former Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan, Jonas, Peters, Joemat-Pettersson and former public service and administration minister Ngoako Ramatlodi would resign after their names were erroneously removed from Parliament's website. **SowetanLive**



CRITICISED: African National Congress Secretary General Gwede Mantashe.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Somali Landmine kills 14 in minibus

SOMALI - At least 14 people were killed and several others injured when the minibus they were travelling in hit a landmine in the southern Somali region of Lower Shebelle Thursday, police said. "Fourteen civilians, seven of them women, were killed in the landmine explosion near Golweyn, the minibus was transporting 21 people when it ran over the landmine and most of them died in the blast," local police official Ibrahim Isack told AFP. "The mine was planted by the violent terrorists," said Isack, referring to the Al-Qaeda linked Al-Shabaab group. **AFP**

'Be alert during upcoming election'

NAIROBI - The US government is asking citizens residing in or traveling to Kenya to be alert to the security situation around general elections in August and the campaign period this month. Kenya has a history of electoral violence. Fighting that followed the 2007 flawed presidential election killed more than 1 000 people. Two candidates in the upcoming election have been killed, and the governor of Kenya's second-largest city, Mombasa, says his life is in danger after his bodyguard was shot in his car Monday during a campaign rally for a party colleague. **AP**

Egyptians denounce sexual harassment

CAIRO - Hundreds of Egyptian women and girls have come out to denounce sexual harassment and shared personal stories about it on social media, breaking a taboo and raising the ire of some in the country's conservative majority. In posts on Facebook and Twitter from the weekend to Wednesday, rare, candid stories focused on women's first experiences of harassment, almost all of which occurred in childhood and some involving family members and teachers. **AP**

Morocco king names new government

RABAT - Morocco's King Mohamed VI on Wednesday named a new government headed by a member of the ruling Islamist party, following a six-month political deadlock in the North African country. Prime Minister Saad-Eddine El Othman, second-in-command of the Justice and Development Party (PJD) that triumphed in October elections, will lead a Cabinet comprised of Islamists, liberals and leftists, the official MAP news agency reported. Mohamed had named Othman premier last month. **AFP**

Bodies of slain UN experts flown home

KINSHASA - The United Nations said Wednesday that the bodies of two of its researchers, found in a mass grave in the Democratic Republic of Congo, had been flown home for burial. US citizen Michael Sharp and Swedish-Chilean dual national Zaida Catalan were kidnapped on March 12 with four Congolese nationals in central DRC, which has been rocked by clashes between security forces and rebels since September that have left hundreds dead. The bodies of the two UN workers, who had been sent to investigate violence in the central Kasai region, were found in a grave 16 days after they were abducted. **AFP**



NIGERIA COURT UNFREEZES MILLIONS IN EX-FIRST LADY'S FRAUD PROBE

LAGOS - A judge in Lagos on Thursday ordered Nigeria's anti-graft agency to release one of several bank accounts frozen as part of an inquiry into the wife of former president Goodluck. Patience had filed a complaint against the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in September, claiming that she is the rightful owner of \$15.6 million held in several accounts.

The accounts were frozen last July as part of a money laundering and forgery investigation of some of the president's former advisers, as well top officials at four companies.

They are suspected of laundering



FREE: Former Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan (R) and his wife Patience.

millions of dollars from public institutions. But Justice Mojisola Olatoregun said the EFCC had

committed an "abuse of process" with regards to one account in which Patience Goodluck is list-

ed as the holder, which held \$5.8 million. The other accounts, which she claims are hers but are held by associates, are not affected by the ruling. President Muhammadu Buhari, who was elected in 2015, has vowed to stamp out the graft that plagues the oil-rich country. But critics have accused the ex-military ruler of orchestrating a witch-hunt against former officials of Goodluck's party.

On Wednesday, Buhari was dealt a setback after one of Nigeria's leading judges was cleared of 18 corruption charges, with a judge calling the accusations "highly speculative." **AFP**

'Backs West African cooperation against Islamists'

NOUAKCHOTT - France backs efforts by West African states to boost security in their Sahel region, including a plan for a 5 000-strong multinational force to combat Islamist fighters, its foreign minister said on Thursday.

Jean-Marc Ayrault said the G5 Sahel states - Mali, Mauritania, Chad, Burkina Faso and Niger - must improve their counter-terrorism capacity.

"The countries of the G5 have decided to enter a new phase

... with the creation of a common force to protect their borders," Ayrault said after meeting Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz.

"The second phase consists of training specialised troops, not to replace Barkhane, but to strengthen it in the fight against terrorist groups, but also all sorts of trafficking that is wreaking havoc on the region," he told Reuters. Former colonial power France intervened in 2013 to drive out al Qaeda-linked mil-

itants who seized northern Mali the year before. It has since deployed some 4 000 soldiers, known as the Barkhane force, across the region to hunt down Islamists. UN peacekeepers have also been deployed to Mali.

The Sahel region, whose desert expanses stretch from Mauritania to Sudan, is home to several jihadist groups. Mali-based groups have continued to launch attacks across the region in the past 18 months. **Reuters**



DROUGHT: Somalis displaced by the drought arrive at makeshift camps in the Tabelaha area on the outskirts of Mogadishu. The drought is threatening half of the country's population, or about six million people.

Gambians head to polls for first post-Jammeh vote

BANJUL - Gambians head to the polls on Thursday for the first time since the departure of longtime leader Yahya Jammeh, with multiple parties poised to enter Parliament after 22 years of effective one-party rule.

Several opposition parties united to form a coalition in December

to oust Jammeh from power and deliver flagbearer Adama Barrow to victory as the new president.

But internal tensions caused that coalition to break apart, meaning nine parties will run in Thursday's legislative polls including Jammeh's Alliance for Patriotic Reorientation and Construction (APRC) and the strongest traditional opposition

force, the United Democratic Party (UDP). They face a significant threat from the Gambia Democratic Congress (GDC), a youth-led party which did not join the governing coalition, and whose leader Mama Kandeh came third in the presidential poll. More than 880 000 Gambians were eligible to vote, with the polls open from 8:00 am

until 5:00 pm. The first results came out yesterday. There is no formal opinion polling in the tiny west African nation, making it difficult to establish voting intentions, but the scarcity of APRC rallies which once dominated every street during campaigning suggests voters are unlikely to give them the near-total majority of past elections. **AFP**

TUNISIA GIVES BRITISH CALL-TO-PRAYER DJ YEAR IN JAIL

TUNIS - A Tunisian court handed a British DJ a one year jail term in absentia after he played a remixed recording of the Muslim call to prayer, a judicial source said.

Dax J, who left Tunisia after last weekend's set in the northeastern town of Hammamet, was sentenced to "six months for public indecency and six months for offending public morality", said Ylyes Miladi, a spokesperson of a court in the nearby town of Grombalia.

The court dismissed charges against the nightclub owner and an organiser behind the event in the coastal resort, but the prosecution has appealed saying the two should have checked what the DJ would be playing, he added.

A video of the alleged incident shared widely online since last Sunday shows clubbers dancing to music that includes the call to prayer. It sparked a storm of debate on social media.

The DJ issued an apology, as have the organisers of the event.

Tunisia's religious affairs ministry has said: "Mocking the opinions and religious principles of Tunisians is absolutely unacceptable." **AFP**

World News



Furious Putin calls US airstrikes an 'illegal act of aggression'

Russia - Furious Vladimir Putin has called the US airstrikes on Syria an 'illegal act of aggression' and suspended a deal to avoid mid-air clashes with American fighter jets over the war-torn country.

The Russian president warned of grave damage to relations between Washington and Moscow which are already 'in tatters'.

The United States fired dozens of cruise missiles at a Syrian airbase from which it said a deadly chemical weapons attack was launched this week.

Syrian Army officials described the attack as an act of 'blatant aggression', saying it had made the US 'a partner' of ISIS, the ex-Nusra Front and other 'terrorist organisations'.

Moscow received signals the US was launching an airstrike about 30 minutes in advance, according to a Russian ambassador to the UN - but the Trump administration did not seek Kremlin's approval. It is not known if the Russians then alerted the Syrians about the incoming strikes.

Putin said the missile strikes broke international law and halted an agreement with the US aimed at avoiding clashes between their forces in the skies over Syria.

Daily Mail

Several dead in US strike in Syria

BEIRUT - The US military strike on a Syrian airbase has caused several deaths, said the governor of Homs province where the Shayrat base is located.

"There are martyrs, but we don't yet know the number either of martyrs or of wounded," Talal Barazi told AFP by telephone.

He said parts of the base were on fire and some of the wounded were suffering from burns.

"It will take some time to determine the extent of the damages," he said.

"Of course we condemn this, all action targeting Syrian military bases is condemnable," Barazi said.

He said the forces present at the base "provide important support" in the battle against the Islamic State group in the Palmyra region, home to a famed desert city that Syrian troops recaptured from jihadists last month. **AP**

COURT MUST WEIGH BRAZIL'S PLIGHT IN TEMER RULING

BRASILIA - Brazil's top electoral court must consider the country's plight when deciding a case accusing President Michel Temer of illegal campaign funding, an incoming justice said, suggesting the tribunal should avoid pitching the nation deeper into crisis.

Admar Gonzaga, picked by Temer to join the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) later this month, said the court must weigh Brazil's difficult economic and political situation, not just the facts of the case involving the alleged use of graft money in the 2014 election. "The TSE has a political responsibility ... We have to base our ruling on our vision of the political environment," Gonzaga told Reuters late on Wednesday.

He alluded to the fact that all major parties in the South American country stand accused

ACCUSED: President Michel Temer.



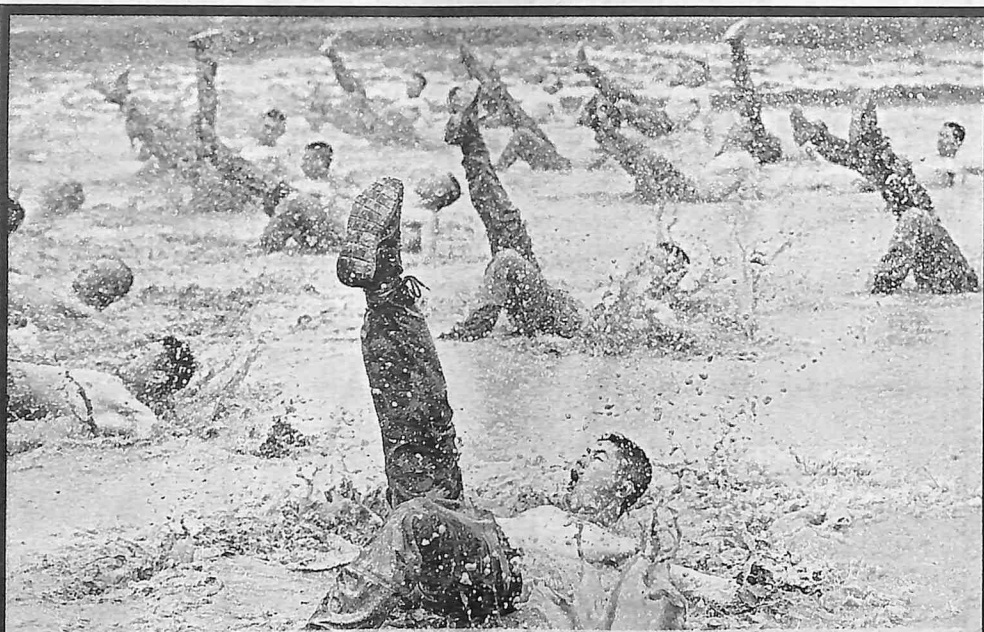
of accepting bribes and illegal funds at the time of the election.

"The whole political scene was contaminated," Gonzaga said, declining to indicate how he might vote in the case.

While Gonzaga will be just one voice on the seven-seat tribunal, his arrival on April 16 suggests the balance is swinging in Temer's favour.

The president can appoint another justice next month to fill the second vacancy, and can already expect a favourable hearing from TSE President Gilmar Mendes, who is close to a party in Temer's coalition. That would put Temer just one vote shy of a potential victory that lifts the legal cloud over his administration.

Reuters



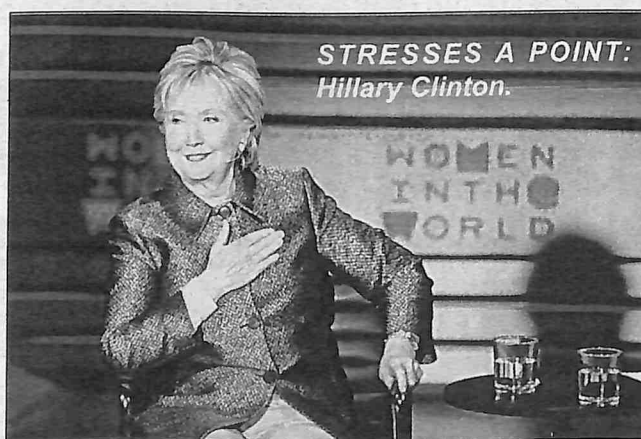
TRAINING: Paramilitary policemen attending a training session in Guigang, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China.

'Misogyny' played role' in election loss'

NEW YORK - Former secretary of state Hillary Clinton said Thursday that misogyny "certainly played a role" in her bruising defeat at the hands of Donald Trump in last year's US presidential election.

"I don't know that there is one answer," she told the Women in the World Summit in New York when asked why she thought she lost the white women's vote to a Republican who had boasted of groping women.

"Certainly misogyny played a role, I mean that just has to be admitted," added the former first lady and New York sena-



STRESSES A POINT: Hillary Clinton.

tor, who was treated to an ecstatic welcome and standing ovation from the crowd. "I think in this election there was a very real struggle between what is

viewed as change that is welcomed and exciting to so many Americans and change which is worrisome and threatening to so many others. **AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pope to wash feet of inmates

VATICAN CITY - Pope Francis will wash the feet of inmates at a prison known for housing mafia turncoats in an Easter week ritual meant to show his willingness to serve. The Paliano prison, located in a huge fortress outside Rome, houses many of Italy's "collaborators of justice", who can shave time off their sentences by co-operating with anti-mafia investigators. Given the security concerns involved, the Vatican said on Thursday the April 13 Mass at the maximum-security facility would be "strictly private". **AP**

Man fined over graffiti proposal

SHEFFIELD LAKE - A man who spray-painted a marriage proposal on an Ohio shopping centre has been fined for criminal mischief and sentenced to community service, but says he doesn't regret it. After all, she said yes. The Chronicle-Telegram in Elyria reports a magistrate in Sheffield Lake told 23-year-old Kyle Stump that the more traditional down-on-one-knee proposal might have been preferable. Stump says he thinks authorities overreacted. Stump pleaded no contest this week in Mayor's Court in Sheffield Lake, about 30km west of Cleveland. **AP**

Basque ETA group lays down arms

MADRID -

Basque militant separatist group ETA, which waged



a bloody campaign for independence from Spain for over half a century, said early yesterday it had given up all its arms and explosives. The BBC cited what it said was a letter from ETA declaring it had handed all its weapons to civilian go-betweens and was now a disarmed organisation. The move stops short of a full disbanding of the organisation that has killed more than 850 people in its quest for an independent state in the mountainous Basque region that incorporates part of northern Spain and southwestern France. **AFP**

Wine industry sees little impact from fires, heatwave

TALAGANTE - A torrid summer and devastating fires across central Chile's wine belt have forced an earlier harvest this year, but there are no signs that volume or flavour will be affected, local industry experts said. High temperatures can lead to excessive sugar and alcohol in the grapes and the harvest needed to take place as soon as the right level was reached, they said. Climate change is contributing to record droughts, heat and wildfires in Chile, the world's number four exporter of wine by volume and the biggest among New World producers, threatening crops and spurring growers to move south to cooler climes. **Reuters**

Israel backs Trump's 'strong message' Syria

ISRAEL - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday he support the "strong and clear message" sent by a US strike in neighbouring Syria in retaliation for a suspected chemical attack. The Israeli military said it had been informed in advance of a massive cruise missile strike on a Syrian airbase, the first US operation against the Damascus regime in six years of civil war. "In both word and action, President (Donald) Trump sent a strong and clear message today that the use and spread of chemical weapons will not be tolerated," a statement from Netanyahu's office said. **AFP**

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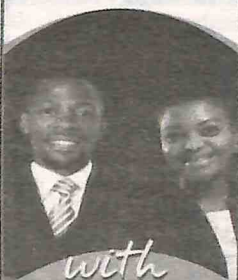


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3:00pm
Sundays Women
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Main Service
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15 DEATHS



Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani baPhindile Priscilla Mbonane (la Ndiangamandla) kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Kwatiswa bonke baka Mbonane ekhakhakhe, baka Ndiangamandla ekhaya kubo Kantjingila nebaka Shabalala ekhabonina. Kutolindzelwa ngeMgcibelo bese kufihlwa ngeLisontfo mhlaka 9 April 2017 Kaphunga eSimoyini. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngu Paul Mbonane egameni lemndeni.



Kwatiswa tihlobo telugwagweni naseLujikizeni, kwatiswa bantwabeNkhosi beGundvini, bekhakhakhe kaVilane, nebaka Magagula ekhabonina kaNkambule nelibandla leThile kutsi Moses Mvevase Msibi lotalwa nguMangisi Msibi kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Utawufihlwa ekhaya lakhe eNdlamini (Mpundze), station Mphosi, ngeLisontfo 9 April 2017 emvakwemlindzelo. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumndeni. Lala ngekuthula sive sikhulu.



Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani baElizabeth Mahlalela kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Ufihlwa ekhakhakhe kaMangaja eMbokojweni ngeLisontfo mhlaka 09 April 2017. Kulindzelwa ngeMgcibelo mhlaka 8 April 2017. Kwatiswa bakaMasilela kaNgilazi. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngu Menjeni Mahlalela.



Kwatiswa tihlobo nemndeni waka Gamedze nebakaNdzinisa eSiphofaneni eLukhatseni kutsi Sibongile Linah Gamedze (laNdzinisa) lobekendze kuMabilane Gamedze naye Longasekho emhlabeni, kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Kwatiswa bakaNdzinisa eNhlambeni nelibandla lakhe leJericho. Ufihlwa ngeMgcibelo mhlaka 8 April 2017, ekuseni emvakwemlindzelo longaleSihlanu nga 9pm. Simemetelo sikhishwa nguDumelitje Gamedze egameni lemndeni.



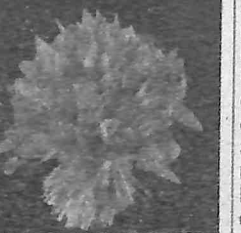
Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani baNkosingmele Mngometulu wase Mndobandoba kutsi usishiyile. Utofihlwa ngeMgcibelo 08 April 2017 emvakwemlindzelo ngaleSihlanu 07 April 2017. Kwatiswa basekhakhakhe kuGucuka, nato tonkhe tihlobo takhe.



Friends and relatives of Sanelisiwe Sane Shabangu are notified of her sudden demise. She will be laid to rest at her parental home at Mantengeni Mananga, on Sunday 09 April 2017 after a night vigil on 8 April 2017. Announcement by her loving father Doctor. Rest in Peace Mbhele Loluhlata Lonjengencoshane.

Our Deepest Condolences

Death is only a bridge towards eternal life with God. Certainly Heaven is rejoicing for another soul has finally reached his true home.



Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani baLomdanda Bhensi Mkhathshwa kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Usishiye ngalokukhulu kutumeka. kuneNkonzo yesikhumbuto ngaleSihlanu eSiphula Assemblies of God mhlaka 07 April 2017 nga 2pm. Umlindzelo utawuba ekhaya kakhe eSiphula eSitolo kaMkhathshwa. U mngcwabo ungeMgcibelo mhlaka 08 April 2017, khona eSiphula. Kwatiswa bakaSimelane kuMaliyaduma, kaSikhondze eNhlambeni nabobonke beNguni baseLwandle. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumndeni wakaMkhathshwa.



Kwatiswa tihlobo nemndeni waShodi Sembolelo Bhembe lotalwa nguLogwazela kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Kwatiswa nebekhabonina eLangeni nebe Khakhakhe kaMalin kuGege inkonzo yesikhumbuto itawubanjwa eSt Bosco Primary school hall mhlaka 08 April 2017 at 2pm. Kutawubese kuyiwa ekhaya kubo eGundvini/ Lwandle lapho atawufihlwa khona ngeLisontfo eKuseni emvakwemlindzelo. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumndeni wakaMcemane Bhembe egameni lemndeni.



Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani baXolani Ndwandwa kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Utawufihlwa ekhaya kubo eMsindza ngeLisontfo mhlaka 09 April 2017 emvakwemlindzelo. Kwatiswa bakaGogo wakhe kaGina eMpompota eMabhananeni kanye nebakaNdwandwa eNkambeni.



Kwatiswa bakaMthethwa kaMufi Dingiswayo Palishi Mthethwa, kaZombondze nakuletinye tindzawo kutsi make Sibongile Cynthia Mthethwa ulaNhlabatsi, umka Luke Boy Maplango akasekho emhlabeni. Utawufihlwa ngeMgcibelo 08 April 2017 emvakwemlindzelo ekhaya kakhe kuVovovo kaMkhweli. Simemetelo sikhishwa yinduna TV Mtetwa egameni lemndeni.



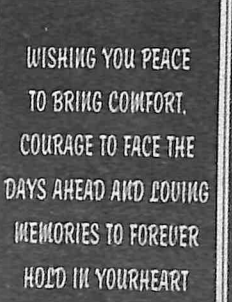
Friends and relatives of Edward Elphas Dlamini are notified that he has passed on. He shall be laid to rest at his homestead at Majotini (Nkhaba) after a night vigil on Friday 7th April 2017. Funeral on Saturday 8th April 2017.



Kwatiswa tihlobo nemndeni waShodi Samuel Dlamini kutsi sewusishiyile emhlabeni. Utawufihlwa ekhaya kakhe eMlindazwe kaLavumisa ngeLisontfo mhlaka 09 April 2017 ekuseni. Kwatiswa nebase khakhakhe kaTfwala. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumndeni wakaMfanomncane Dlamini egameni lemndeni.



Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani baGogo Grace Simelane ulaKhumalo kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Utawufihlwa ngeMgcibelo emvakwemlindzelo lotawuba ngaleSihlanu ekhaya lakhe eSiphofaneni (eMabhubukweni). Kwatiswa belibandla lakhe Othandweni Evangelical Church batochuba umsebeni. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngulsa Simelane egameni lemndeni.



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Kwatiswa bakaSukati eMankayane eMhlatane nebaka Kunene eJabulane nebaka Zwane ekhabonina netihlobo kutsi Dorah Mamane Sukati (Gogo Kunene) akasekho emhlabeni. Ufihlwa ngeLisontfo mhlaka 9 April 2017, ekhaya kakhe eMankayane. Umlindzelo ungeMgcibelo mhlaka 8 April 2017.



Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani baNokuthula Tembe kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Ufihlwa ngeMgcibelo mhlaka 08 April 2017 emvakwemlindzelo lotaba khona mhlaka 07 April 2017. Utawufihlwa emathuneni eKwaluseni eMbhuleni. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngudzadze wabo Nothando Tembe.

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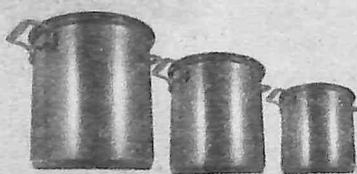
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Max Verstappen's Red Bull throws out sparks as he completes the fastest lap in Shanghai.
(AFP)



PRACTICE ABANDONED IN SMOGGY SHANGHAI

SHANGHAI - China's notoriously murky air prevented a full running of the Chinese Grand Prix's practice sessions yesterday in a frustrating day for drivers and fans in Shanghai. Smog and damp weather combined to cut short morning practice and force the cancellation of the afternoon running without title hopefuls Lewis Hamilton and Sebastian Vettel ever laying rubber.

The problem wasn't even at the track, Formula 1 said the race's medical helicopter would have been barred from landing at designated hospitals due to Chinese rules on flight visibility.

A local airport in the area even had to be closed, the FIA noted.

Air quality in Shanghai was in the "unhealthy" range, according to readings put out by the US Consulate in the city.

There was no immediate

announcement on whether the situation could affect the race schedule, but further poor weather was expected this weekend.

More than half the drivers got a crack at the boggy circuit during a curtailed morning running, with Max Verstappen of Red Bull getting around the quickest.

But the situation delayed the hotly anticipated resumption of hostilities between Mercedes and Ferrari.

Hamilton and defending champions Mercedes have vowed to bounce back after their wake-up call in the season opener in Melbourne two weeks ago, where Vettel steered his Ferrari to a commanding victory.

Forlorn drivers sat in the pits or in their cars yesterday as they waited to see whether the afternoon's practice would ever get under way before time eventually ran out. **AFP**

MASTERS AGONY FOR DUSTIN JOHNSON

LONDON - It took a long time for the opening round of the 81st Masters to shake off the disappointment of losing the favourite Dustin Johnson without him playing a shot.

As the evening shadows descended, however, the first day drew to a dazzling crescendo as Rory McIlroy threw off the shackles, Lee Westwood finished with a flourish and Sergio Garcia became the only man to play 18 holes without a bogey.

Best of all was a round of superlative quality from 40-year-old American Charley Hoffman, who defied the devilish gusts and significant breezes to accumulate 10 birdies and somehow post a 65.

"It was so difficult at times out there that at one stage I didn't think we'd see 10 birdies from the entire field, let alone one man," said Sir Nick Faldo, on American television. "I would rank it right alongside the finest first rounds in majors I have ever seen."

The history books backed up Faldo's argument. Hoffman's display was so good nobody else could get within four shots of him and you have to go all

the way back to the 1941 Masters when Craig Wood was five clear to find the last time a first-day frontrunner established so big a lead.

As player after player came in and described — with good reason, it has to be said — how tough it was and the cruel beauty of Augusta revealed itself, Hoffman kept hitting iron shot after iron shot close to the hole.

It really was as though he was playing a different course as he registered a card that was a full 10 strokes better than the average score on the day.

The only other man to break 70 was American journeyman William McGirt, with a 69.

"I came in here with a bit of confidence after two top-four finishes recently but it was really special to see so many putts go in the hole," said Hoffman, who opened with rounds of 67, 68 in 2015, before going on to finish ninth.

Daily Mail



CONTE DISMISSES TALK OF SERIE A RETURN THIS SUMMER

LONDON - Antonio Conte has provided the clearest indication yet that he will stay at Chelsea next season, despite persistent talk of a return to Italy.

The Blues manager is close to landing the Premier League title in his first season at the club but rumours of a summer switch to Inter Milan are refusing to go away.

Andrea Pastorello, an Italian agent, was quoted in Italy suggesting he might be tempted to leave.

Conte is contracted to Chelsea until 2019 but the club want him to extend his deal this summer.

"Pastorello is a friend," he said. "I know him well but I don't like it when others speak for me."

"We're fighting for the title and we want to achieve this goal, then we'll try to build something important together."

Asked whether that meant he would stay at Chelsea next season, Conte



BELIEVE ME: Antonio Conte

replied: "Yes, for the next season."

Meanwhile, the FA will not punish Diego Costa for his apparent kick at Vincent Kompany in Chelsea's win over Manchester City on Wednesday.

Referee Mike Dean saw the inci-

dent and dealt with it at the time, so Costa will not be punished retrospectively. That 2-1 win at Stamford Bridge edged Chelsea closer to the title, but Tottenham's Jan Vertonghen believes the stress of leading may yet take its toll. **Daily Mail**

BRAZILIAN SIDE TAKE SPONSORSHIP TO WHOLE NEW LEVEL

BRASIL - Brazilian Serie D outfit Fluminense de Feira have teamed up with a local supermarket in Bahia in an innovative scheme to use their shirt numbers to advertise the store's new offers.

The Bahia state side use each player's number to advertise the price of an item in the supermarket to draw in potential customers.

The shop's product is placed above the player's squad number, with the large number representing the price in Brazilian reals, and a small number beside it the centavos.

In case you were wondering, a pizza goes for R\$10.98, conveniently sported by the star striker Fernando Sobral, and Palmolive Shampoo retails at R\$5.98. This takes local sponsorship to a whole new level. The 90s pop band Wet Wet Wet backed their local side Clydebank in 1993 and The Undertones even featured their beloved Derry City on the front of an album cover. But, this is community spirit in all of its glory.



But that community spirit could not spur them on to win against state rivals Vitoria de Bahia on Wednesday as the team donned the shirts during the 6-0 defeat. The club's Marketing Director, Xito Melo, said football was harder on smaller clubs and they need to be innovative to attract investors and keep up with the big guns.

"We are always looking for new partners, innovations, and this work was developed in one of these partnerships," he said. "In each game, we will bring different offers."

"You cannot put together a good team without conditions and having a good team requires resources."

Daily Mail

Isco forced to quell rumours of Barcelona move

MADRID - Real Madrid midfielder Isco has moved to quash speculation he is poised to join Barcelona - after being pictured with a packet of Barca-branded crisps.

The social media faux pas on Thursday sent the rumour mill spinning, with stunned Real supporters questioning whether he was contemplating the unthinkable.

But Isco returned to Twitter to insist he won't be moving to Real's greatest rivals, saying he didn't even eat a single one of the crisps.

The picture of Isco eating salad and potatoes with friends appeared on Thursday, with the large bag of Barcelona-branded crisps noticeable on the table.

The 24-year-old was promptly innun-



CLARIFIES: Real Madrid midfielder Isco.

dated with messages from outraged Real fans and so felt compelled to address the speculation later that night.

He wrote: "I'm not going to Barca. With the photo, I wanted to say that we wanted to eat them with potatoes. #HalaMadrid!!"

A later tweet clarified: "By the way I have not tried them! They were for my friends." Isco has featured regularly in Real's La Liga campaign this season but appearances in the Champions League have been limited to just two matches. **Daily Mail**



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SUCH SAD NEWS

Liverpool star Mane out for the season

LIVERPOOL - Sadio Mane's season is over after Jurgen Klopp admitted the Liverpool winger needs surgery to rectify a knee problem.

The Senegal international was injured during last weekend's 3-1 win over Everton when he collided with Leighton Baines.

Initially Mane hoped the issue would settle down but two subsequent scans have determined there is no other option but for him to undergo an operation. It is a huge blow for Klopp but, more worryingly, he could also be without Philippe Coutinho for today's trip to

Stoke.

The Brazil international, whose role had assumed even greater importance following the injury to Mane, is a major doubt for the game at the Bet365 Stadium.

Surgery

Coutinho was ill during Wednesday's 2-2 draw with Bournemouth and had to be substituted. He has remained at his home for the past 48 hours in a bid to recover but Klopp says his involvement will be decided at the last minute.

Klopp said: "Pretty sure he [Mane] will need surgery, not 100 per cent when but that is clear. His season is

over. I expected it when I saw the video afterwards.

"He was lucky. It will be impossible for him to play again this season but he will have a long break and be ready for next season.

"Coutinho was not at Melwood yesterday or today. I have to speak to the doctor. Stoke is not that far away [to travel], it will be really close."

On Liverpool's other team news, Klopp added: "Adam Lallana is better but not ready. It is the 'shooting' muscle. He needs a few more days before we can have him back on the pitch. *Daily Star*



GUNNERS: Arsene Wenger and Alexis Sanchez.

SANCHEZ WANTS TO STAY AT ARSENAL - WENGER

LONDON - Arsene Wenger believes Alexis Sanchez wants to stay at Arsenal, despite reports the striker could leave the London club if they fail to qualify for the Champions League.

Veteran French Manager Wenger, in charge of Arsenal since September 1996, has yet to announce if he will stay with the club when his own contract expires at the end of the season and the Gunners boss was giving little away again yesterday. But he was rather more forthcoming about the future of 28-year-old Chile forward Sanchez, whose own Arsenal deal expires at the end of next season.

"I believe that basically he wants to stay at the club and it's down

to finding an agreement with his agent," said Wenger. "I think the players first have to see if they are happy to the club and after (that) most of the time, it's down to finding an agreement, but the finances are involved in it, yes."

Prospects

Wenger, speaking ahead of Arsenal's match against London rivals Crystal Palace on Monday, was again tight-lipped about his own prospects with the Gunners.

Arsenal last won the Premier League title in 2004 and the pressure on Wenger has intensified this season, with the club often looking as though they will miss out on a top four spot that secures Champions League qualification.

AFP

GUARDIOLA NEEDS HULL OF A BOOST

LONDON - Manchester City's season has hit a bump at a bad time, and a victory at home to Hull City today will help bolster their bid to play Champions League football.

City's 2-1 defeat at leaders Chelsea on Wednesday means they have now gone more than a month without a Premier League victory.

Successive league draws against Stoke, Liverpool and Arsenal, followed by the result at Stamford Bridge, have seen City manager Pep Guardiola's team slip to fourth place in the standings.

They were also eliminated from the Champions League by Monaco during that period, meaning that the City Manager's only realistic hope of ending his first season in England with a trophy lies with the FA Cup.

Successful

It has been a less successful campaign than many predicted when Guardiola arrived from Bayern Munich in July with a record of 21 trophies from seven seasons in management.

In the Spaniard's defence, the squad he has taken on at City does not have the spread of world-class talent that he worked with at Barcelona and in Munich, but there have been many signs that the competitive nature of the Premier League has taken him by surprise.

Amid the disappointment of defeat at Stamford Bridge, one significant bonus for Guardiola was the return to action of Vincent Kompany.

AFP

Hazard key to Chelsea success - Courtois

LONDON - Thibaut Courtois believes keeping Eden Hazard is key to Chelsea hopes of building on this season's dominance of the Premier League title race.

Hazard confirmed his importance to Antonio Conte's side with both goals in the 2-1 victory over Manchester City on Wednesday that moved Chelsea one step closer to the title ahead of today's trip to Bournemouth.

The Belgium forward has been linked with a move to Real Madrid, but Chelsea goalkeeper Courtois, Hazard's international teammate, is anxious to see the 26-year-old remain at Stamford Bridge and fire the west London club towards its next target.

The failure to qualify for European competition last year was a major setback for the club and they will return to the Champions League next season with a renewed hunger to challenge the biggest clubs on the continent.

"Eden is one of the best players in the world. Chelsea have ambitions to win the Champions League again and always look to play for the title," Courtois said.



THE MAJOR KEYS: Thibaut Courtois and Eden Hazard.

"If you want to do that, you need the biggest players and he is obviously a big part of that."

The victory over City maintained Chelsea's seven-point lead over second placed Tottenham with just eight games remaining.

Faltered

Having faltered against Crystal Palace the previous Saturday, the win restored Chelsea's momentum.

But Blues centre-back Gary Cahill insists nothing can be

taken for granted when they visit Dean Court this weekend.

"We expect that Tottenham are going to push us all the way," Cahill said. "They are never going to give up and we know that, so we just have to look after ourselves."

"We need to look at what we are doing and win our games."

"We have to show the same commitment and work-rate as against Manchester City, and also the ability. *AFP*

'STOKE WILL SEE BERAHINO'S BEST NEXT SEASON'

LONDON - Manager Mark Hughes said he does not expect Saido Berahino to produce his best football for Stoke City until next season as the striker is still finding his feet at the Premier League club.

Berahino, who joined Stoke from West Bromwich Albion in January, has not scored a league goal in over a year, and had seen his career stall at his former club due to off-field incidents.

The 23-year-old is yet to score in eight appearances for Stoke.

"(Berahino) hasn't played a lot of football this year and he's still getting up to speed. These games are invaluable and I feel we will see a marked difference next season," Hughes told reporters yesterday.

Difficult

"It's always difficult coming in at half-term but he's integrated well into the squad and we want to get him up and running in terms of goals."

Giannelli Imbula, who joined the club for a record 18.3 million pounds from Porto in 2016, has made only two league appearances for Stoke this year and Hughes urged the midfielder to make the most of his game time. *Reuters*

South African SOCCER



'Tau will play abroad'

JOHANNESBURG - Percy Tau has the potential to play in Europe and will eventually leave Mamelodi Sundowns, according to head coach Pitso Mosimane.

Mosimane says Tau will follow in the footsteps of midfielders Bongani Zungu and Keagan Dolly, who both moved abroad, after an impressive breakthrough campaign with the Brazilians.

The Bafana Bafana international was highly regarded by the Masandawana technical team as he progressed through the development ranks, but his career was at a standstill last season.

However, after a short stint in the National First Division with Witbank Spurs, the 22-year-old forward was recalled by Mosimane and has been an ever-present figure under

his tutelage ever since. The loss of Dolly and various injuries forced Tau to be deployed in an unfamiliar false number nine role this campaign, where he has thrived, winning numerous man-of-the-match awards, while notching up six goals and seven assists in 17 league games. "Percy is growing progressively," Mosimane told The Star. "He's still young and has a whole lot more to learn."

Experiences

"And the only way to aid that is to give him more game time so he can continue learning from his experiences. We need to allow him to go out there and have fun."

"Percy is going to go places. He's definitely one of those players who I believe we're going to lose in the near future."

Sport24

MANQELE RELEASED BY AMAKHOSI

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs have announced the departure of Edward Manqele after agreeing to the cancellation of his contract with the Premiership club via mutual consent.

The much-maligned striker struggled to make an impact during his stint with the Glamour Boys, scoring only a single

goal in 23 appearances over the past season and a half.

After being transfer listed in the off-season, the decision comes as no surprise as both parties agreed it's in everyone's best interests to part ways. "Manqele was transfer listed at the end of last season but was not signed," Chiefs football Manager Bobby

Motaung told the club's official website. "After speaking we agreed it was best to release him so he can find a new home and continue his football career." The 29-year-old has scored 24 goals in 94 league games since making his top-flight debut for Free State Stars. *Sport24*



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Koke robbed at gunpoint



ROBBED: Atletico Madrid midfielder Koke.

MADRID - Atletico Madrid midfielder Koke was threatened at gunpoint and had his £60 000 watch stolen on Thursday.

The Spain international was driving his car in an underground car park in Madrid's Chamberi district when a motorcyclist, brandishing a gun, followed and then confronted him.

The gunman put the weapon to his temple as he wound down his window to take a ticket at the barrier and eventually got away with the 25-year-old's watch, with the incident occurring at around 7pm.

Koke, who is preparing for the Madrid derby against fierce rivals Real today, reported the assault at the nearby police station.

It is believed the assailant only got away with the footballer's timepiece before escaping the underground car park on his motorbike, according to El Mundo.

The 25-year-old joined up with his Atletico team-mates to take part in training yesterday morning ahead of their upcoming La Liga fixture.

Diego Simeone has named the midfielder in his squad for the crunch clash and Koke is expected to play a midfield role against Real, who are leading La Liga.

Atletico trail their city rivals by 10 points but will undoubtedly want to dent Real's title hopes with victory at Santiago Bernabeu this afternoon.

Daily Mail

Former England striker Cole has kidney transplant

LONDON - Former England striker Andrew Cole has had a kidney transplant, it was announced yesterday.

The news was made public by Manchester United, one of his former clubs where the 45-year-old Cole is now an ambassador.

"Manchester United ambassador Andrew Cole has undergone a kidney transplant operation at Manchester Royal Infirmary as part of his treatment for a condition called Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis," said a United statement.

"During his recuperation, Andrew will be taking a break from his role as Manchester United Ambassador.

"Andrew and his family would like to thank the club and fans for their support. They also request that he can continue with his treatment in private, and ask that their privacy is respected."

As a result of contracting an airborne virus, Cole suffered kidney failure in June 2014.

A side-effect of his condition, which affects the level of protein in the body and causes scarring of the kidney, is an increase in weight.

Cole, who made his name at Newcastle United, spoke about the difficulties of dealing with his health problems in an interview with BBC Sport in February last year.

"Seeing the change in my body, that has been tough, it wreaks havoc with you," he said. "You get comments like, 'Andy Cole's let himself go, who ate all the pies?'" Cole said.

"I have to take it day by day. I am four months off a year and it has been tough going through this process."

Cole scored 121 goals in 275 appearances for Manchester United, winning five English league titles during his time at Old Trafford as well as the Champions League.

He started his career at another Premier League club in north London side Arsenal.

Cole, who won 15 England caps, also had spells at Bristol City, Blackburn, Fulham, Manchester City, Portsmouth, Birmingham, Sunderland, Burnley and Nottingham Forest before retiring in November 2008.

AFP

Shaw to fight for United future to the bitter end

CAPE TOWN - Manchester United defender Luke Shaw insists that he is willing to earn his place in the team after recent criticism from Jose Mourinho.

The full-back needs to get his career back on track after a long time out injured, and Mourinho recently said he is "a long way behind" the other players, before also telling him he needs to "change his football brain". But despite the criticism from his coach, Shaw insists he is "loving it" at Old Trafford, and is determined to find a place in the team.

"Obviously with the stuff that has been going on it is hard for me to take because deep down that is not me as a person," he said.

"But I am keeping my head up and I am going to fight to the last. I am not going to give up. I love this club and I will give everything to be here."

"Like Jose said, he wants to see me fighting - and I will fight to the last second because I want to be here for the club."

"I want to play for the manager and I want to help this team get back to the top."

Shaw again came in for criticism by the United manager who claimed the defender needed to improve his understanding of the game if he wants to win a regular place in the side. *Sport24*

'12-year TV deal not good for African football'

JOHANNESBURG - The new CAF President, Ahmad Ahmad, says they are investigating the 12-year broadcasting deal with Lagardere Sports that was signed by Issa Hayatou.

CAF have been criticised after reportedly brokering the partnership without allowing any other bidders to get involved, with Hayatou and the former general secretary, Hisham El Amrani, being targeted for legal action.

After Ahmad beat Hayatou in the CAF Presidential elections last month, the Malagasy has spoken of several changes that could come in under this reign, including a possible change of broadcasting deal.

He told the media in Johannesburg yesterday, "The contract was signed by the previous CAF president. Right now there are procedures against this contract, we just got elected and I've appointed people to look after this contract, people who are specialised in TV and in marketing, to study this case about the contract."

"We took a decision after a discussion with the previous general secretary, and we did this to protect the Confederation of African Football against any wrongdoing. This is why the previous general secretary left the office, and we agreed."

Ahmad went on to say that he is awaiting the analysis of those who have been appointed to study the contract but explained that there is unanimous agreement that it is not a good



INVESTIGATING: CAF President, Ahmad Ahmad.

deal for the continent.

He said, "We're living in an environment where everything must be transparent and with a democracy. The new CAF will follow up with everything that is not a transparent or democratic. This is why I'm waiting for the analysis to come back to me before I make any decision."

"Everyone is completely agreed that it is not a good contract, and is not good for African football. Right now I can guarantee you that I will never sign any long contract regarding CAF."

CAF previously denied any wrongdoing, however, it appears that they have changed their tune now that Hayatou is no longer in charge.

Soccerladuma

Giorgio Chiellini graduates from University of Turin

TURIN - Giorgio Chiellini already appears to be planning well for life after football - after picking up a Masters Degree in Business Administration from the University of Turin.

Few players choose to study during their playing career, given the demands that both roles require.

However, Chiellini seems to have taken it all in his stride after graduating with top marks from one of the most respected universities in his home country.

The Italy international, who is widely viewed as one of the most accomplished defenders in world football, graduated from the School of Management and Economics on Thursday afternoon.

The 32-year-old presented his dissertation on 'The Business Model of Juventus Football Club in an International Context' before accepting his degree

from examiner and tutor Professor Pietro Paolo Biancone.

Chiellini posted a picture of himself receiving his award to social media, alongside the caption: 'Until the end. This motto accompanies me on the pitch and supported me during these years on the books. Glad I graduated!'

Juventus were quick to congratulate Chiellini on his achievements after the awards ceremony.

"Everyone associated with the club would like to congratulate Giorgio on his excellent results and achievement," read a statement on the club's website.

Chiellini's attention will now turn to today's home game against Chievo.

Massimiliano Allegri's side are currently six points clear of Roma at the top of Serie A and are on course to claim their sixth consecutive Italian title. *Daily Mail*



WELL DONE: Giorgio Chiellini graduated from the University of Turin on Thursday afternoon. (*Daily Mail*)

USA, Mexico, Canada preparing joint bid to host 2026 World Cup

LONDON - Mexico, Canada and the USA are set to finalise their joint bid to host the 2026 World Cup, according to the CONCACAF President Victor Montagliani.

The 23rd edition of the competition will be the first to feature 48 teams, and the North American bid is currently the overwhelming favourite in the early stages.

Speaking to the Guardian about the potential bid, CONCACAF chief Montagliani said: "Canada, the US and Mexico are aiming for a joint bid, the idea has been

around for a while, discussions are continuing and it is a very exciting proposition if it comes to fruition."

"We have had nothing but positive remarks about it and it is a very strong sign of what football can do to bring countries together."

Given the current tension between America and Mexico over Donald Trump's potential wall to divide the two nations, some believe Montagliani's words were very deliberate.

When asked whether he referred to the

Trump controversy with his comments about bringing countries together, he said football should rise above political regimes.

"It behoves football and leaders of football to deal with it and rise above it," he said. Given the larger format of the 2026 tournament, it is likely a three-country partnership would work well, with wider access to large stadiums.

Each country individually would be able to host the tournament, but a joint bid is likely to impress the FIFA decision-makers. *Daily Mail*

WEEKEND FIXTURES

Today

English Championship

16:00	Wigan Athletic	v	Rotherham United
16:00	Norwich City	v	Reading
16:00	Nottingham Forest	v	Huddersfield Town
16:00	Leeds United	v	Preston North End
16:00	Fulham	v	Ipswich Town
16:00	Burton Albion	v	Aston Villa
16:00	Bristol City	v	Wolverhampton
16:00	Cardiff City	v	Brentford
16:00	Blackburn Rovers	v	Barnsley
16:00	Birmingham City	v	Derby County
18:30	Sheffield W	v	Newcastle United

French Ligue 1

17:00	Angers SCO	v	Monaco
20:00	Nancy	v	Rennes
20:00	Bordeaux	v	Metz
20:00	Dijon	v	Bastia
20:00	Caen	v	Montpellier

German Bundesliga

15:30	Freiburg	v	Mainz 05
15:30	RB Leipzig	v	Bayer Leverkusen
15:30	Schalke 04	v	Wolfsburg
15:30	Köln	v	Borussia M'gladbach
15:30	Hamburger SV	v	Hoffenheim
18:30	Bayern München	v	Borussia Dortmund

Italian Serie A

15:00	Empoli	v	Pescara
18:00	Atalanta	v	Sassuolo
20:45	Juventus	v	Chievo

Nedbank Cup

15:00	M Sundowns	v	Golden Arrows
15:00	Chippa United	v	Polokwane City
20:15	Free State Stars	v	Orlando Pirates

Premier League

13:30	Tottenham	v	Watford
16:00	Manchester City	v	Hull City
16:00	Middlesbrough	v	Burnley
16:00	West Brom	v	Southampton
16:00	West Ham United	v	Swansea City
16:00	Stoke City	v	Liverpool
18:30	AFC Bournemouth	v	Chelsea

Spanish La Liga

13:00	Espanyol	v	Deportivo Alavés
16:15	Real Madrid	v	Atlético Madrid
18:30	Sevilla	v	Deportivo La Coruña
20:45	Málaga	v	Barcelona

Tomorrow

French Ligue 1

15:00	Toulouse	v	Olympique Marseille
17:00	Saint-Étienne	v	Nantes
21:00	PSG	v	Guingamp

German Bundesliga

15:30	Hertha BSC	v	Augsburg
17:30	Ingolstadt	v	Darmstadt 98

Italian Serie A

12:30	Sampdoria	v	Fiorentina
15:00	Cagliari	v	Torino
15:00	Bologna	v	Roma
15:00	Milan	v	Palermo
15:00	Crotone	v	Internazionale
15:00	Udinese	v	Genoa
20:45	Lazio	v	Napoli

Nedbank Cup

15:00	Bloemfontein Celtic	v	Mbombela United
15:00	Acornbush	v	Kaizer Chiefs

Premier League

14:30	Sunderland	v	Manchester United
17:00	Everton	v	Leicester City

Spanish La Liga

12:00	Granada	v	Valencia
16:15	Celta de Vigo	v	Eibar
18:30	Osasuna	v	Leganés
20:45	Las Palmas	v	Real Betis

GRIEZMANN EYES ATLETICO ASSAULT ON REAL MADRID

MADRID - Antoine Griezmann believes Atletico Madrid can inflict the worst possible start to a season defining two-weeks for Real Madrid as Atletico go for a record fourth straight La Liga win at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Griezmann scored the winner last season as Atletico became the first side to ever win away to Real in the league for three consecutive seasons.

"I see us as favourites. I believe in my teammates and the coach," said a bullish Griezmann on Thursday.

Despite their triple assault on the Bernabeu, Atletico have still had to play second fiddle to Real after losing to their city rivals in the Champions League for each of the past three seasons - twice in the final.

Real were also the dominant force when the sides last met in November as Cristiano Ronaldo's hat-trick sealed a 3-0 win.

Zinedine Zidane's men

lead Barcelona at the top of the table by two points and have a game in hand on their title rivals with Atletico 10 points back in third.

"We have to win, more for the fans than for the points," added Griezmann. "Madrid played great and caused us a

lot of damage. Now it is a different story.

We know it is going to be difficult, but I believe in my teammates. We are more complete now."

Inflicting a damaging blow on Real's bid for the first league title in five years would be some measure of sweet revenge for Atletico.

However, Real have yet to taste defeat at home in La Liga this season.

That record will be put fully to the test over the next fortnight as Barcelona visit on April 23.

In between times, Madrid also face old foes Bayern Munich for a place in the Champions League semi-finals.

Real captain Sergio Ramos has been Atletico's bete noire in recent times, scoring in both the Champions League finals between the sides.

But he has called on Real to not rest on their laurels and go for more history by becoming the first side to retain the Champions League in 27 years and end Barca's stranglehold on La Liga.

"You can't constantly live with what you have won in the past. You have to have ambition and belief to win titles," he told Madrid's

website.

"As of today we can win both the Champions League and La Liga."

Both sides are in great form, having each won their last five La Liga outings.

However, Zidane and Atletico boss Diego Simeone's plans could be affected by their upcoming Champions League ties with Bayern and Leicester City, respectively.

Zidane is expected to welcome back a host of first team regulars rested for Wednesday's 4-2 win over Leganes, including Ronaldo, Gareth Bale and Karim Benzema.

By contrast, Simeone is expected to name an unchanged side from the one that beat Real Sociedad 1-0 on Tuesday with Fernando Torres partnering Griezmann up front due to Kevin Gameiro's continued absence through injury.

Any slip up from Real would allow Barcelona to move top when they travel to Malaga later today.

Barca boss Luis Enrique is expected to rest some of his star names ahead of their Champions League quarterfinal, first leg at Juventus on Tuesday, while Gerard Pique and Ivan Rakitic are suspended.

AFP



FIRE UP: Antoine Griezmann.

Baxter hopes SuperSport United gather intel on Barrack YC

JOHANNESBURG - SuperSport United coach Stuart Baxter admits he knows "very little" about Barrack Young Controllers, ahead of their CAF Confederation Cup play-off encounter in Liberia tomorrow.

Baxter, whose side progressed to the Nedbank Cup quarter-finals with a victory over ABC Motsepe League side KwaDukuza United on Tuesday, is yet to impress in CAF competition - having previously contested the tournament when he was coach of Kaizer Chiefs.

The former Bafana Bafana tactician, who could well return to the role at the end of the current season, says at this stage he knows very little about their upcoming Confed Cup opponents. But he hopes by the time they walk on to the pitch in Monrovia, he'll have a basic understanding of how to prepare his team.

"Very little, very little," reveals Baxter when asked what he knew about Barrack Young Controllers.

"It is so difficult to get good intelligence on them but, by the time we come to the kick-off, I'd have got in any case some basics on them." SuperSport's progression in their Nedbank Cup title defence has added to the club's heavy fixture load, which also includes the run-in for



CLUELESS: SuperSport United coach Stuart Baxter.

the Absa Premiership title race, with United still vying for domestic honours. Baxter's side will play seven matches in the month of April, starting tomorrow against BYC and followed by a double-header against league champions Mamelodi Sundowns [13 and 19 April], as well as their Nedbank Cup quarter-final encounter. And the coach feels that if his side are able to overcome their challenging run of fixtures, he thinks they'll have a chance to win

either the league title or Nedbank Cup trophy.

"I think if we have a bad month it'll certainly put us out of the race of the league title," says Baxter.

"If we can have a good month then I think we'll certainly be in the race. Will it mean, 'whoever has the best April will win the league or win the [Nedbank] Cup?' Maybe.

"I understand your question, and I'd say maybe, possibly, probably." **kickoff**

PSG hit with away fans ban

PARIS - French football authorities yesterday imposed a two match away fans ban on Paris Saint-Germain as punishment for vandalism carried out by PSG supporters at the League Cup final.

The French professional football

league (LFP)'s disciplinary commission imposed the travelling ban ahead of an April 27 hearing with PSG to discuss trouble at last weekend's final in Lyon.

The LFP has condemned "acts of vandalism by a section of PSG fans"

with stadium seats ripped up. Local media reported graffiti daubed on walls, and toilets "destroyed".

The ban covers PSG's Ligue 1 outings at Angers on April 14 and Metz four days later.

PSG, who beat Monaco 4-1 to win the League Cup for the fourth successive season, were also ordered "to pay for all the extensive damaged caused" by their fans.

AFP

Henry admits Arsenal may struggle to make top four

LONDON - Arsenal legend Thierry Henry has admitted he doesn't think his former club will be able to finish in the Premier League's top four this season.

The Gunners were still in the top four early last month, but back-to-back defeats to Liverpool and West Brom, followed by a 2-2 draw at home against Manchester City, has seen them drop to fifth position.

Despite only sitting four points behind fourth-placed City, with a game in hand, Henry believes Arsenal will find it difficult to close the gap on the top four sides. "Arsenal usually finish in a strong way and the top four still have to play each other, but it's difficult to see Arsenal making it," Henry told Sky Sports.

"It is a massive gap now to finish in the top four.

"I will say in comparison to how they played against West Brom, it was a massive improvement against Man City."

AFP



#YELELE | SWAZIBANK CUP 2017

PICTURES | ACTIVATION



ENTERTAINERS: Teddy Bears entertaining the crowd during the SwaziBank Cup activation at Bhunu Mall and Msunduzi yesterday. The tournament will be hosting semi-finals at Somhlolo National Stadium on Sunday, where Manzini Wanderers will be up against Matsapha United while Mbabane Highlanders will face Young Buffaloes. (Pics: Lucky Simelane)



MAKE SOME NOISE: Soccer lovers blowing vuvuzelas at Bhunu Mall in Manzini.



YELELE: Make Tfwala won herself a branded SwaziBank water bottle.



YOUR NAME: Moses Matsebula posing a question to Sandile Ndlela at Bhunu Mall.



COME ONE COME ALL: SwaziBank Cup Management Committee Chairman Johannes Sibozwa was also present.



THERE YOU GO: Dumsane Mnyakeni being presented with a branded SwaziBank T-shirt.

TICKETS



ME TOO: Nombulelo Nxumalo also won a ticket to watch her team Manzini Wanderers playing against Matsapha United on Sunday.

Tel: 2505 6683
Cell: 7632 9881
Email: exclusivefurniture@swazi.net

EXCLUSIVE FURNITURE

Hyatt Centre - Shop #1
Mapheka Str. - Manzini,
Opp G.M Motors

fish tank-
Was E8999 Now E6500

Sleeper Couch-
was E3200 Now E2599

7 seater leather Lounge suit-
was E36 500 Now E28 999

IN NUMBERS:
Members of the
public at the
activation.

YOURS:
Matsapha
United fan
Andile receiving
a ticket from
Programme
Director Moses
Matsebula.

**ANOTHER
WINNER:** Celiwe
Malinga receiv-
ing an entry
ticket to the sta-
dium from
SwaziBank's
Thandwa
Maseko.





SHUKUMA SWAZILAND @ KUKHANYENI



KICK, PUNCH: Khanya Mavuso from Khanya Aerobic Club in Mbabane leading Kukhanyeni residents in an aerobic work-out session at Kukhanyeni Inkhundla. This was during the Shukuma Swaziland visit at the Inkhundla last Saturday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



CHECK DART: Senator Ndumiso Mdluli who is also a Kukhanyeni Inkhundla resident under Nkiliji area playing darts.



LIKE THIS: Zodwa Mbusiya and Buyisile Maseko enjoying the fun games.



JOVIAL MOOD: MP Bongani Mabuza and Senator Ndumiso Mdluli sweating it out.



YOUNG AND OLD: The young and old came through to take part in the training.



EXERCISES: Kukhanyeni MP Bongani Mabuza, Senator Ndumiso Mdluli, the area's Indvuna Yenkundla Clement Dlamini and Joseph Mdluli working out.



CHECKMATE: Shukuma Swaziland did not only focus on the physical work-outs but also touched on the mind as a variety of games were provided.



ATTENTIVE: A section of Kukhanyeni residents following proceedings.



PACING: Zama Tsabedze from SNSRC pacing it out with one of the participants.



LIKE THIS YOUNG BLOOD: John Mthethwa could not be outdone on the work-out.



HAVING FUN: The young ones could not be left out as they also participated in the different games on the day.



RIGHT HERE: Zama Tsabedze showing a dart board which was part of the many games provided on the day.



*Tfwala won herself
iBank water bottle.*



eni being presented



*so won a ticket to
rs playing against*



#YELELE | SWAZIBANK CUP 2017



NO FREE ENTRY FOR EX-OFFICIALS, ELDERS-PLS

By Qondile Ntshane

SOCCER – Former football officials and elders will not gain free entry during the Swazi Bank Cup semi-finals on Sunday.

This was said by Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) Chief Operations Officer (COO) Pat Vilakati yesterday.

He said these officials would have to pay the required E30 to witness the games at the Somhlolo National Stadium.

"We have met with the teams and requested that they inform former officials and elders that they would have to pay the entry fee during games. We will also allow a team of 25 in the U-20 squads that will be playing on the day.

"The same rules will apply in the royal box as we will allow only three officials per team. Others will have to find alternative sitting arrangements," he said.

He further warned supporters against rowdy and violent behaviour on the



#YELELE: Manzini Wanderers will face Matsapha United during the Swazi Bank Cup semi-finals tomorrow.

day. "We would like to emphasise on what was said earlier this week. Those found to be on the wrong side of the law will be apprehended and charged by the police. We also caution against bringing beer bottles into the stadium and police will be on the lookout to ensure supporters don't bring these

into the stadium," he said. He then invited the football loving nation to come in great numbers for the games where hub giants Manzini Wanderers will take on Matsapha United at 1.30pm. The encounter will be followed by another one pitting Mbabane Highlanders against Young Buffaloes at 3.30pm.

Over 200 expected at Total Nhlanguano road race

By Sabelo Majola

CYCLING – Over 200 cyclists are expected to take part in the Total Road National Championships slated for Nhlanguano tomorrow.

The race will start and finish at Total T-junction Filling Station, popularly known as Ka-Mjuda at 7am.

Cycling Association of Swaziland Sec-

retary Shirley Saulos said 180 cyclists have already registered and many more are expected to register before the race tomorrow.

Riders

"South African and Mozambican cyclists are also coming for the race. Currently we have 29 riders who have registered for the 120km main race, with six of them being from South Africa and two from Mozambique," she said.

The race is divided into three cate-

gories, the 120km, 60km and the 30km. Registration for these races stands at E180, E120 and E50, respectively.

The race will start at the Total filling station towards Lavumisa and at the three way stop turn right to town past Evelyn Baring High School and joins the MR9 to Mahamba Border Post.

At the border, the cyclists will make U-turn and proceed on the MR9 road to Salem before making another U-turn to the finish-line.

Police College, Figaredo in MRPA grand finale

By Sibusiso Masilela

PPOOL – Sparks are set to fly today when the home side Figaredo take on current log leaders Police College in the fight for the Manzini Regional Pool Association Central Zone title.

The two teams are currently separated by two points, with the police side sitting at the summit of the table with 34 points.

The encounter is slated for the Figaredo Pool Club starting at 2pm.

Other games to be played on the day will see fifth placed Uni K battling for

the top six bracket at the expense of Tigers in order to qualify for the inaugural Zonal league to kick-off next season.

In the Central Zone, uncrowned champions Way Inn will visit Sun of Kings at the Stairs Pool Club while Macembe will face-off with Bhunya.

FIXTURES

Central Zone

Police College	vs	Figaredo	Figaredo Pool Club	2pm
Uni K	vs	Lions	Uniswa Hall	2pm
Figaredo 5	vs	Lions	Scandza Pool Club	2pm

WESTERN ZONE

Bhunya one	vs	Macembe	Bhunya Pool Club	2pm
Sun of Kings	vs	Way Inn	Stairs Pool Club	2pm

MANZINI REGIONAL POOL LEAGUE LOGS

WESTERN ZONE

TEAM	P	W	L	FF	FA	FD	PTS
1 Way Inn	16	15	1	267	133	134	53
2 France	17	12	5	258	167	91	48
3 Anka Eagles	16	11	5	242	157	85	42
4 Mankayane	16	11	5	227	173	54	41
5 Bhunya	16	9	7	201	199	2	35
6 Macembe	13	7	6	170	155	15	28
7 Nicks Pool Club	16	7	9	184	216	-32	26
8 Bhunya 2	17	3	14	177	245	-68	18
9 Stairs	16	3	13	145	239	-94	16
10 Sun of Kings	16	2	14	136	279	-143	13

CENTRAL ZONE

TEAM	P	W	L	FF	FA	FD	Points
1 Police College	11	10	1	162	113	49	34
2 Figaredo	11	10	1	162	113	49	32
3 Ludzeldzhe Tigers	11	6	5	141	134	7	24
4 Scandza	7	4	3	95	80	15	17
5 Uni-K	11	4	7	126	149	-23	17
6 Ludzeldzhe Lions	11	3	8	129	156	-27	16
7 Garrison	8	3	5	90	110	-20	13
8 Bel Air	3	3	0	54	21	33	12
9 Figaredo 5	11	1	5	117	158	-41	12
10 George	3	1	2	36	39	-3	4
12 Gundwini	3	0	3	14	61	-47	0

Its action galore in SNBA League

By Sibusiso Dlamini

BASKETBALL – THE Swaziland National Basketball League (SNBL) games will continue this weekend with exciting fixtures scheduled for the Mavuso Sports Emporium.

The action begins today at 9am when Mbabane Jazz takes on Enjabulweni Griffins in the National Women's League. The young Enjabulweni Griffins team come into the game wounded as they suffered a 21-96 loss at the hands of defending champions Super Ladies.

The second game match will see Luyengo Pacers face-off with Tridents at 11am.

Shooting Stars have a date with Phoenix Alumni and this encounter will be followed by a match between log leaders Steels and Knicks.

Steels are currently in red hot form and are one of the two teams, who are still unbeaten in the campaign. Knicks, on the other hand, lost their recent game to Imbumbé, despite an impressive performance.

The last match on the day will be the clash between Imbumbé and Raptors at 5pm.

Tomorrow, capital city giants Mbabane Jazz will take on youngsters Dunkylaine.

Both teams come into the game wounded as Jazz lost against Steels while the Mzwakhe Phiri-led charges received a thorough thrashing from defending champions Superstars.

Nhlanguano Warriors will take on Nkambeni Scavengers in the other match tomorrow.

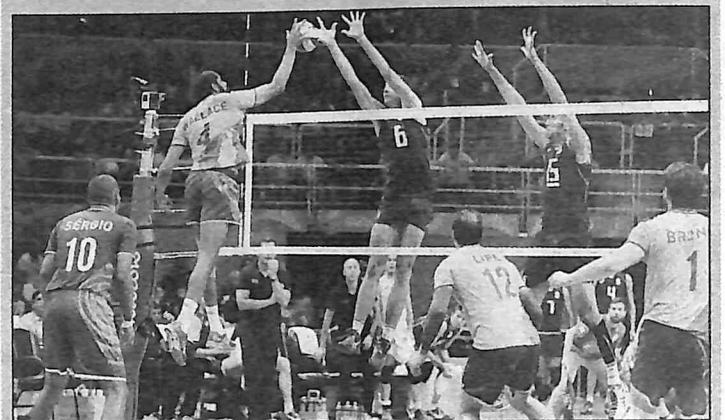
The last match of the day pits Superstars and newly promoted side Manzini Raiders at 2pm.

TODAY AT MAVUSO SPORTS EMPORIUM:

Jazz ladies	vs	Enjabulweni Griffins	9am
Luyengo Pacers	vs	Tridents	11am
Shooting Stars	vs	Phoenix Alumni	1pm
Imbumbé	vs	Raptors	5pm

Tomorrow at Mavuso Sports Emporium

Mbabane Jazz	vs	Dunkylaine	10pm
Nhlanguano Warriors	vs	Scavengers	12pm
Superstars	vs	Raiders	2pm



Golf national team off to Zambia

By Sibusiso Masilela

GOLF – The men golf national team will on Monday leave the country for Kitwe, Zambia, to take part in the Africa Region V Golf Championships.

The team comprises four players; namely Vusi Dlamini, who has been named the captain, Sifiso Vilane, Jabulani Mabaso and James Pennington.

The team will be led by Swaziland Golf Union (SGU) President Albert Mhlanga.

The Championships will kick-off on Tuesday and end on Good Friday, April 14. The Games will include all 10 countries, including Kenya, Mauritius and Uganda who have been invited to be part of the competition.

SGU President Albert Mhlanga confirmed the developments

when contacted yesterday.

"The four players were selected on the order of merit which was compiled on scores in 2016. During the past month, the players have been practicing aggressively using the MTN Golf Range and Royal Swazi Spa Golf Course.

They will tomorrow (today) do their final practice round at Nkonyeni Golf Estate.

"We are confident that the team will do well in Zambia after failing to reach its full potential in 2016 when we hosted the regional championships. We would also like to thank organisations and individuals that supported us during our preparations for the games," he said.



Nhlanhla Gwebu dropped as De Jongh rings changes at Sihlangu

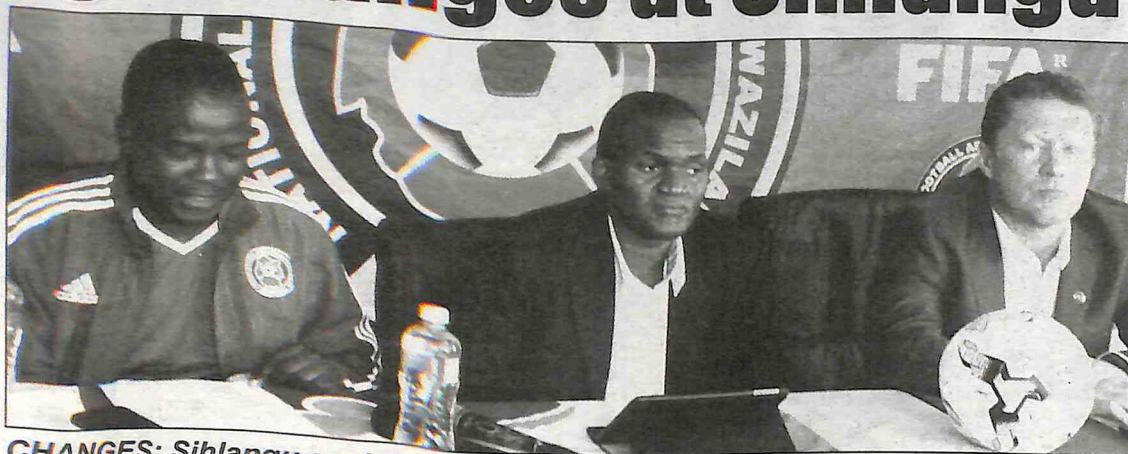
Stories by Sabelo Majola

SOCCER - Young Buffaloes goalkeeper Nhlanhla Gwebu has been left out of the Sihlangu provisional team announced by recently appointed assistant coach Anthony Mdluli.

The team was announced during a press briefing held at the Sigwaca Football House. The Buffaloes goalkeeper, who has been with the national squad for over two years, has given way to Manzini Sundowns Sandanezwe Mathabela, Royal Leopard's Phephisani Msibi and Mbabane Highlanders' Sidumo Vilakati. The provisional squad has also seen new players getting call-ups to join the Pieter De Jongh-led team.

The players include Tambuti defender Siboniso Ndzabandzaba, Midas City's Mthunzi Motsa and Mbabane Highlanders' Sifiso Dlamini as well as Young Buffaloes' Sifiso 'General' Mazibuko.

Other players that have been called up are Matsapha United's Sabelo



CHANGES: Sihlangu assistant coach Anthony Mdluli, NFAS CEO Frederick Mngomezulu and Sihlangu head coach Pieter De Jongh at Sigwaca House during a press conference to announce the national squad yesterday.

'Sawa' Gamedze, Manzini Sundowns' Mlamuli 'Mlaba' Nkambule and Justice Figureito, Midas City's Ndumiso Ndaba and Highlanders Menzi Sithole.

Addressing the gathering during the briefing, National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) CEO Frederick Mngomezulu said the team would go into camp on Monday until Friday where they

would be assessed by the technical bench at the Technical Centre.

"This is just a provisional squad and there is still room for other players to join the team.

The final squad will be announced before the AFCON qualifiers game against Niger," he said. He said the team would play one or two international friendly games before the qualifiers.

Meanwhile, the head coach said it was good to have unknown players to be part of the national squad.

"Next week will be the first step towards implementing my plan for 2017. This list of players came from what I observed during the past three weeks in the country. Swaziland has a lot of talent and I am happy with these players, especially the physical aspect," he said.

FA urges players to prove their worth in 'Swallows' absence

SOCCER - The National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) has urged new Sihlangu players to prove themselves in the absence of Mbabane Swallows players in the national team.

Making his remarks during a press briefing held at Sigwaca House yesterday, Mngomezulu said excusing the Swallows players should present an opportunity to the other players to prove their worth in the national squad.

He stated that the team's players

would join the rest of the squad after their CAF assignment.

The red and white ensemble left the country this morning to honour the first leg of their CAF Confederation Cup play-off against AC Leopard of Congo Brazzaville.

Mbabane Swallows had a total of nine players in the national squad. These are goalkeeper Sandile Ginindza, Sifiso Mabila, Sanele Mkhweli, Mandla Palma, Njabulo Ndlovu, Banele 'Pupu' Sikhondze, Sabelo Ndzinisa and Tony 'TT' Tsabedze.

The squad

Goalkeepers
Mathabela Sandanezwe (Manzini Sundowns), Msibi Phephisani (Royal Leopard), Sidumo Vilakati (Mbabane Highlanders)

Defenders

Siboniso Ndzabandzaba (Tambuti), Mthunzi Motsa (Midas City), Sabelo Gamedze (Matsapha United), Ndumiso Ndaba (Midas City), Wandile Maseko (Young Buffaloes) Mndeni Mamba (Young Buffaloes) Siboniso Mamba (Young Buffaloes), Machawe Dlamini (Royal Leopard) Phumlani Dlamini (Royal Leopard)

Midfielders

Zweli Nxumalo (Royal Leopard), Mcolisi Lukhele (Royal Leopard), Siboniso Malambe (Royal Leopard), Mlamuli Nkambule (Manzini Sundowns), Menzi Sithole (Mbabane Highlanders) Xolani Sibandze (Mbabane Highlanders)

Strikers

Sifiso Dlamini (Mbabane Highlanders), Muzi Dlamini (Royal Leopard), Lungelo Tsabedze (Royal Leopard) Barry Steenkamp (Royal Leopards), Justice Figureito (Manzini Sundowns), Phwayinkosi Dlamini (Young Buffaloes), Sifiso Mazibuko (Young Buffaloes), Bonginkosi Dlamini (Royal Leopard)

Wanderers Elders chairman implicated in task team drama

By Oondile Ntiwane and Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER - Manzini Wanderers want Council of Elders Chairman Sipho Ntshalintshali and the task team to be restrained from participating in the team's activities, pending internal disciplinary proceedings.

The team, through their representative Meluleki Ndlangamandla from Mkhwanazi Attorneys, filed an urgent application at the High Court and the matter was heard by Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala who,

...Directors apply for task team to be interdicted on fears they will disturb Swazi Bank Cup semis preparations

however, ruled out the urgency and postponed the matter to next Thursday.

The team stated in their papers that there was reasonable foreseeable apprehension of harm which the applicants stand to suffer if the orders are not granted.

Imminent

They cited that the team was at the semi-final stages of the Swazi Bank Cup and that it stands to suffer great imminent prejudice in that the preparations for the semis slated for tomorrow maybe interrupt-

ed by the respondents, thereby causing the club to suffer a loss yet a lot of money has been injected to ensure that the team at least reach the finals of the tournament.

Enforce

Wanderers also prayed for an order directing the Royal Swaziland Police to effect and enforce the orders herein.

Ntshalintshali was cited as the first respondent in the matter alongside Lucky 'Majaivane' Dlamini, Alphe Mngometulu, Mthunzi Dlamini,

Steven Thwala and Mfankhona Lukhele.

In their papers filed before the court, the hub giants stated that the respondents have on a number of occasions since March caused rifts and confusion in the administration of the club, following their decision to unlawfully sanction the dismal of the team's directors

Dismissal

They cited that in implementing the purported dismissal, the respondents accessed the club's letter heads and further appended their signatures, being fully aware that they had no authority to do so.

the source said.

Highlanders Public Relations Officer Mphumelelo Mnisi said he was yet to verify the matter when contacted yesterday.

"I am still to consult with the general manager regarding the player you are talking about then I can comment," he said.

Meanwhile, his Buffaloes counterpart Sandile Gwebu referred all queries to Highlanders on the issue.

On loan Sifiso to miss 'Bull', 'Buffs' clash

By Sibusiso Masilela

SOCCER - Capital city giants Mbabane Highlanders will be without the services of striker Sifiso Dlamini during their Swazi Bank Cup semi-final clash against Young Buffaloes.

The former Bad Boys front man

is tied by the loan agreement between the army side and Highlanders, which has resulted in the player being excused for the match.

Close

A source close to the matter revealed that the player will not be part of the 'Black Bull' squad that would face-off with the army side

during the eagerly anticipated # Yelele last four encounter at the Somhlolo National Stadium.

"Sifiso won't be part of the match against Buffaloes due to a clause in the loan agreement between the teams which states that the player cannot play against his employers as he is a soldier by employment,"

'Birds' promise positive results in Congo

Stories by Sabelo Majola

SOCCER - Both Mbabane Swallows skipper Tony 'TT' Tsabedze and head coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati have promised nothing less than positive results in their away clash to Congo-Brazzaville's AC Leopard.

This was during the team's farewell function held at Sigwaca House yesterday.

The two sides will lock horns in the CAF Confederation Cup after the two-legged play-off that will start with the away clash slated for Denis Sassou Nguesso Stadium, in the city of Dolisie tomorrow.

The game will commence at 4.30pm local time and the return leg will be staged at Somhlolo National Stadium next week Saturday.

Tsabedze expressed the team's desire to progress to the group stages of the tournament. He said it would be payback time as the country was once defeated by the Congo national team in AFCON qualifiers back in 2010 where Sihlangu lost 3-1 to Congo-Brazzaville.

"We have a full strength squad with the exception of Wonder Nhleko and would do everything in our power to get a positive result in Congo, thus make the nation proud," he said.

Meanwhile Vilakati said, if they could, they would change the team's name to Swazi Swallows as they would be representing the country.

"We are ready for the war on Sunday (tomorrow) and we promise not to let the country down. We call upon every Swazi to pray for us as we undertake the assignment and we will strive for a positive result in Congo," he said.

The team's CEO Sibusiso Manana emphasised on the importance of attaining a good away result so that they ease off pressure coming to the home game next week.

"We have no reason to underperform in Congo. A positive result will be to our advantage so that we finish off the job at Somhlolo," he said.



POSITIVE: Mbabane Swallows head coach Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati.

Go make history - FA tells 'Birds'

SOCCER - "Other local clubs have tried unsuccessfully to make it to the group stages of the tournament, we wish you the best of luck and are confident that you will make history in Congo."

These were the exact words of National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) Acting President Nichodemus Mashwama during the team's farewell at Sigwaca House yesterday.

He said with the team's current form, they have no excuse to lose. He urged the players to maintain a high level of respect and portray the country in a good light in Congo.

Meanwhile, FA CEO Frederick Mngomezulu announced that the team would be led by FA Head of Youth Development Sonnyboy Mabuza. The latter was also head of delegation when the team played away to Tanzania side Azam in the same competition last month.

"We have done all necessary arrangements for the team to travel safely and we hope our counterparts in Congo are also ready on their side," he said.



to Zambia

ected yesterday.

players were select-
der of merit which
d on scores in 2016.
ast month, the play-
e been practicing
ssively using the
N Golf Range and
yal Swazi Spa Golf
Course.

They will
tomorrow
(today) do their
final practice
round at
Nkonyeni Golf
Estate.

“We are confi-
dent that the team
will do well in
Zambia after fail-
ing to reach its
full potential in
2016 when we
hosted the
regional cham-
pionships. We
would also like
to thank organ-
isations and
individuals that
supported us
during our prepa-
rations for the
es,” he said.



FIXTURES

TODAY NEDBANK CUP

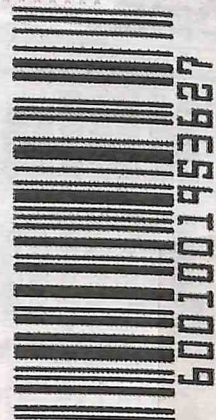
15:00	Mamelodi Sundowns	vs	Golden Arrows
15:00	Chippa United	vs	Polokwane City
20:15	Free State Stars	vs	Orlando Pirates

PREMIER LEAGUE

13:30	Tottenham	vs	Watford
16:00	Manchester City	vs	Hull City
16:00	Middlesbrough	vs	Burnley
16:00	West Bromwich Albion	vs	Southampton
16:00	West Ham United	vs	Swansea City
16:00	Stoke City	vs	Liverpool
18:30	AFC Bournemouth	vs	Chelsea

SPORT

IF SPORT IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE'RE YOUR CHURCH



April 8, 2017

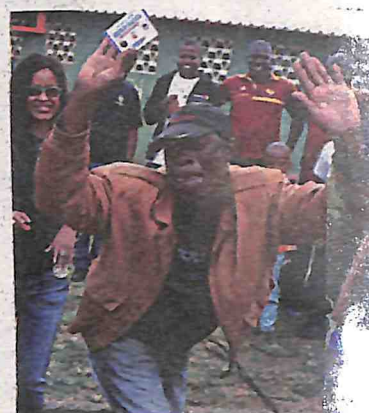
HIGHLIGHTS

GO MAKE
HISTORY,
'BIRDS' URGED

PAGE 43

WANDERERS
ELDERS'
CHAIRMAN IN
COURT

PAGE 43



SWAZIBANK
CUP
ACTIVATION

PAGE 40

SWEEPING CHANGES AT SIHLANGU

- Nhlanhla Gwebu not part of provisional squad while Tambuti, Midas City players get call-ups
- Swallows players excused for CAF mission



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WIN E20,000 IN CASH

PREDICT THE CHAMPIONS

Consolation prizes: 5 x E500 cash prizes. SwaziBank and Swazi Observer employees as well as contestants under the age of 18 years are NOT eligible to enter competition.

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2 ND PrizeE5,000
3 RD PrizeE2,500

Drop entry form at any Swazi Observer office or any SwaziBank branch.

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