



The Right Place

The Right Sunday



APRIL 9, 2017

PRICE: E6.00 (VAT INCLUSIVE)

BASOTHO QUEEN MEETS INDLOVUKAZI

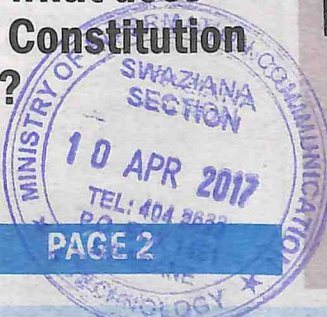


Her Majesty Queen Masenate Mohato Seeiso of the Kingdom of Lesotho paid a courtesy call on Her Majesty the Indlovukazi who hosted a state dinner for her at Lozitha Royal Palace yesterday evening. The Basotho Queen Mother was joined by Princesses Sekhothali, Maseiso, Senate and Prince Lerotholi. (Pic: Simon Shabangu)

NO **THIRD** TERM FOR PM



● PM may be ready for a third term on the trot, but what does the Constitution say?



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HUNDREDS AT FOOD TASTING EXPO

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PULL-OUT

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'SEVERAL MPs ARE SWADEPA MEMBERS'

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CLARIFICATION

PM NOT ELIGIBLE FOR 3RD TERM - CONSTITUTION

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Despite expressing willingness to serve the country in the event he gets appointed prime minister in the 11th Parliament, the Constitution of 2005 of the country states that the incumbent is not eligible.

According to Section 68 (3), the Constitution clearly states, "the prime minister shall not hold office for more than two consecutive terms." The PM has been in office since 2008 and is on his second consecutive term.

Clarified

The Prime Minister, Dr Sibusiso Dlamini, clarified that his 40 years of service in public office has not been through application, however, he stated that since His Majesty King Mswati III was the one who appointed PM, he would take up any position he gets appointed to, post 2018.

He has over the years made it clear that the privilege of getting an appointment in the country is not declined and that he has been a willing servant of Their Majesties. He reiterated this during the break-

fast meeting with editors on Thursday where he went to the extent of explaining that he could even accept the position of *Bucophu* if appointed into that office.

"The prerogative to appoint a prime minister rests with the King and Ingwenyama in accordance with the Constitution. It would therefore be inappropriate for me to start positioning myself and indicating whether I am or not available for another term," he said in his written responses.

Entrusted

The PM said if Their Majesties entrusted him with the position again, he would gladly do it.

He however stated in the event he is not given another term in office, he will gracefully leave office and move into the E6 million house as provided by Circular #2 of 2013.

The premier is currently on his second two-year term as prime minister as he previously served from 1996 to 2003. Tibiyo Managing Director Absalom Themba Dlamini was head of government during the 2003-2008 Parliament.

The incumbent returned to his office after he was appointed in 2008 during

the ninth Parliament. He has in effect served during the sixth, seventh, ninth and the current Parliaments.

According to the government website, Dlamini was born in 1942 and his 40 years in public office equates to more than half of his life.

He was minister of finance from 1984 to 1993. He was also an executive director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Backed

After vacating office in 2003, he became a member of His Majesty King Mswati III's advisory council. He was also a candidate, backed by the Swazi government, for the position of

Chairperson of the African Union Commission in early 2008.

The government withdrew his candidacy out of solidarity with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) so that SADC could present a single candidate. Following the September 2008 parliamentary election, Dlamini was reappointed as prime minister by His Majesty King Mswati III on 16 October 2008.



Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini.

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US Ambassador shocked by PMs 3rd term utterances

The United States of America (USA) Ambassador Lisa Patterson yesterday challenged the media to write stories while referring to the Constitution. She said she was disappointed that the story of the PMs willingness for another term was not questioned whereas the Constitution clearly stated that he was no longer eligible.

The straight talking ambassador said such stories fed the



USA Ambassador Lisa Patterson.

notion that African leaders clinged to power whereas the country has a Constitution which is followed.

Ministers also not eligible for three consecutive terms

With the Constitution stating the prime minister is not eligible for a third term in office, several ministers have barely a year left to serve as ministers of the crown.

The Constitution, in Section 68 (6) clearly states, "A Minister shall not be in office for more than two consecutive terms."

There are currently four ministers who will not be eligible to return in the same posts come 2018. These are Ministers Princess Tsandzile, Winnie Magagula, Chief Mgwagwa Gamedze as well as Jabulile Mashwama.

BY SIMON SHABANGU

Ngwenya Glass hosted well respected international glass blowers from different countries abroad as they celebrated their 30-year existence.

The glassblowers were in the country for a week where they held a workshop for the local blowers as part of celebrating the milestone. The team of international glassblowers were led by a well respected glassblower, Richard Price who is based in The Netherlands.

The team of about 20 glassblowers from overseas were at Ngwenya Glass for the whole week where they conducted workshops and shared their experience with the local blowers and their assistants. According to Ngwenya Glass employee Ruth Cory, most of the glassblowers left the country yesterday while others will be leaving the country today for their respective places.

Ngwenya Glass hosts international



Some of the International glassblowers who were hosted by Ngwenya Glass at work. (Pic: Simon Shabangu)

She said the intention was skill and knowledge sharing which was part of the company's plan to build capacity for the local glassblowers.

She said currently the company had about five professional blowers with a team of assistance. She said the international blowers shared their

expertise with the locals for about a week.

She said glass blowing was more of a team effort kind of job adding that a professional works with assistance to come up quality work at the end. Also forming part of Richard's team was James Devereux who is from the United Kingdom and local blower Carel-Leon Van Tonder from Ngwenya Glass.

The glassblowers led by Richard had the pleasure of displaying the craft before Her Majesty Queen Masenate Mohato Seeiso of the Kingdom of Lesotho and her delegation who spent about 30 minutes watching in dismay as the experts showcased their craft. The queen mother and her entourage were also joined by a number of tourists who were flocking in and out of the high

SIBAYA HAS ALREADY OBJECTED TO PM'S HEFTY EXIT PACKAGE

BY SUNDAY OBSERVER REPORTER

Although the Prime Minister Sibusiso Barnabas Dlamini insists that it is only at People's Parliament (Sibaya) where his exit package can be questioned, Sibaya has already objected to his E5million house.

This was evident in last year's Sibaya where at least one speaker throughout the duration of the event raised their concern about the hefty package the premier stands to take home at the end of his term, courtesy of Finance Circular No.2 of 2013.

Amongst the benefits for the PM, the circular states that the state will have to build Dlamini a house, at no charge to him, that is expected to befit his status and this structure will be built either on Swazi Nation Land or title deed property.

This particular benefit has been a thorny issue to many, including parliamentarians, who have been constantly questioning it.

Challenging

However, the prime minister in the past week responded by challenging the public to wait for another Sibaya where they would express their grievances, regardless of the fact that the issue was in fact raised during the last of such occasion in August, 2016.

Addressing questions from the Editors Forum on Thursday, Dlamini said those who were unhappy with the arrangement should wait for the next Sibaya where they would present cows in apology to His Majesty King Mswati III and request that the circular be reviewed.

He said this was because the arrangement had been borne out of the very same platform in 2013 where the nation complained about the then Circular No.1 of 2010 which the government responded to by hiring auditors from the Price WaterHouse Coopers (PWC) to look at it and come up with an improved one hence the birth of the incumbent circular.

Of note, this benefit did not exist in the former circular as it only provided the Premier with a government-owned house



to be vacated at the end of the term of office, as well as a housing loan of up to E1.5m at a maximum of eight per cent interest payable over 10 years.

One of the speakers who made submissions about this subject during Sibaya was businessman Walter Bennett who pointed out that just in 2012 the public complained about Finance Circular No. 1 of 2010 and four years later (in 2016) they were complaining about another Circular.

Dignity

He complained about the benefits Dlamini would get at the end of his office term next year, for which he said the circular spoke about the PM's dignity yet money was not dignity. Further, he added that the benefits had seen former PMs commenting that some people were lucky as they would get hefty packages which they never got during their time.

The elderly further pleaded with His Majesty King Mswati III to offer them the last three digits of Dlamini's salary of E61 646 as at the time they were getting monthly grants of E240, which have since been increased to E400 monthly.

One Velaphi Kunene from the Shiselweni region wondered how someone would be getting such a salary for the rest of his life when there were people who got that amount quarterly.

Khayini Khumalo added that the mea-

gre grants given to the elderly whilst politicians got huge monies would cause conflict in the country.

Also, Linda Mndzebele said whilst Dlamini had been allocated a government house, he elected to commute so that he could claim for such and that was a thorny issue to them as members of the public and tax payers.

Further, parliamentarians have in the past two weeks moved that the funds for the construction of the premier's house be frozen until a justification was made why such an expensive house should be built at the expense of the country's ailing economy.

Stipulate

Some of the Members of Parliament who made this submission argued that there was need to review the current finance circular regarding the provision of the PM's house because it did not stipulate the value and that made it vulnerable to abuse. The parliamentarians particularly referred Dlamini to cases of fraud from the ministry of works where they alleged the ministry would have gotten away with E11million for the construction of the house, had it not been for the finance committee which refused to let this happen.

Already, it was alleged that around E1million had been spent on only the designs of the house whilst an extra E5.5million has been requested for the house, itself.

New RE syllabus to begin next year in high school

STORIES BY MLONDI MPANZA

The newly introduced Religious Education syllabus in schools will not be assessed in high school, at least until next year.

In the meantime, pupils in Forms Four and Five will be assessed with regards to the old syllabus since the new one still awaits the approval of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) which accredits the Swaziland General Certificate of Secondary Education (SGCSE) qualification.

This was revealed by the Examinations Council of Swaziland's Registrar Dr Edmund Mazibuko when interviewed about the recent Annual Review Meeting (ARM) with Cambridge this past week where he pointed out that if the syllabus gets approved in time, the first group to be assessed on it will be the one that will be in Form Four in 2018 and will be assessed in 2019 when in Form Five.

He clarified that this was because SGCSE was accredited by the CIE, unlike in primary and secondary schools and it was also a process to introduce a new syllabus with the CIE, which have to be respected.

Discussed

The registrar explained that soon after the introduction of the syllabus, it was taken to Cambridge where it was discussed whilst specialists from the CIE will be further coming to Swaziland at the end of April where they will once again look into the syllabus.

Mazibuko stated that the specialists will also work on the syllabus together with the local team compiling it and further send it back to Cambridge whilst they hold their breath that it gets approved in time so it can be doled out as of next year.

"This means that for now, the syllabus will be rolled out from primary school until secondary, only until the CIE gets to approve it for high school then it can be rolled out.

We are hoping this will be done in time for us to be able to begin rolling it out in 2018 so we have the first assessment in 2019," said the registrar.

All these discussion were held at

the ARM, which is held on a rotational basis and is headed for England next year having been held in the kingdom this year.

It is in these meetings where they get to review how they had done regarding the external examinations in the past year and how they dealt with challenges they came across.

He made an example with one high school that was suspected of malpractice in the last year's examinations which he said was discussed at length during the meeting.

Overall, the registrar made it known that the CIE was happy with how last year's exams had been conducted starting from teaching the syllabus, the exam, results and challenges, but to name a few.

He said this was because they had worked well with the CIE throughout this period and there was nothing they felt had been done wrong and were hopeful that they will endorse the new RE syllabus without a problem due to this factor.

Revived

The syllabus was revived after, as stated by the Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini, this past Thursday that the decision to revert back to the Christian syllabus was brought on after it was noted that pupils were learning things not sanctioned by the country. He said during investigations, they were unable to figure out who commissioned the religious education syllabus which included all religions.

He relented that the country had a whole generation which was confused when it came to religious issues and as such, Cabinet intervened and made a decision that pupils be taught about the Bible from a young age until they complete their education.

He said the act of teaching everything resulted in deformed children and it was imperative that they remedy the situation.

He however clarified that the pupils should not be indoctrinated as they were merely supposed to learn about the history of the Christian religion as opposed to have serious worshipping sessions such as those practiced by the Zion sects.

Siswati tests before granting of citizenship?

The Prime Minister, Dr Sibusiso Dlamini has recommended that foreigners who wish to become citizens of the country should first be tested whether they are able to speak and write Siswati.

He said this during the breakfast meeting with editors on Thursday.

He said it was unfortunate that people have in the past received citizenship papers while they do

not know a word in Siswati.

He said in other countries, foreigners were made to write essays in the language of their adoptive country and state why they want to become citizens.

The premier said the policy decision was purposed to steer the country into first world status. "We could not postpone the decision to 2022...we would be building a foreign language on the tomb of our Swazi language."

glassblowers as it celebrates 30 years

temperature workshop to see the masters at work.

They later had the pleasure of proceeding to the showroom where they saw a variety of the finished products during a tour led by Ruth Cory who explained the processes of producing the different glass products.

Ngwenya Glass started making glassware using only recycled glass in 1987 which are mainly old cold drink bottles. Each and every piece of glass artwork that comes from the factory is handmade using the glassblowing method. Ngwenya Glass works with local schools and colleges to instil in the children a sense of environmental awareness. It motivates people from all over the country to collect bottles to sell it to the company. Close to 0.5 tonnes of glass is collected per day from communities of glass deposited at the collection centre. The glass pieces are washed to remove

all kinds of dirt, crushed and then fed into the furnace.

The company, started by Swedish Aid, has survived because of Sibusiso Mhlanga, the Production Manager, who introduced the Swedish glassblowing technique in the region in 1979. He spent nine months in Sweden where he trained at the world famous Kosta Boda glassworks under Jan Erik Ritzman. Upon his return, he joined Ngwenya Glass which was shut down in 1985, but reopened in 1987. Mhlanga has since trained the entire workforce of 70 people. It is the only glass-blowing factory in Africa and among a select few in the world.

Meanwhile Richard is a well-respected glass-blower who has travelled extensively. Since 1990, Richard has travelled around Thailand and has subsequently fall in love with its people, culture and customs. His veneration for the coun-

try is so great that he now spends at least three months of the year there, embracing it as his spiritual home. Thailand also allows him to regularly 'step out of his cage', the environment is so far removed from Amsterdam city life.

He was born in 1960 in Hampshire, England, Richard benefited from the high degree of freedom awarded to him by his parents throughout his childhood.

His fascination with glass as an art form began at the age of 18 when he inadvertently discovered a glass furnace at his local art school. After graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Art & Design in 1982, Richard promptly moved to Amsterdam to study at the prestigious Gerrit Rietveld Academy. Under the guidance of tutors Richard Meitner and Mieke Groot, he was able to explore the multitude of possibilities offered by glass as an expressive medium.

LESOTHO QUEEN MOM PAYS COURTESY CALL TO KING

BY SIMON SHABANGU

Her Majesty Queen Masenate Mohato Seeiso of the Kingdom of Lesotho who is in the country for a state visit paid a courtesy call to His Majesty King Mswati III at Mandvulo Grand Hall at Lozitha on Friday night. The Basotho Queen Mother arrived in the country on Friday noon through the Matsapha International Airport.

Later in the day, she travelled to Lozitha Royal Palace with her delegation where they were met by His Majesty the King who was joined by the Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini and members of the royal family. Also present were Emakhosikati, Emazinyane and Minister for Economic Planning

Prince Hlangusempi among others.

The Queen Mother and her delegation together with members of the Royal family later joined the King in a state dinner His Majesty had hosted for the Basotho Queen Mother.

As part of her visit to the country, the Queen Mother and her delegation yesterday toured Ngwenya Glass and King Sobhuza II Memorial Park.

Treated

At the Africa's glass manufacturing factory, they were treated to a spectacular production of a glass portrait which was made from scratch by the team of expert glass blowers from overseas who were in the country for a workshop.

The trio led by Richard Price did a display which left all present perplexed after witnessing

the production live.

At the King Sobhuza II Memorial Park the delegation was led to a tour of the pictorial display of King Sobhuza II activities and events by experienced SNTC Tour Guide Clement Maziya who unpacked the life and times of the late Swazi hero who brought independence to the Kingdom without a fight.

The Queen who was impressed with the information on the life and times of the late King later proceeded to a VIP area where she signed the visitor's book and also presented with a token of appreciation by the SNTC management.

Yesterday evening the Queen paid a courtesy call to Her Majesty Indlovukazi who also hosted a state dinner for the Basotho Queen at Mandvulo Grand Hall.



His Majesty King Mswati III with Her Majesty Queen Masenate Mohato Seeiso of the Kingdom of Lesotho and family at Mandvulo Grand Hall at Lozitha on Friday night. The Queen Mother is in the country on a state visit and she paid a courtesy call to His Majesty who hosted a state dinner for her. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



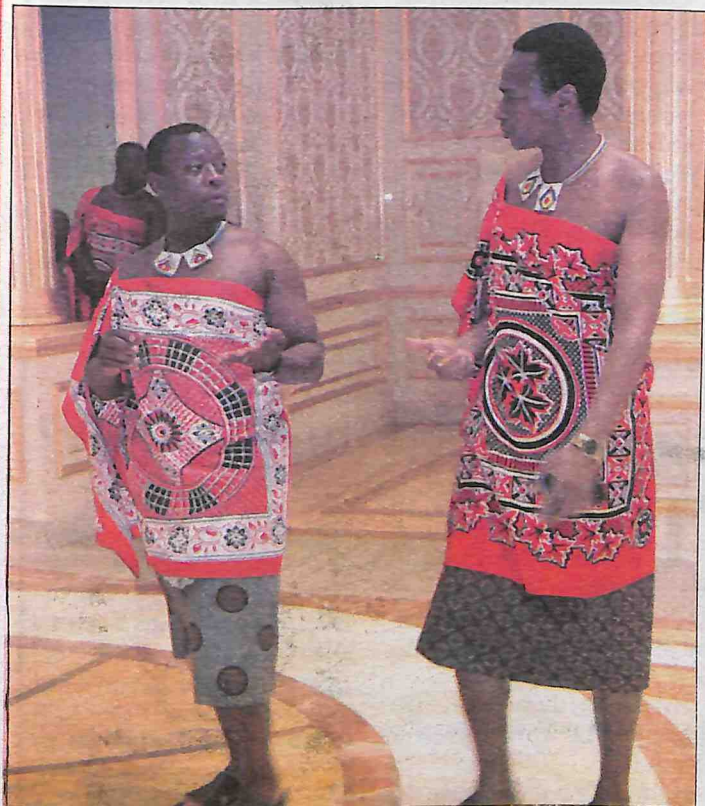
Princess Sidvumolesihle looking elegant on the night.



Emakhosikati LaFogiyane and LaMahangu also attended the state dinner.



Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini, Prince Hlangusempi and Emazinyane Sicalo, Lindani, Bandzile and Suku.



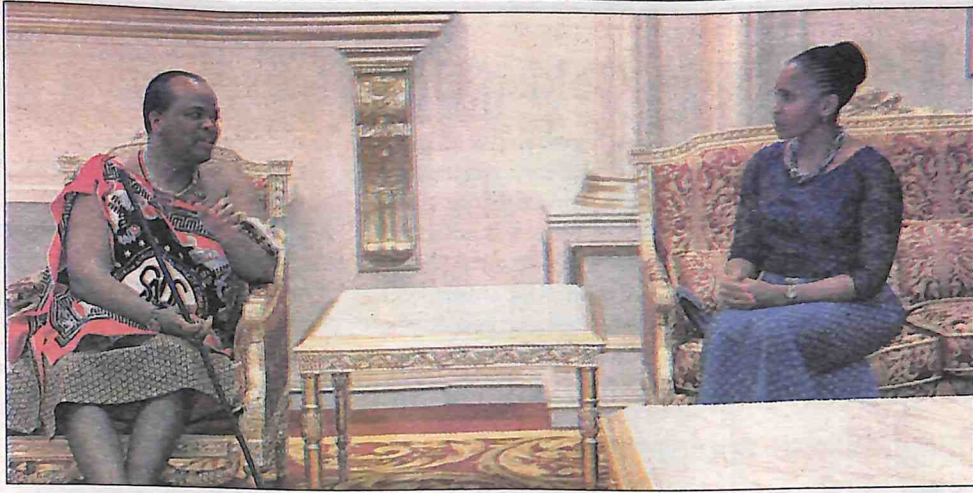
King's Protocol Officers Khandlela Mdluli and Mphiwa Dlamini ensuring that all was in order.



Inkosikati LaMotsa leading the Basotho Queen Mother to the dining area with Inkhosikati LaNgangaza following behind.

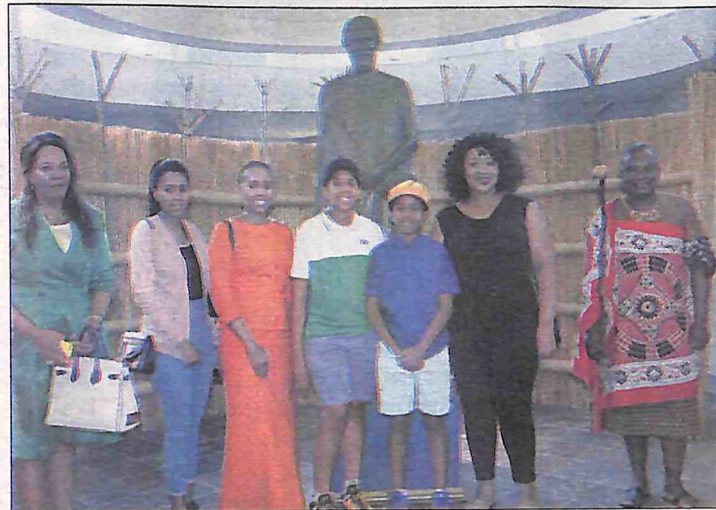


The Queen being ushered in at Mandvulo Grand Hall where she met the King before proceeding to a state dinner.



His Majesty in a conversation with the Basotho Queen Mother Masenate Mohato Seeiso before the dinner. (R) His Majesty meeting the Basotho Queen Mother's delegation. Conelia Mphaloane shaking hands with the King, while Lineo Ramabele and Maseeiso Nkuebe look on.

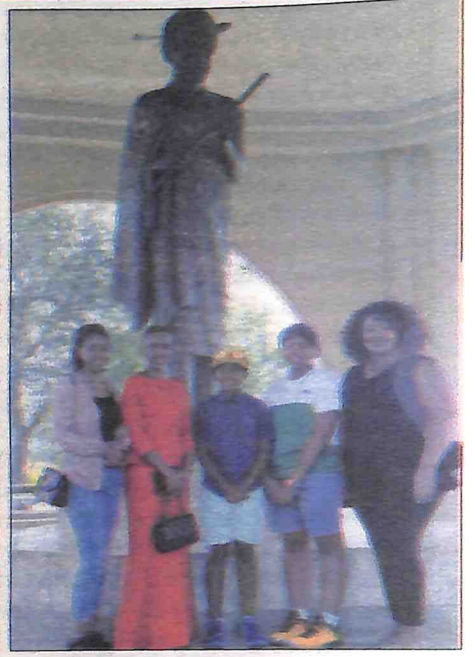
Basotho Queen Mother tours Ngwenya, Memorial Park



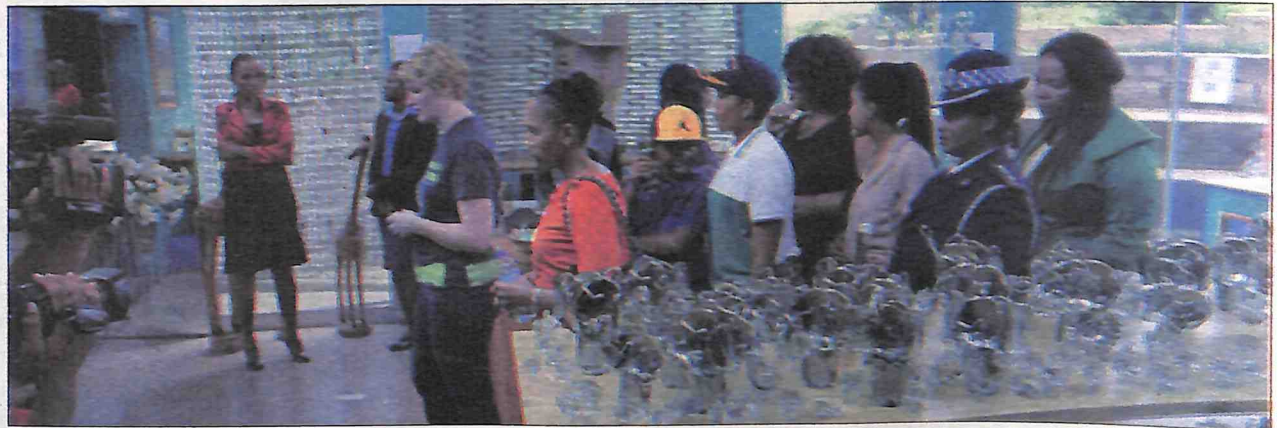
Her Majesty Queen Masenate Mohato Seeiso of the Kingdom of Lesotho with her children joined by Princess Sidvumolesihle and SNTC tour guide Clement Maziya during their tour at King Sobhuza II Memorial Park yesterday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



The Queen Mother signing a visitors' book while Rosemary Andrade looks on. (R) The Queen with Princess Senate, Maseeiso Prince Lerotholi and Sekhothali next to King Sobhuza II statue.



The Queen Mother and her delegation watching the masters at work.

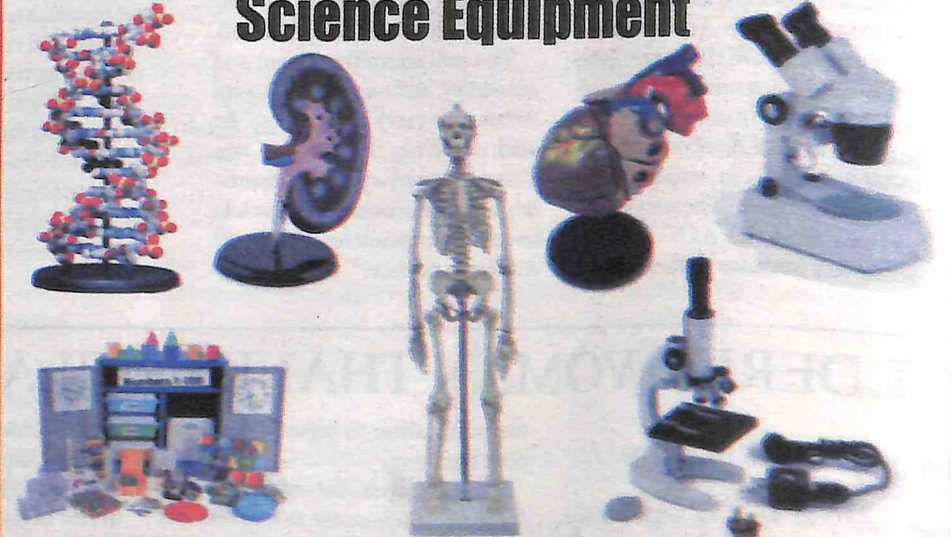


The queen touring the glass shop where the finished products from the factory are sold.



(l) Richard Price from The Netherlands joined by James Devereux from the UK and local Blower Caryl-Leon Van Tonder producing a glass portrait.

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SD HAD NO MONEY FOR AIRPLANE - SUPPLIER

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

The company that was engaged to provide an aircraft for the revived Royal Swazi National Airways Corporation (RSNAC) has refuted that it took money from the country and failed to deliver on their mandate.

Instead, it claims that the country did not have money as it failed to honour a E200 million contract (value) for two aircraft, including the one in question now (the plane which was leased to service routes to be operated by RSNAC).

According to a company called Kasmira Investments, "Swazi Airways again did not pay in accordance with the agreement, and to avoid litigation, a settlement was agreed, in which it was required that a local company be set up as a supplier: hence Global Hub Swaziland."

The company was responding to newspaper reports of Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini's breakfast meeting with editors this past Thursday where the premier stated, "Cabinet had instructed the board of the Royal Swazi National Airways to do a liability assessment to find out ways of recovering the money that had been received by Unicorp and Global Hub," after the failure of the country to get its own airplane.

According to Kasmira Investments' Eric Mouritzen, Global Hub is a company originally operating in South Africa for years and decided to partner with an experienced company, Kasmira Investments, with over 20 years' experience in aviation, to form



a local Swazi Global Hub entity as an empowerment company. He said Global Hub Swaziland was created at the request of RSNAC after it allegedly failed to honour a E200 million contract for two aircraft, including the one in question now.

Agreement

Mouritzen alleged, "Swazi Airways again did not pay in accordance with the agreement, and to avoid litigation, a settlement was agreed, in which it was required that a local company be set up as a supplier: hence Global Hub Swaziland. The PM has been misled on this issue."

The PM told editors on Thursday; "The government took a decision to revive the national airline, among others, to make use of the new airport. The Royal Swazi National Airways (RSNA) came with the proposal that we hire

reputable consultants to assess the viability of reviving the airline."

Explaining how Global Hub came on board the now failed aircraft deal, the PM said Blue Crane Aviation were hired as consultants and recommended that the country could benefit from a 50 seater aircraft that would service regional routes only.

Proposal

"Another proposal was presented to Cabinet that a management consultant be brought on board. A company from Canada, Unicorp was therefore engaged and they came with a different recommendation than an even bigger aircraft that would service international routes such as Dubai and Mumbai be leased. We trusted their proposal and they were given a budget."

Dlamini told editors that things start-

Golden Hub has experience

Responding the allegations that the company which provided the country with a leased plane was not experienced as it was created when the need of the plane arose, Golden Hub has explained its stand point.

"Global Hub was set up as a local partner and representative of a South African owned company called Kasmira Investments," the statement from the company owned by Cedza and Thandumuzi Dlamini and his sister Celenhle Thembayena Dlamini in equal shares.

The company stated that Kasmira Investments, their South African partner was a company with over 20 years' experience in the aviation industry and their creating was purposed to create a locally empowered aircraft leasing business. "Global Hub became a supplier of aircraft to Swazi Airways and duly complied in

accordance with internationally accepted standards," they explained. Global Hub stated that Kasmira Investments was the original contractor of the aircraft supplier agreement with Swazi Airways and they have decided to revert back all its engagements with the client back to the original contractor and affiliates in accordance with their agreements, as this matter is now under litigation.

Untruths

"Many untruths and unsubstantiated claims have unfortunately been made against Global Hub that are false and will be proven in a court of law. Global Hub reserves its full rights on this matter," the company said through their representatives.

"Global Hub would like to distance itself from the fallout between Swazi Airways and its consultants, Unicorp."

ed getting off the rails when an allegedly newly registered company called Global Hub was engaged to lease the plane yet they had no experience of hiring or operating an aircraft.

"They could not therefore meet the requirements of getting an Air Operations Certificate (AOC) demanded by the Swaziland Civil Aviation Authority (SWACAA). This resulted in the owners of the leased plane repossessing their aircraft," alleged the premier.

Mouritzen, to whom this publication was referred to by one

of the directors of Global Hub Infrastructure Investments, Celenhle Thembayena Dlamini, on the other hand said, "We have read the statements made by His Excellency the PM, and find it difficult to respond because his comments appear to be uninformed and one sided. The comments can only serve to confuse the issue and thereby the public. Certain statements are very close to defamatory. We believe the real, true facts, will be tested in court soon."

THE PLANE WAS AIRWORTHY

Kasmira Investments, the company which by extension leased the plane to the country, has denied that the plane which was supposed to be used by the Royal Swazi National Airways Corporation (RSNAC) was not airworthy.

According to the Prime Minister, Sibusiso Dlamini, the plane was unable to get an Air Operators Certificate (AOC) because Global Hub could not meet the requirements as demanded by the Swaziland Civil Aviation Authority (SWACAA). In response, the company stated, "The second allegation that the AOC was not achieved because the lessors air-

craft failed the SWACAA certification test, and was not airworthy is categorically false."

The company further provided copies as proof that the aircraft had a valid and legal "Swazi Airways and its engineers, fully inspected the aircraft a year ago and found it to be valid," Eric Mouritzen responded further asking why the aircraft lessor was being blamed.

"The said aircraft was legal and airworthy, and was used by Swazi Airways to carry passengers," he said, recalling the trip to Cape Town made by a group of ministers and parliamentarians, "it would have been impossible (and illegal) without a licence."

THE PLANE WAS NOT REPOSSESSED

● "It was simply not returned to Swazi Airways because Swazi Airways did not pay it's bill and made no arrangements to settle the matter."

The company which facilitated the lease of the aircraft which had Swazi colours for a while has denied that the aircraft was repossessed.

Responding to the prime minister's allegations that the plane was repossessed by its owners, the company said, "It was simply not returned to Swazi Airways because Swazi Airways did not pay it's bill and made no arrangements to settle the matter." The Eric Mouritzen, who was responding for both Global Hub and Kasmira Investments, said, "The lease agreement remains unpaid despite Swazi Airways admitting liability." He further alleged that Swazi

Airways breached every agreement it signed, and acknowledged the liability. "There has not been enough money to capitalise the business, and instead of focusing on their financial obligations, an aircraft lessor is being blamed and responsibility/accountability from the ministry of public works is being removed," the company responded. "There has been a clear lack of funding for Swazi Airways, therefore Swazi Airways seemed not able to meet its finan-

cial obligations, which could explain why this situation has ended up being here today," the company stated further denying that there could have been any misappropriation of funds. "There was no misappropriation of funds; instead government is using this as an excuse to run away from its financial obligations. Before the Unicorp and Global debts have been settled, there are now further changes of plan and contracting of consultants."

ELDERLY WOMAN THANKS PHILANI FOR CHANGING HER LIFE

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Last year April, all Gogo Doreen Phakathi wanted was money for her grandchild's school fees, instead she got more than that as she now lives in a new house and this past Friday, got a donation from Philani Maswati.

Phakathi's struggles in life were published by the Sunday Observer and she has time and again approached

the publication to report on positive developments.

This past week, the elderly woman from Mpuluzi came to express her appreciation to Philani Maswati for giving her money which she said would cater for her needs.

The elderly woman was notified of the deposit to her account (amount deliberately withheld) after she supplied her banking details to the organisation's Treasurer, Fikile Mabila.

The old woman had been from pil-

lar to post as she did not know where she was supposed to get the money donated to her during the handover of her house which was built by the organisation last year.

Donations

During the event, which was attended by the organisation's members as well as the area's Member of Parliament Phwayinkhosi Mabuza, monetary donations were collected for her and Chairman Lutfo Dlamini said they feared giving her the cash as this would

entice enterprising criminals to her home. He called for the area's Indvuna Yenkhundla or MP to assist her open an account with First National Bank to enable them to deposit the money for her.

Over the next few months, Phakathi approached the Swazi Observer offices with the hope that she would get the money without the required banking details. It was, however, this past week when she said her constituency headman had assisted her with opening

the account and she was ready to get her money, something that was done within a few hours of her providing the details. "We have transferred the money into gogo's account and have informed her," Mabila said on Friday. When Phakathi was called, she expressed joy that her dreams had all been fulfilled. "I haven't had so much money in a long time and I hope to take care of my grandchild with it," she said, further heaping praises on Philani Maswati.

US AMBASSADOR IMPLORES MEDIA TO REPORT ON HUMAN INTEREST STORIES

BY MLONDI MPANZA

The United States Ambassador to Swaziland, Lisa Peterson has implored the country's media to report about human stories rather than scandalous articles.

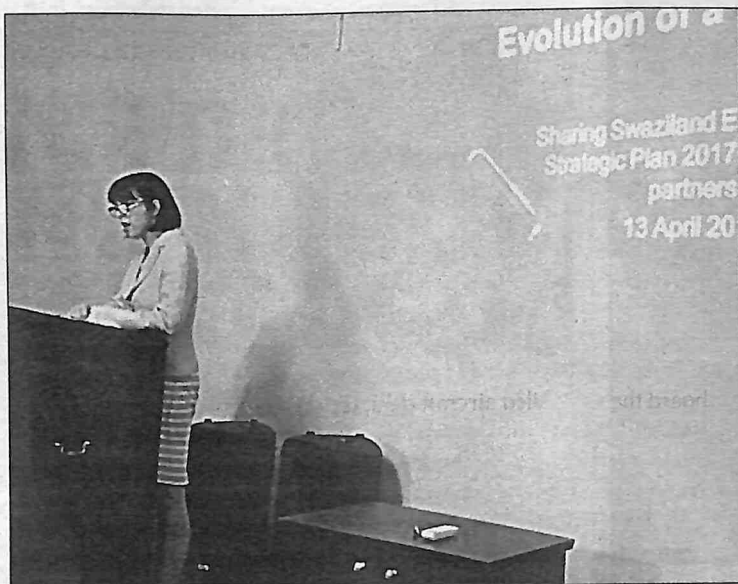
She said this was because human interest stories can be used as effective tools for raising awareness around complex, sensitive or overlooked issues in the country instead of scandals that are believed to sell papers.

Peterson said this yesterday morning when addressing the Editor's Forum and Civic Society at the Happy Valley Hotel at Ezulwini.

The ambassador even made an example saying there had been no fewer than two dozen articles in recent months recounting details of citizens' intimate conjugal lives.

"While entertaining for some, stories such as these do more harm than good for the journalism profession. However, as visionaries and leaders, editors and their staff have the power and the responsibility to change the public perception of newsworthy

...Since these have a positive impact to the society as compared to the scandalous articles that are believed to sell the paper.



United States Ambassador to Swaziland, Lisa Peterson.

content," she stated.

Leverage

With the country having a few media outlets, she pointed out that editor's

possessed tremendous leverage in swaying the narrative and influencing public opinion which she urged editors put to a good use.

She also shared how she categorised the US government's priorities to Swaziland under three pillars namely; responsiveness, accountability and inclusion.

In this case, she placed their efforts to fight HIV/AIDS under responsiveness, AGOA under accountability and women and girl's empowerment under inclusion.

All these are areas where the intersection of advocacy, public awareness and public policy clearly intersect, according to Peterson.

Elements

She said these were all the areas where the media and other elements of civil society had the ability to educate, inspire and mobilise both the public and government to action.

"Stories about HIV positive people who are able to live long and productive lives help to fight the persistent negative impact of stigma," she pointed out.

Also, a focus on Swazi's rights to use the public square to advocate on issues from worker's rights to women's inheritance rights help to underscore the vital role of citizen activism in shaping government policies.

Further, reporting on domestic violence can help a woman understand that there are others like her and that she does not have to suffer in silence but she can find help.

Peterson also stated the civil society was vital in supporting and sustaining efforts in each of these areas and that the media on the other hand provided the lens that helps civil society partners focus their attention on each of these issues.

On another note, the ambassador urged the media to utilise their collective platforms and voices to publicly discuss their shared agenda and goals around media policy reforms and regulations with the World Press Freedom Day just around the corner.

As the US government she said they were ready to support upcoming initiatives to broaden the media landscape in Swaziland.



NEWS EXTRA

Gordhan not a hero of our people - Mbalula

DURBAN - Former finance minister Pravin Gordhan is not a hero of "our people" but a hero of fat cats and capitalists, ANC NEC member Fikile Mbalula said on Friday.

Most of those who took part in anti-Zuma marches were among the richest people in the country "who have never been subjected to poverty," the newly-appointed police minister told ANC Youth League members at the Durban City Hall.

Gordhan had become minister of "memorial services". Since President Jacob Zuma removed him as finance minister, he had been using the ANC's name to promote anarchy, he said.

He said the ANC was not against the anti-Zuma march.

"We will not oppose anybody from marching because when they fail in their action, they'll say the ANC members intimidated them. Let's show them what freedom is and let them march and sing Nkhalakatha," he said, referring to the hit song by Mandoza.

"The people are not rebelling against the ANC, but it is monopoly capital that is manipulating our people to further its narrow agenda," he said of those who took part in Friday's protests. He said the anti-Zuma marchers would never depose



Former finance minister Pravin Gordhan and ANC NEC member Fikile Mbalula.

the democratically-elected government of the country because the ANC had delivered for the people.

Revolution

"Our revolution is going through a test, but you must not be afraid."

Before DA leader Mmusi Maimane could tell the ANC to recall Zuma, he first had to recall Western Cape premier Helen Zille because of her tweets about colonialism.

Ethekwini Mayor Zandile

Gumede said the region would keep backing Zuma because "an attack on him is an attack on the ANC".

"President Zuma was elected in broad daylight through correct processes, but now he is a victim of wounded tigers," she said.

The Constitution gave Zuma the power to appoint and recall ministers because he would be held accountable for a lack of service delivery, she said.

News24



SWAZILAND CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

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Email: marketing@swacaa.co.sz Matsapha Airport
P.O. Box D361, The Gables, H126, Kingdom of Swaziland

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES - DEVELOPING A CUSTOMER SERVICE CHARTER FOR THE SWAZILAND CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY TENDER NO.41 OF 2017 / 2018

1. Tenders are hereby invited from suitably qualified Consultants to undertake the development of a Customer Service Charter for the Swaziland Civil Aviation Authority.
2. Request for Proposals may be purchased from; the Swaziland Civil Aviation Head Office, Matsapha Airport Road (Finance offices) effective from the 11th April 2017 for a non-refundable fee of E300.00 per set. The method of payment shall be cash, bank guaranteed cheque or electronic fund transfer proof in favour of SWACAA.
3. Completed Tender Documents shall be delivered in a sealed envelope to:
The Secretary of the Tender Committee
Swaziland Civil Aviation Authority
Matsapha Airport Road
Matsapha
PO Box D361
The Gables

Not later than 12 noon Swaziland time on the **05th May 2017** at which time the tenders will be opened.

On the outside, the envelope shall be clearly marked:

"CONFIDENTIAL"

TENDER NO.41 OF 2017/2018

PROPOSAL FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES - DEVELOPING A CUSTOMER SERVICE CHARTER FOR THE SWAZILAND CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

(Not to be opened before 12 Noon on the 05th May 2017).

NB: Technical proposal must be accompanied by a financial proposal.

4. The Swaziland Civil Aviation Authority does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender and reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.

BY MANAGEMENT

DOC13475

HUNDREDS AT FOOD TASTING,

● The George Hotel wins the best decorated stall award



Food lovers came in numbers to taste indigenous food served by different food suppliers at the 'Taste of Swaziland' hosted by Rotary Club of Malkerns yesterday at House on Fire. (Pics: Ayanda Dlamini)

STORIES BY AYANDA DLAMINI

Yesterday, Malkerns witnessed hundreds people coming for Swazi food tasting; Taste of Swaziland at House on Fire as 35 restaurants and food suppliers showcased different cuisines. It was a well attended and organised event

as some of the stalls had nothing to sell around 4pm.

The third annual food tasting was organised by the Rotary Club of Malkerns. The event itself looked like one of the prestigious festivals, the theme and decor was well-trimmed.

The food was prepared from the amphitheatre, well decorated stalls from fruit smooth-

ies to indigenous food such as *emahewu*. Bholoja and Velemseni were also entertaining the participants who were enjoying the food from the 35 food suppliers. According to Rotary Club Communications' Prudence Shabangu, the number of stalls and participants increased from last year's event.

"I must say that this was one



Banele, Mxolisi and Bonkhe having a light moment.



Taste of Swaziland team chopping goat meat for attendants while The Wine Boutique team Lungile, Leo and Nyando were also at the event.



One of the well-decorated stalls which was a hive of activity.



Phayo enjoying her cheese cake on the go. CENTRE - Tititi, Ndondo and Tebe looked very stylish at the food tasting. RIGHT - SSA CEO Phil Mnisi was also spotted at the ceremony.

35 STALLS

of the best food tasting events we've hosted. We got an amazing response from the public and the number of participants increased from the previous one," Shabangu said.

The George Hotel won the best decorated stall award as they decorated their stall very well with well-garnished food. From the stand to the food, everything was well prepared; beautifully displayed food

from Sushi to chicken stew on their stall. Most people were not surprised when the MC announced that The George Hotel had the best stall. "The George Hotel stall deserves the best stall award as they prepared delicious food and the taste is so divine. The Sushi was really good," said Tanele Ndlangamandla, who was found having Sushi at the hotel's stall.



Friends Phila, Nomcebo, Nolwazi, Tanele, Nomvuyo, Phila and Zethu also attended the event.



Chinese food being served as it was one of the favourites.



Food lovers tasting wine and cheese at the Parmalat stall.

Chinese food, fruits smoothies most favoured

As it has always been believed that traditional food such as *makhaya* chicken is the favoured dish in food tasting or festival, but yesterday the Chinese food and smoothies took the cup as more and more people queued for these two.

"Most people enjoy good Chinese food. Cooking is considered to be an art and Chinese dishes can be as beautiful to look at, as they are delicious to eat. Traditionally in China, there has always been an important relationship between food and health. So you will find that the

combination of foods in a meal will take into account a balance between carbs, meat and vegetables, yin and yang food groups (hot and cold), and the diners' state of health, age, gender and the weather," said Dudu, who was serving the Chinese food.

The fresh smoothies were also a favoured food at the food tasting as most people were queuing for more fresh fruits smoothies.

Katrin Lehmann from Kaza preparing fruit smoothies which were in high demand.



Nosipho and Zinhle serving their different chocolates at the chocolate shop stall.

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Von Wissell resigns as Global Fund ESA Director

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Dr Derek von Wissell has resigned from his position of Global Fund Eastern and Southern Africa Director, with less than a year left of his two-year tenure.

Having been appointed into the position towards the end of 2015 for the 2016-2018 tenure, Dr von Wissell stated that he wrote the resignation letter over two weeks ago, announcing his resignation with immediate effect.

During a telephonic interview on Friday, von Wissell said he will not like to delve into what prompted the resignation save to say personal circumstances drove him to the decision.

The former Minister of Finance, who was also National Emergency Response Council on HIV and AIDS (NERCHA) Director for over a decade, von Wissell, was elected the Global Fund Eastern and Southern Africa Director after nomination by the Government of Swaziland.

Paired

The Global Fund board members are elected every two years and there are 20 board members from the 10 donor countries. The board comprises of 10 members from implementing countries and two from Africa; Eastern and Southern (ESA) and Central paired with Western.

The Global Fund board has the responsibility to oversee the secretariat that administers funds.

The man, who could be viewed as custodian and pioneer of HIV funding in the country, said he was humbled by the strides the country had made while fighting the pandemic.

In a previous interview while explaining his rich curriculum vitae, he recalled how NERCHA, which coordinates and facilitates the National Multisectoral HIV and AIDS response and oversees the implementation of the national strategic plans and frameworks, came about.

"It came about with the

help of the Global Fund which was set up by the United Nations and The US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which over the years has provided hundreds of millions of Emalangeni to Swaziland," he stated.

He said the progress made by the country in issues of HIV and AIDS was all thanks to the donors such as Global Fund and PEPFAR and further hailed such assistance as reasons that HIV was manageable with those who have it leading normal lives.

"All people who want treatment are on treatment. Transmission from mother-to-child has virtually been elongated and the incidence of new infection has been reduced significantly," he said.

Progress

He further alluded that even though the stated progress was for HIV, the Global Fund also funded the fight against TB and malaria.

He highlighted that Swaziland was now one of the few countries talking about the elimination of malaria by 2018.

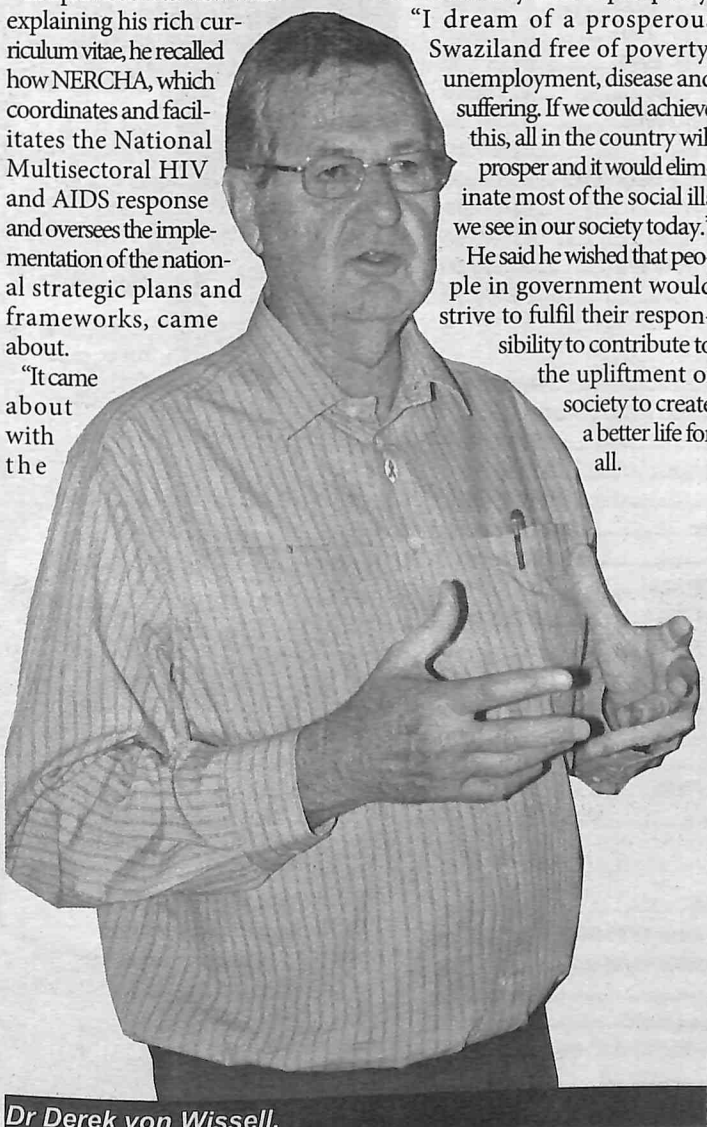
Explaining his lifetime of servitude to the betterment of people's life, he said he was driven by the belief that everybody had a responsibility to contribute to the welfare of his neighbours if he could.

"If you believe that God calls upon man to work, then it is your duty to work and do it to His honour," he said, while declining to reveal his personal preferences and hobbies other than stating that he has been married for 50 years to a beautiful woman with whom he has had a happily-ever-after type of life.

The former minister said his dreams for the country were of prosperity,

"I dream of a prosperous Swaziland free of poverty, unemployment, disease and suffering. If we could achieve this, all in the country will prosper and it would eliminate most of the social ills we see in our society today."

He said he wished that people in government would strive to fulfil their responsibility to contribute to the upliftment of society to create a better life for all.



Dr Derek von Wissell.

FINANCE MINISTRY TO ASSIST SHAREMAX INVESTORS

STORIES

BY MLONDI MPANZA

Sharemax investors can now heave a sigh of relief as the ministry of finance is preparing to assist them in soliciting their investments back from Nova Property Group (NPG).

According to the Chairman of the Investors Benjamin Nsibandze, he has received communication from the ministry that they had prepared a letter to be taken to Nova Property Group and the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) informing them that Swazis want their investments back.

He said this yesterday in an interview with this newspaper after the investors' meeting which was held at the Manzini Library, aimed at giving back an update to the investors, as well as seek for a mandate on what the members feel should be done next.

This comes after the Sunday Observer reported three weeks ago that over 100 investors who contributed over E27 million towards property shares in a South African scheme, Sharemax, had been left in the dark with regards to their investments after the company's operations were halted by SARB seven years ago, pending investigations into irregularities by Sharemax.

Rescue

According to Moneyweb, NPG was a rescue vehicle set up after the collapse of Sharemax to try to save around R5 billion from about 33 000 investors, of which nearly 150 were Swazis, mostly who invested their retirement packages in the scheme after being approached by a recently deceased former Ligoqo member.

As the committee, Nsibandze said, they first had a meeting with the finance ministry in February where they informed them of their frustrations; they called him this week where he was told that a letter to be taken to NPG and SARB communicating their decision to seek for their monies had been prepared.

He said the call was after officials from the ministry had promised to be part of the meeting, however, they could not due to other commitments but they assured them that they were working on assisting them.

Further, he said they had hoped to have



The Sharemax committee Chairperson Benjamin Nsibandze, member Jabulani Nkambule, Secretary Sandile Gwebu and Vice Chairperson Sabatha Dlamini posing after the meeting. (Pic: Mloni Mpanza)

at least 90 per cent of their members present in the meeting because they wanted to get a clear mandate of what the next step should be.

Nonetheless, those present who he said were more than half had made it clear that they did not want anything to do with the investment company, except getting their investments and interests reaped since the period they joined the company.

It is worth noting that NPG's Chief Executive Officer and former Sharemax Secretary Dominique Haese, claims that all historical investments were invested in property related transactions, in accordance with relevant agreements.

She was responding to questions from this newspaper after being asked what had happened to the locals investments and when they will be getting their returns back.

Response

Haese, in an emailed response about two weeks ago, said, "The interests in the relevant properties were transferred to the Nova Property Group, in terms of High Court Sanctioned Schemes of Arrangement."

Projected investment returns are regulated by the Schemes. In terms of the Scheme documentation, no returns are currently payable. The relevant documentation is in the possession of the Central Bank (of Swaziland)."

Adding, she stated that no interest was receivable, except for investment returns only, as provided for in the Scheme documentation. According to share certificates which the Sunday Observer has in possession, interest on investments were

supposed to be between 10 and 12 per cent per annum with some investments supposed to mature after three years, whereas others were for five to 10.

On the other hand, Nsibandze further said that all the investors wanted from NPG was their investment capital and interest so they can pay their taxes since the terms and conditions of joining the scheme had greatly changed, amid the changes subsequent to the collapse of Sharemax.

He also revealed that they were also contemplating on approaching His Majesty King Mswati III to seek his intervention in the matter, but, now that the finance ministry had promised to assist them, they will wait and see how that goes.

Express

"We feel the need to express our happiness with the finance ministry for taking the decision to assist us in our cause," concluded Nsibandze.

Since NPG took control of Sharemax over five years ago, the investors have been struggling to get clear responses from the former regarding when they will get their monies back and over this period 10 out of the 150 investors have died paupers whilst nursing hopes there would be an end to their problems.

A tangible number of the local investments is by people who were approached in companies which were at the verge of retrenching or closing and since the investments looked convincing, they joined the scheme with hopes to get returns within periods as short as six months as some had already began to get theirs from buildings bought by Sharemax.

... We do not recall any altercation with Swazi investors – Nova Property Group

Meanwhile, Nova Property Group (NPG) has disputed allegations of any altercation between NPG and the local investors.

"We do not recall any 'altercation', in the nature as alluded to, by you, nor the alleged substance throwing and reject such allegations," said the CEO Dominique Haese, in an email response.

This was after the investor's chairperson had alleged that there was such in the last meeting they had with NPG after he had stayed behind in a boardroom with NPG officials, despite that the delegation from Swaziland had been ordered to leave the place.

Nsibandze alleged that after the delegation comprising of three soldiers who were members of Hlalawati Savings and Co-Operative Society, which invested over E4million of members' contributions, as well as other pensioners had left the boardroom, he stayed behind to stand his ground and was sprayed with a substance in his eyes which allegedly rendered him blind.

Conversed

He also alleged that at this meeting meant to get answers on when they were going to get their money, the officials from NPG conversed in a language they did not understand (Afrikaans) and that

incensed them, particularly because they had previously been made to sign contracts drafted in the language which they blame their current predicament.

On another note, Haese denied ever signing any documents regarding the investor's investment payments before further pointing out that, "Prior to the late 2010, I fulfilled certain secretarial functions within the historical, no longer existing, so called Sharemax Group. I am today the CEO of the Nova Property Group."

She added that the last communication she had had with the Central Bank of Swaziland was in February 2017.

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Members of Parliament admit to attending Swaziland Democratic Party (SWADEPA) meetings although they refute being members thereof.

The revelation that his party had a sizeable presence in Parliament was initially made by founder and President, Jan Sithole on Friday.

Sithole is also an elected Member of Parliament representing the Manzini North Constituency.

Sithole was initially asked whether he consulted and reported to the party before making submissions in Parliament and he said he did.

He, however, clarified that he also carried his constituency's interests which he made known at every turn.

When asked whether there were MPs who prescribed to the party's ideals, he said there were several members whose names he could not divulge.

"There are several MPs who are members, but I cannot divulge their names," he said.

Several MPs were called on Friday with most of them stating that they have in the past attended SWADEPA hosted meetings within the country.

"Before I got elected, I used to attend the meetings with Danish people," an MP from Manzini region relented after having at first denied that he was a member and had attended several meetings between 2012 and 2014. He said he initially attended the meetings due to the per diems they received and later after winning the elections due to the fact that his brother was a staunch

SEVERAL MPs ARE MEMBERS OF SWADEPA

...Jan says they are members, they say they are spectators

member.

"I only attend because I offer them professional services," another MP from Shiselweni, who is in Parliament for a second term, said.

Respond

He did not divulge what his services to the party were and pleaded that the party executive members would be the best people to respond.

An MP, who is in his third term, said he was not sure whether he attended party meetings as he was under the impression that they were talking about soccer, not politics. The colourful MP said all he was sure about was that they had several meetings where the subject was along the lines of soccer, not political connotations. "After all, political parties are too parallel to my beliefs," he said.

Another vocal MP from the

Lubombo region who was said to have attended several meetings said, "I don't play that game. We do not need political parties as yet, in my opinion."

Preserve

According to previous interviews, Sithole has over the years declared his undying love for the monarch and the quest to preserve the institution.

He has incessantly stated that his political party was pro-

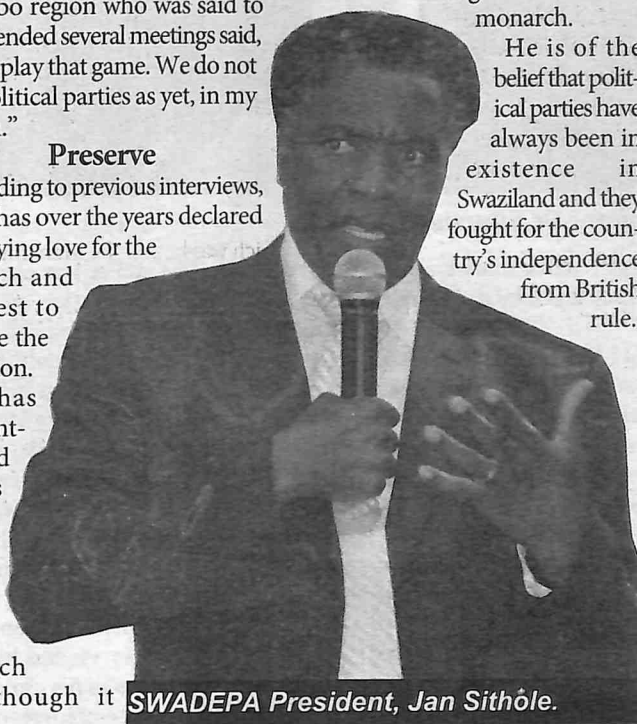
monarch

even though it

believed in multi-party democracy.

He said historically, political parties in Swaziland fought for the recognition of the monarch.

He is of the belief that political parties have always been in existence in Swaziland and they fought for the country's independence from British rule.



SWADEPA President, Jan Sithole.

'All institutions of higher learning are not registered'

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

All institutions of higher learning in the country are not registered as per the Higher Education Act of 2013; they are still in the registration process as they are still undergoing the evaluation stage.

This was revealed by the Chairman of the Swaziland Higher Education Council (SHEC) Mboni Dlamini in an interview on Friday.

Some of the work to be done by the council include formulating a policy on higher education and advise the ministry accordingly, coordinate the long term planning and overall development of higher education, liaise with both public and private sectors of the economy on all matters relating to human resources,

promote coordination among higher education institutions, amongst others. The chairman was responding to a question on the registration of two certain colleges. Dlamini said this question is similar to questioning about any institutions if it is recognised or not. He revealed that all the institutions are in the process of registering. "All the institutions are in the process of registering, hence at this point in time we cannot indicate which institution is accredited or not. All we can say is that they have all applied for registration and have done some evaluation so this process is ongoing," he said. He explained that the evaluation is not a once off thing as institutions are evaluated several times until the council is satisfied that certain minimum standards are

adhered to. He stated that the outcome of the evaluation has not yet been reached. "The act requires that all public and private institutions of higher learning operating in the country re-register with the council before they can be accredited. For whatever institution you may think of in the country, they are all in the same process of evaluation," he said.

Dlamini said it is when the evaluation process is over that the council will reveal their findings on the institutions. He also revealed that it would be very difficult to comment whether their programmes are accredited, pending finalisation of this process. Among other details the evaluation looks into is how the institutions are related with other universities and how they are helped to

ensure quality assurance measures.

When asked what will happen to graduates of these institutions as they are all still not registered, Dlamini stated if it is found that there are major gaps in the curriculum that those graduates did not cover yet they should have learnt, the council will recommend that they be allowed to do modules with learning units that will cover that material.

He highlighted that though some institutions may be accredited in their home country but the council will still evaluate them using the local standards. This he says is to establish whether their programmes are contextualised to meet the needs of the country. "We also look at their curriculum to ascertain if it is in line with the local standards," He said.

Mahlangatsha storm destroys E0.8million crops

BY NOTHANDO NHLEKO

Residents of Mahlangatsha who were affected by the storm that took place two weeks ago lost E840 000 worth of crops.

This is according to a report compiled by ministry of agriculture extension officers subsequent to the disaster.

The freak storm was according to witnesses characterised by wind and hail.

According to extension officer Ashmond Ndwandwe, 70 hectares

of crops were destroyed by the storm that affected six chiefdoms under Mahlangatsha Constituency.

He said the storm greatly affected areas such as Ntfungula under Luvulweni Chiefdom, which lost around 20 hectares of maize and 10 hectares of beans, whilst another area, Nkhundleni, lost 40 hectares of maize.

Compilations

When asked if there was an action plan, Ndwandwe responded by clarifying that the ministry's satellite stations dealt with compiling assessment reports or surveys and did not

offer aid.

He referred questions of aid to other organisations.

According to the ministry of agriculture, the volume of beans that could have been harvested from the area from the damaged 10 hectares could be 40 tons whereas 120 tons of maize was possibly lost.

The area's constituency Headman Mduduzi Fakudze stated that the loss of food was detrimental to the circumstances the populace faced as they were at a disadvantage seeing as they do not usually get food aid even during the worst of times.

"During the peak of the drought, we had only one food distribution occasion whereas the people of the area were also adversely affected.

We had thought we had recovered, and now this," he said.

Fakudze said residents were yet to meet to deliberate on the way forward. Of note, the storm came at a time when hopes were high that residents would get better yields since the kingdom was still recovering from the dry spells that saw most Swazis struggling to get any yields as there were insufficient rains.

Users enjoying E2 calls for 45min!

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

People have, for the last few months, been able to make calls costing a maximum E2 for 45 minutes the whole and the sim cards are selling for amount up to E40 each.

According to users of the sim cards who have had them for over four months, they are able to call anytime, regardless of discount promotions for E2 for 45 minutes after which the call gets cut off and they have to call again.

"I got the sim card from a friend of mine after he told me about the 'miracle' sim cards," a user said.

He revealed that the friend was an airtime vendor who said there were several numbers which have this advantage.

The user said he had been able to save on his communication bills as he has stopped using his contract number while using the E2 sim.

"Mobile communication charges are quite steep for some of us, despite having a contract number," he said.

He said he did not think there was anything amiss as he bought Swazi MTN airtime and used it to communicate with his family and friends. Another person revealed that all he needed was E2 to make a long call.

"Please put in E2 and I will call you back," he was overheard saying recently.

There have also been people advertising sim cards which were enabled with the affordable tariff on different groups on social networking site Facebook.

"I am selling the E2 sim for E40," an advert in one of the groups reads.

According to some of the users, in Manzini, one can purchase the sim card by asking for, 'i sim card yema deal'. Over and above the E2 sim card, vendors claim there are sim cards which always ensure that one gets 100 per cent bonus over and above airtime bought.

Subscribers

"The 100 per cent bonus is always guaranteed," a mobile user said. He stated that there was no need for one to put in airtime during the promotion times as this happened outside of them. Usually, during the early mornings, MTN prepaid subscribers get messages telling them to buy airtime above the value of E10 and they will get bonuses to values between 10 and 100 per cent. When quizzed about the cheap calling rates that some people enjoy, MTN's Corporate Affairs Manager Mandla Lufhondvo said this came as a result of a promotion which targeted subscribers initiated last year. He, however, relented that this was initiated for subscribers in existence during the launch.

"Last year, Swazi MTN launched a promotion targeting subscribers who make calls but do not go beyond a one minute duration. In an effort to encourage them to make longer calls, Swazi MTN white-listed them (meaning they were identified) and then rolled out the promotion wherein they were charged only during the first minute," he said.

He said the promotion was known as Free After One. "This promotion is not meant for new subscribers. New subscribers are outside the target for this promotion.

Now that there seem to be an increasing number of customers enjoying this promotion that was not meant for them, and at a premium, Swazi MTN will, from this weekend, stop this promotion."

He said the company had a list of targeted customers and those who are unfittingly benefiting from the promotion will be removed.

"In the coming week, the promotion will be re-opened so the qualifying customers continue to enjoy the promotion as it was meant for them," he said.

He further called upon customers to familiarise themselves with promotions so that no one takes advantage of them. "Where they have questions, they should feel free to contact any of our service and call centres for clarification.

Swazi MTN still has a number of different promotions which are yet to be rolled out targeting different categories of our valued customers," he said.

'I HAVE NO HAND IN THEIR CAREER CHOICES'

STORIES BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

The Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini has clarified that he had no hand in his children getting positions within the communications industry.

The appointment of Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini's daughter Fikile Gama into the position of Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at the Swaziland Communications Commission (SCCOM) makes it three of his family members in key positions within the industry.

Fikile Gama, former Manzini City Council Treasurer, got the position within the regulator of the communications industry recently whereas her brother, Muzi Dlamini who is the Financial Manager at Swaziland Post and Telecommunication Corporation (SPTC), started working there in 2015 after resigning from his job at the Matsapha Municipal Council.

Another family member is Ministry of information communication and technology (ICT) Under Secretary Bheki Gama, husband to Fikile.

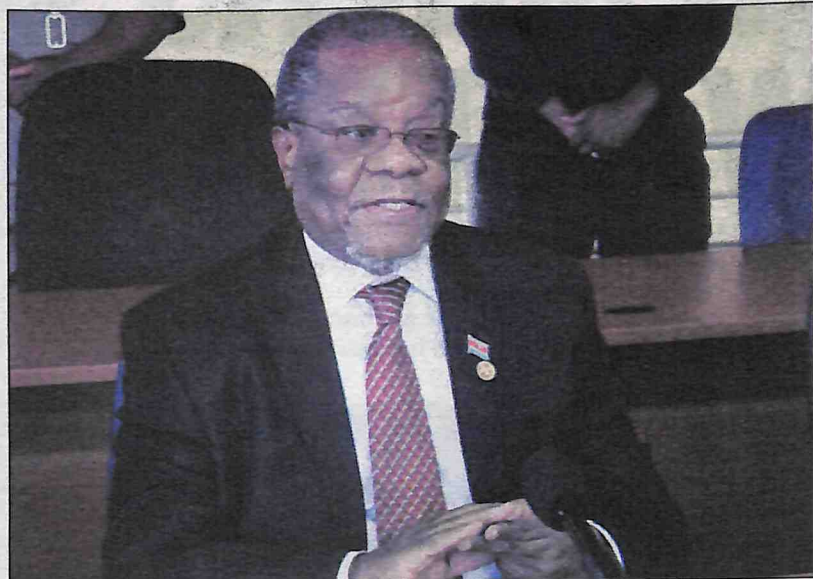
The ministry is responsible for providing a conducive policy environment for Information, Communications and Technology of the country, among other things. On the other hand, the premier is well known to be a shareholder within Swaziland Empowerment Limited, a company which holds a 19 per cent stake at MTN Swaziland.

Responding to questions on the scope of his influence on his children within the above stated entities, the PM said his children, Fikile and Muzi, applied and got the jobs without his influence. On SPTC, the premier said it was overseen by the ministry, and his son was not the company.

"SPTC is not Muzi. He is not the CEO," he said while also clarifying that his daughter was the CFO at SCCOM. He said in the event one made a connection, it should be known that he does not participate in their recruitment or in their duties within the companies they work for.

In the event their names come up within cabinet discussions or with the min-

"The challenge is that they are related to the powers that be and that creates a perception that he could influence them on decisions they make"



Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini.

ister, the premier said he made it a point to always recuse himself by stating interest.

"As soon as I see that there are issues that pertain to them, I declare my interest and recuse myself," he said.

Dlamini said it would be an issue if his children were not qualified for the positions they hold.

Qualified

"My children are both qualified, they are chartered accountants. Not just ordi-

nary chartered accountants, they have master's degrees," he said.

He also brought to mind that

his children have rich curriculum vitae as they have worked extensively within the private sector and he had no influence in their getting employment in those areas as well. Regarding his son-in-law, the ministry of ICT Under

Secretary, the PM said he was hired by the Civil Service Commission into the position, "I do not sit in the board of the commission which is independent."

He divulged that Gama was also adequately qualified as he possesses a Master's Degree. He clarified that he did not live with his children and saw them as a father sees his children, "Muzi stays with his family... Fikile also lives with her family." The PM stated that they did not hold discussions concerning their

work as whenever they visited him it was as his children, not employees of the companies they work for.

The PM's response was echoed by Government Spokesperson Percy Simelane, "The prime minister's son, daughter and son-in-law are complete separate individuals with lives and careers of their own. Their recruitments and promotions are done by the institutions they work for without consulting with the prime minis-

"The country should not be found giving jobs and tenders to the elite and people who know people because then that would be corruption"

ter."

I have no influence on MTN

The prime minister has denied having influence on MTN Swaziland by virtue of having shares within the Swaziland Empowerment Limited, a company which holds 19 per cent at the mobile giant.

"My shares at SEL are negligible as they are less than 0.1 per cent," he explained, adding, "I have never been to their meetings in the nearly 20 years I have

owned shares there."

He said he bought his shares in 1998 and had never attended their meetings, be they annual, general or special, "I saw it best that I don't attend them so there can be no undue influence."

He refuted that there could be any way that he influences the larger scheme of things with his less than 0.1 per cent holding in the company.



SPTC Financial Manager Muzi Dlamini and SCCOM CFO Fikile Gama.

ter."

Wrong

On the other hand, the Swaziland Democratic Nurses Union has stated there was nothing wrong with the PM's family members holding key positions within the communication industry as long as they are qualified.

"The challenge is that they are related to the powers that be and that creates a perception that he could influence them on decisions they make," Secretary General Sibusiso Lushaba, said while clarifying that he did not mean they

should be denied opportunities at companies they apply and are accepted to.

"If there was an element of corruption in their engagement, then we would discourage them working there as this would paint a bad image," he said, adding how it would not augur well for the country if it were to be seen as patrimonial where leaders appoint their own families into crucial positions. "The country should not be found giving jobs and tenders to the elite and people who know people because then that would be corruption."

No plans for Zuma to step down – ANC

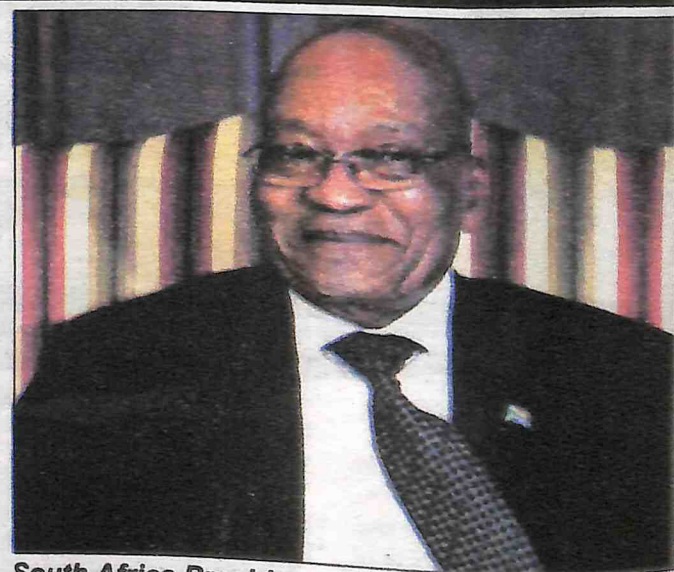
JOHANNESBURG - THE only place President Jacob Zuma is going is a long list of official engagements, after the ANC said there were no plans for him to step down after yesterday's nationwide protests.

"There has been no such discussion," ANC spokesperson Khusela Sangoni said, when asked if the protests had led to any discussions in the party about Zuma.

Zuma's spokesperson in the Presidency was not immediately available to respond to Friday's calls that he resign. However, Zuma's diary for yesterday was already full.

He would attend the unveiling of the memorial stone of the late public service minister Collins Chabane in Limpopo yesterday.

Chabane, his driver and bodyguard, Lesiba Sekele and Lawrence Lentsoane, were killed in a crash along the N1 near



South Africa President Jacob Zuma.

Polokwane on 15 March 2015. Truck driver Amukelani Rikhotso was sentenced to six years in jail for causing the crash.

Sangoni said the ANC would continue speaking to civil society and everyone with grievances about Zuma. If a mem-

orandum was handed over, it would be studied. Earlier yesterday, the new Communications Minister Ayanda Dlodlo and other ministers held a press briefing. Dlodlo thanked South Africans for protesting peacefully. *Daily Sun*

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NEW STOCK JUST ARRIVED

195/65 R15 - E1000.00 for 4

205/65 R15 - E1000.00 for 4

215/70 R16,

195/85 R16, 195/70 R16

225/70 R17, 205/80 R17, 225/80 R17,5

215/70 R17,5

205/60 R17,5 - E4000.00 for 4

245/45 R18 - R4000.00 for 4

245/70 R19,5 - E4000.00 for 4

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ENGINES

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Golf 2L without Gearbox E8,000.00

BMW 2L with Gearbox E12,000.00

BMW 1.8L with Gearbox E12,000.00

Hours of Operation: Mon-Fri 7am - 5pm,

Sat 7am - 4pm

Manzini: Opposite Satellite Bus Rank Below Hub
Cell: 7639 8839 / 2505 8455

SMOOTH KICK-OFF FOR FIRST ACOUSTIC NIGHT

BY AYANDA DLAMINI

The first acoustic Night had a smooth kick-off on Friday night at Bahle Gallery.

It was hosted by Sibusiso Nkambule; a young guitarist from Sigangeni in the outskirts of Mbabane.

The rain could not stop art appreciators from attending the acoustic night as people came through to support Nkambule.

Before Nkambule took to the podium, the attendees were seen socialising, greeting each other, sipping on wine and some sipping on coffee appreciating the fine art at the gallery and cool music playing on background.

Nkambule took over the podium at around 8pm dressed in an African print outfit which turned heads.

In every song he performed, Nkambule made it a point that he revealed the motivation behind and said, "I may not know the titles of the songs but each and every song has a meaning to me," he said.

Passion

"I'm just a young boy from Sigangeni who decided to venture into art and follow my passion," he added as he introduced himself to the audience.

The artist further thanked everyone who came through to support his first show. The audience was happy with Nkambule's talent as they applauded him after rendering the good music.

One of the attendees, Nozipho Dlamini said, "I just love his music even though it was my first time seeing him perform, but his art is good."

Another in Sito Hlophe added the chilly weather had not deterred her from attending the show and indeed that paid off as the music was good to a point that she could listen to it all night.

"I mean the boy is really good," Hlophe said.

"I'm just a young boy from Sigangeni who decided to venture into art and follow my passion"

The attendees being entertained by the guitarist Sibusiso.



The host Sibusiso Nkambule rendering a few songs at his first acoustic night which was held at Bahle Gallery on Friday night. RIGHT - Velemseni came to support the talented guitarist. (Pics: Ayanda Dlamini)



Lore Gifford and Stevermer were also at the acoustic night.



Stylist Tiwi having a light moment whilst Archie Magwaza watches Sibusiso at the acoustic night.



Ka-Boyce Principal Lungelo Nhlengetfwa's BMW parked at the school.

Parents question Ka-Boyce principal's sleek wheels

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

The acquisition of a flashy BMW X5 by the new Principal of KaBoyce High School, Lungelo Nhlengetfwa has raised eyebrows from parents who are questioning how he can afford such a luxurious car.

The parents argue that even Nhlengetfwa's predecessor, Simon Mthunzi never drove such an expensive car and therefore they were failing to understand how he had managed to buy it.

Nhlengetfwa is the former Principal of Ezulwini Community Primary School and came to the school known for being top performers in external examinations last year after Mthunzi retired.

The aggrieved parents who spoke to the Sunday Observer on condition of anonymity further pointed out that even when Nhlengetfwa arrived at KaBoyce, he was not driving a fancy car so it was hard to make sense of his acquisition having been at the school for a short period.

An inspection of the vehicle by this reporter revealed that the vehicle was a fancy one indeed and from a distance it would be mistaken for the E800 000 worth German machines driven by cabinet ministers; however Nhlengetfwa asserts it is merely a 2013 model.

Explaining how he managed to acquire the lavish vehicle, the principal said it was a second hand which he bought from a relative, although he preferred against revealing how much it had cost him.

He agreed that he was driving a less expensive vehicle when he came to the school which he was since selling to generate funds to add on the costs of the newly acquired BMW 3.0d worth around E400 000.

"I bought this car at a give-away price from a relative who wanted to purchase the latest model," said Nhlengetfwa.

He added that he would not have afforded to purchase such an expensive car from his salary alone if he had bought it at a car dealership and that his relative gave him massive discounts and he quickly took a loan from the bank to deposit it.

Balance

Therefore, he said he was still paying the balance in instalments having sealed the deal in February and further refused to divulge the identity of the relative except that he was a chief executive officer in one of the parastatals in the country.

He also went on to clarify that he did not solely rely on his salary as a head teacher for a living but also worked as a part time lecture in two institutions before further stating that he will be selling the car in no time as his ultimate goal was to drive in a Mercedes Benz, although his family had still not agreed to that.

He concluded by adding he had managed to purchase the vehicle because of the fact that his wife also had a better salary as she worked in one of the higher institutions in the country and they shared family expenses.



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Promotion is valid from 06/04/2017 - 19/05/2017. Customers should opt into the promotion by sending #BringYourFire to 3637 for free. Customers that have opted in and purchased any MTN Saver Combo, subscribed or renewed CallerTunez or purchased 1GB of data or above during the promotion will stand a chance to win MTN General and VIP daily tickets. Promotion is open to all MTN customers. Customers who have won will receive a call from MTN. A customer can win more than one ticket. Random selection of the winner shall be done electronically. The tickets cannot be exchanged for cash. MTN reserves the right to change Terms and Conditions, which changes will be effective from the date of publication in any media. Winners' photos will be published in the media. E&OE.



...The gazette of 2016 states that a cashier of a retail outlet located in the urban area should be paid a basic minimum wage of E1 798.10 per month. Cashiers are paid less than this amount and revealed to this newspaper their frustration at being exploited by their employers.

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

Shop assistants who are being exploited by their Asian employers should consult the government gazette to ascertain their wages. The gazette of 2016 states that a cashier of a retail outlet located in an urban area should be paid a basic minimum wage of E1 798.10 per month. Cashiers are paid less than this amount and revealed to this newspaper their frustration at being exploited by their employers.

ASIAN BUSINESSMEN UNDERPAYING CASHIERS

According to *Neli Dlamini (not her real name), a cashier employed by an Asian businessman, she has been working for her employer as a cashier for over five years now but has never been on leave. Last week, she was made to travel from Manzini to Mbabane inter-ministerial building to purchase the gazette, on the advice of an official at the Conciliation Mediation and Arbitration (CMAC).

Dlamini had been working in a clothing shop owned by an Asian national who then sold it and transferred her to his other business which sells fish and chips near the main market. The CMAC official who attended to her case in Manzini "advised" her to get the government gazette as it would assist her in calculating how much she is being owed by her employer.

In her mind she anticipated being owed not less than E8 000 since she had been working without a day-off from 2012 to October 2016. She has also never taken leave and was never paid for those days.

On Wednesday morning, she decided enough was enough, and followed

Merchandise or promoter	E1577.40	E1288.90
Blockman	E1761.20	E1499.80
Trainee cashier	E1431.80	E1336.80
Cashier	E1798.10	E1420.00
Beautician	E1826.00	E1447.80
Cashier (saloon)	E1565.60	E1016.75
Hairdresser	E1434.00	E1013.50
Assistant Hairdresser	E1174.20	E 777.20
Hair braider	E1174.20	E 777.20
Baker	E1578.40	E1337.50
		E1249.30

A gazetted wages list, don't be exploited.

the advice she got from CMAC.

According to a labour official Dlamini further consulted, a cashier is supposed to work six days in a week and have a day off though it may be arranged with the employer on which day of the week.

Dlamini is paid E1 400, a salary she has been on since 2014. The document states that a cashier who works in a retail located in areas not listed

as urban areas should be paid not less than E1 420.

As of 1st July 2014, Dlamini and her counterparts in the country should have been earning a basic minimum wage of E1 676.54 per month until April 2016 where they should have started to earn E1 798.10 per month.

This surprised Dlamini as she said her employer was claiming that she was being overpaid and had made

her believe that the gazetted minimum wage was E1 100 which she discovered from the document that was far less from the gazetted pay.

She was also told that she was still entitled to her leave pay.

The Asian businessman who is Dlamini's employer admitted to have owned and later sold a clothing shop and to have transferred his staff member to the restaurant. Refusing to divulge his name, he said he had four employees who were currently working as shop assistants, including Dlamini who was found packing chips in the restaurant.

When asked if the staff members were given leave days he said they were given.

However, when probed on how many days they were given he said he did not want to answer the question.

He also refused to answer other questions as he said he didn't want to answer except to say: "Brother I don't want to answer you, nothing I want to answer you, and you keep yourself busy I keep myself busy ok!"

Man courts woman trying to commit suicide

BY MLONDI MPANZA

Efforts to court a girl ended up as a blessing in disguise for a young woman who had taken weevil tablets as the young man ended up saving her life.

This was witnessed in an incident that took place in Nhlanguano yesterday morning where a young man tried to court his 'eye-candy' only to discover that she had taken weevil tablets as there was a foul smell coming out of her mouth. The couple's names will not be named due to the sensitivity of the matter.

According to sources, upon making the shocking discovery, the young man promptly alerted his friends who were closely following them that she had a foul smell coming from her mouth like she had taken weevil tablets. The young men quickly joined their friend and forcefully opened her mouth where their suspicions were confirmed that she had indeed taken the weevil tablets.

When quizzed she told them that she had had a fight with her boyfriend hence she decided to end her life.

"We first noticed, three young men forcefully grabbing this woman and when we tried to intervene, we were told that she had taken weevil tablets to end her life hence they were only helping her," sources stated. This then drew the attention of members of the public who got closer to find out what was happening as the woman was made to sit down a few metres away from the new bus rank as she was weak and hallucinating. Airtime vendors who had seen her earlier also claimed that she had been vomiting for a while before she met the man who was courting her, although they had not suspected anything until



The woman whose name cannot be revealed being helped by members of the public vomit the weevil tablets she had taken yesterday in Nhlanguano. (Courtesy pics)



The men trying to save the woman who had taken weevil tablets.

they saw the young men forcefully opening her mouth.

A member of the public was then sent to a nearby Supermarket to buy milk and cooking oil which she was made to drink and eventually vomited two weevil tablets.

Members of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) were called on their emergency number and these efforts proved futile, whilst the Royal Swaziland Police Service requested that the EMS or Swaziland National Fire and Emergency Service (SNFES) be called so they can treat the woman at the scene of incident due to the sensi-

tivity of the situation as she might have died on her to hospital.

A few minutes later, two ambulances from the EMS and SNFES arrived only to find that the woman had been taken by the police in a van, however she was quickly brought back for first aid treatment as they had not gone far with her.

She was then taken to the Nhlanguano Health Centre for further treatment and this was confirmed by the Chief Police Information and Communications Officer, Khulani Mamba who said that she was still being treated yesterday.

Percy silenced us - Mkhuluza

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

Umtfunti Wemaswati Old Age Association founder and director Mkhuluza Zwane has emerged from the shadows to claim that he was silenced by former Swaziland broadcasting and information director Percy Simelane.

Simelane is now the government spokesperson.

Zwane told this newspaper that his organisation was not happy with a radio ban of a programme on the issues of the elderly two years ago. He alleged that his organisation was banned from addressing issues affecting the elderly people in the country.

"We were discussing issues affecting the elderly through a programme on SBIS 1 titled 'Tabogogo nabomkhulu'. We were told that the station was going to incorporate it under the DPM's office but till today there is no such (thing)," he said.

Zwane deemed this as being denied the right to freedom of expression and of speech; "No freedom of speech on issues pertaining to the elderly you can't even say thank you, or we are not grateful, you can't even comment on the issues affecting boGogo despite having a registered organisation," he alleged, referring to the recent increase of elderly grants.

"Call Percy (Simelane) and (Nathaniel) Mahluza who was the PS," beamed Zwane when asked to comment on the increase of the social grants.

"They banned us from addressing the public.

They never gave me reasons; I am in possession of the letters from Percy to that effect," alleged Zwane.

Speaking in a telephone interview Simelane admitted to have stopped Zwane at the time.

"I do admit I stopped him. I was exercising my professional rights to stop someone who was no longer controllable," explained Simelane when sought for comment.

He disclosed that Zwane is not the only one he stopped from misusing the platform provided by the station to address socio-economic issues.

"Others like him, who did not comply with the ethics of broadcasting were also stopped from accessing the radio because I used to listen to their programmes," Simelane added.

Simelane said the national radio was not a platform for people to come and speak as they pleased hence they were to be monitored.

He said he had nothing against the programme as he wanted it to continue but all he was asking was for someone else to host the programme on radio.

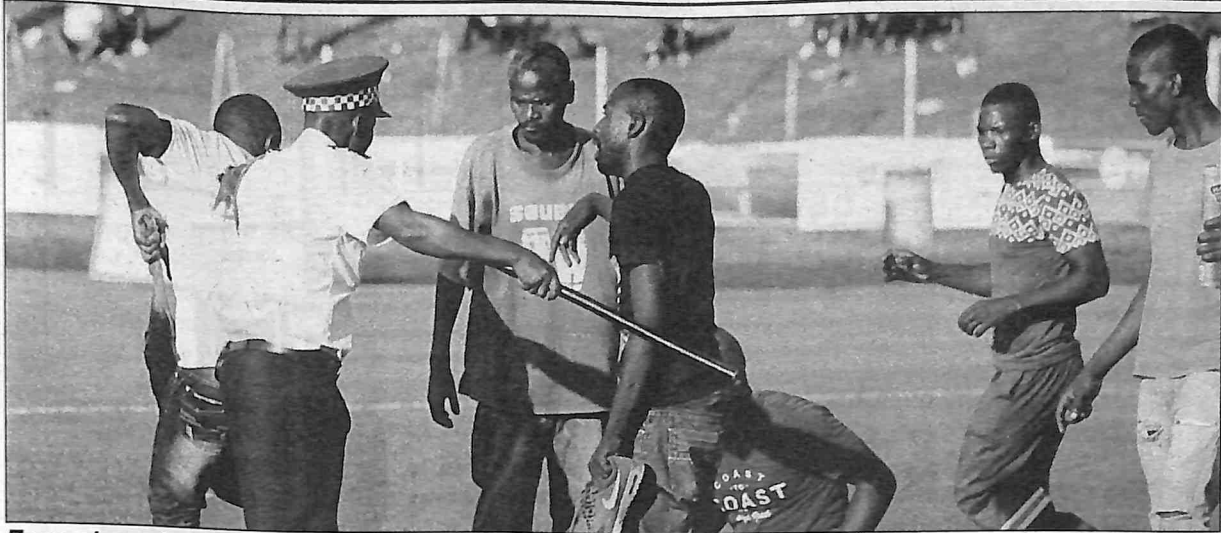
He stated while monitoring the programmes he found that Zwane was no longer adhering to the ethics.

He said he didn't take him by storm as he engaged him several times but Zwane was evasive.

Simelane disclosed that in one instance he invited the team from Umtfunti and alerted them that a new person was needed to run the programme as currently the one hosting it was failing to abide by the ethics of broadcasting.

Simelane recalled how Zwane reported him to the ministry of information. "I got summoned by the minister and the principal secretary where I explained my position to them," he said.

Mkhuluza is alleged to have then taken the matter to the prime minister's office where he was ordered to go back to settle the matter with Simelane. However, according to Simelane he never returned to him to settle the matter but Zwane decided to go to the media.



Fans chased a small dog which invaded the Somhlolo National Stadium pitch during a game and the police watched, along with 5 000 or so spectators.

POLICE DEFEND 'WATCHING' HOOLIGANS ASSAULT DOG

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

The police have defended how they let soccer fans commit a crime in broad daylight on Sunday, when hooligans violently dragged a dog inside the Somhlolo Stadium.

According to the Royal Swaziland Police (RSP) Service mouthpiece, it was a smart move not to swoop in on the soccer hooligans when they assaulted the dog during half-time of a SwaziBank Cup quarter final match. Despite that the police recognise that 'what these fans did was cruelty', Chief Police Information and Communications Officer (CPICO) Superintendent Khulani Mamba said it would have been folly for them to immediately arrest the rowdy fans on the day.

The fans chased a small dog which invaded the pitch during the game and the police watched, along with 5 000 or so spectators at the stadium, afraid that the fans could have reacted negatively.

The police spokesperson was responding to questions on the decision to let the dog's assailants go scot-free and then rely on media reports to spur them to action.

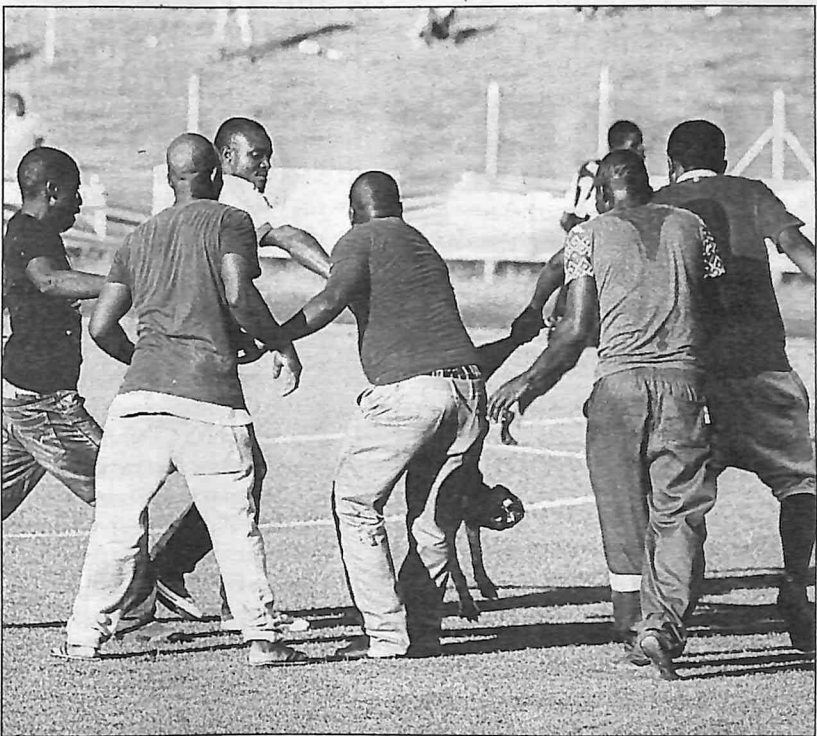
He was initially asked whether the action of the sizeable number of officers who were at the stadium who watched and did nothing was not tantamount to them neglecting their duty.

According to fans who were at the stadium, the drama, which saw four grown men tackle and assault a dog went on for quite some time without any intervention and the police allegedly only intervened when the game was about to resume.

The witnesses stated that the dog invaded the pitch and was chased around by one fan at first with three more joining in the chase and assault of the canine while being cheered on by others.

Mamba, while stating

...one assailant now identified, others still being sought



The dog was wrestled to the ground.

that he was not at the stadium on the said day, denied that the police stood by for quite some time, "According to pictures that I have seen, there were two officers who intervened and assisted the dog."

He denied that the police watched the assault helplessly. He, however, relented that it would have been folly for officers to arrest the four assailants as soccer fans were a volatile lot who resort to violent means at the slightest provocation.

"The situation with soccer fans is that their reaction cannot be easily predicted as an arrest in full view could have incited violence," he said.

Mamba revealed that they were still trying to identify the other three

alleged assailants as they were able to get one of the four men.

He reiterated that their reaction to the situation could be seen as neglect of duty whereas they were trying to not provoke a situation seeing as some soccer fans watch games in an inebriated state.

When asked whether police would have reacted in the same way were it a person being assaulted, Mamba said they did not make arrests until investigations were completed in order to ascertain whether a crime had been committed, even in the event they were witnesses. According to the sequence of events as depicted by pictures taken by Senior Photographer Lucky Simelane, the dog was rescued after a thorough beating and throttling by about four incensed fans. More fans later joined in the scuffle as they seem to be trying to stop their peers while a baton wielding officer is then noted trying to separate the men from the dog.

Thereafter, with the officer off focus, some of the fans seem to carry on with the alleged assault while others try to drag it to safety.

No dagga licence ever issued locally

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Despite there being a provision for people to apply for a dagga licence, no one has ever successfully applied and received it.

Whenever a person is arrested for possession of the habit-forming herb, the police, in their reports, state that the suspect was found with a certain amount of dagga (also known as cannabis) without a licence.

A call to the ministry of health, which is the authority people can apply for cultivation of dagga permission from, revealed that there has never been a licence issued for such locally.

Plantations

This is despite that it is an open secret that numerous hectares in the country are traditionally reserved for dagga plantation and some are subject to police raids and get destroyed.

The ministry's Chief Pharmacist, Fortunate Bhembe, said they were inundated by people who approached them with presentations on what they intend to do with dagga in the event they get granted permission to cultivate it.

"I haven't seen an application for dagga cultivation, instead, they come to do presentations and tell us what products they want to produce," she said, adding that no one had ever come up with satisfactory presentations to warrant them eligible to apply for the licence.

She stated that seeing as dagga was a narcotic, it was controlled by the International Narcotics Board and each country has a quota which it can cultivate under strict licencing guidelines.

Outlining them, she stated that the stringent controls called for a country to apply for permission to cultivate it legally once the board is satisfied about the purpose of the resultant harvest.

Bhembe said the board required that special seeds be used for commercial cultivation which have

been modified, "The seeds are controlled, they are provided by the agency."

The types of seeds provided are those which have their addictive properties removed."

She said after cultivation, there had to be reports on how much yield was obtained from the crop and how much of it was used to provide the different materials for which the licence was applied for in order for there to be accountability concerning the use of the controlled substance.

Bhembe stated that the country used the Pharmacy Act of 1929 even though there was a new piece of legislation in the works.

The non-issuance of licences by the ministry of health is in line with the country's official position which was announced by the Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini that dagga would remain illegal as the mandate of the 10th Parliament was for job creation and not making dagga legal.

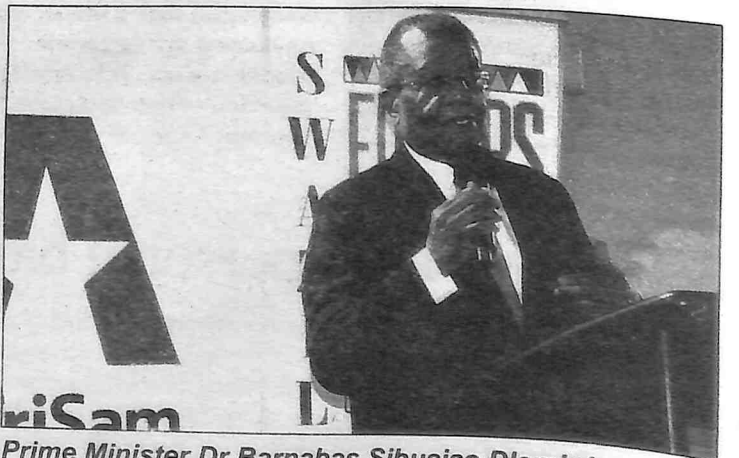
He stated that it was imperative for locals to also understand the Western Cape High Court ruling as it did not allow for commercial cultivation.

The premier categorically stated that the South African decision was for small backyard gardens where the produce was intended

for personal use. The stand stated by the premier comes after robust debates in Parliament brought on by MPs like that of Mhlambanyatsi Phiywayinkosi Mabuza, who doubles as the Minister of Housing and Urban Development and Nklongo's Hans Steffen.

Mabuza's dagga legalisation call was made in 2015 in Parliament whereas Steffens went a step further and brought products made of hemp into the house in order to convince his peers.

With Steffen's contribution, MPs mobilised and chose a committee which would travel to Israel in order to explore how industries made products, especially medication, from the demonised plant.



Prime Minister Dr Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini addressing editors during his business breakfast meeting with the Swaziland Editors Forum at Sibane Hotel on Thursday morning. (Pic: Simon Shabangu)



Kobe Ramokgadi Academy Director, Geoff Ramokgadi with the private institution's administration posing with nine of the 10 refugees that have received full sponsorship from the Kobe. (Courtesy pic)

KOBE SPONSORS 10 REFUGEES

...This brings the overall number of pupils sponsored by Kobe to 56 and these include Swazi's, South Africans and Congolese pupils from DRC.

STORIES BY MLONDI MPANZA

Kobe-Ramokgadi Advanced Learning Academy continues to extend a helping hand to the needy as they have added 10 refugees to the number of pupils they sponsor.

The refugees are from; Rwanda, Congo and Burundi and were staying at Malindza Refugee Camp before they were taken in by the learning institution.

This was revealed by the academy's Director, Geoff Ramokgadi on Friday during an interview with the Sunday Observer at the school at Ezulwini.

The addition of the 10 refugees brings the overall number of pupils sponsored by Kobe to 56 and these include Swazi's, South Africans and Congolese pupils from DRC.

The sponsorship covers accommodation, academic needs, uniform, and meals but since the institution does not have any hostel facilities; a house will be rented for the refugees whilst a matron will also be hired to look after them.

Ramokgadi explained that they had decided to sponsor the pupils because they had requested for assistance and nothing else.

He said, "if someone comes looking for help, we have to help them," referring to the refugees whom he said had approached them looking for this assistance, "it's a first come first serve," he added.

The pupils will be enrolled in classes from Grades 8 to 10 and on Friday had their first day at the private high school where they were given their uniform and all the necessary learning material. The director added that their thinking behind this was the fact every child deserved to go to school hence they felt compelled to play a major role in the shaping of children's future.

As the owner of the private school, Ramokgadi said, it was an obligation on his part that he contributes to the education of any under-privileged child regardless of their background.

He said, "After-all we are all refugees

because we have moved from our comfort zones to another place due to the fact that we need something found in that particular place."

Having said that, he pointed out that whether needy or not, everyone is a refugee and it is such mentality that they wanted to instil in the minds of the 10 pupils, to do away with the mindset that they are under-privileged and have to live as such.

"Upon their arrival, we had to remind them to look at themselves as human beings and we do not want to have frictions as seen in previous instances where some pupils feel like they are better than their colleagues," said Ramokgadi.

He pointed out that for starters, they spoke clear Siswati and their time spent in the country ranged from three to eight years.

He concluded by stating that this was the biggest group of refugees they had ever admitted at the school, having previously accepted lower numbers over the past couple of years.

...Headed for World Jewish Summit in New York

On another note, Ramokgadi told this newspaper that he was headed for New York in the United States in two weeks time where he will be representing the African continent.

This comes after he was appointed Vice Chairman of the Commonwealth Jewish Council (CJC) whilst he also serves as the President of Jewish Community in Swaziland.

The World Jewish Congress Plenary Summit is set to take place on April 22 and will last for six days, after which he will head back to the country where he will be meeting Jews from China.

According to Ramokgadi, the summit will bring together Jews from all parts of the world and

he will be there as the Vice President for the African continent which he attributes to Swazis whom he said saw it fit that they elect him to the position recently.

As usual, he said he would be flying the Swazi flag high and whilst there are a lot of commitments he needs to attend to whilst in the US, unfortunately he will have to leave them after the six days and rush back to the kingdom.

He added by appreciating the warmth shown by Swazis to Jews, in particular those officials from Israel who were in the country this past week.

"Through that, Swaziland will now take off economic wise as a good thing has been done for the Jews," he concluded.



Kobe-Ramokgadi Advanced Learning Academy Director Geoff Ramokgadi will be representing the African continent in New York.

...I do not have personal bank account or card – Ramokgadi

The Kobe director pointed out that he did not have any bank account or back card to his name since he had no money to save.

He also said he did not earn anything from the institution he owns since he forfeits his salary to support

under-privileged children by means of sponsorships to the private school.

Currently, there are 50 pupils enrolled at Kobe through full sponsorship, whilst six are enrolled in government schools.

Ramokgadi said he preferred to

put the education of a child first before his own interests and seeing pupils learn is all that makes him happy. "Whenever I have a headache, I request for money for a Compral tablet from the school. Also, when my family needs food, the school

provides so I do not see any need of having money," he explained.

He added that even the car he drives was an import, also known as a 'dubai' and was branded with the school's names because it belonged to the school and not him.

Also, he made reference to a recent visit by officials from the Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA) who had come to request that he pay his taxes but he claims to have told them the same thing that he had no money and, therefore, it was impossible for him to comply with their request.

He elaborated that he even refused a suggestion from the school's account-

...Want to boycott Israel goods?

First throw away all your gadgets!

Geoff Ramokgadi, the Vice Chairman of the Commonwealth Jewish Council (CJC), has advised all countries that want to boycott goods from Israel to first throw away all their gadgets before they can do so. He said they should get rid of their cell phones, computers, as well as stay away from all social media platforms because they were all created by Jews.

Ramokgadi said Israel had brought a lot of innovation in technology, agriculture and medical field for the world to be a better place but still there were people who wanted to boycott Israel goods for no apparent reason.

He added that in South Africa, three of the main banks were owned by Jews but all that was being ignored in the calls for boycotts

of Jewish goods, forgetting how these have positively influenced their lives.

"All supermarkets are owned by Jews. Before one takes a tablet, they should remember that it has been made by Jews, the Bible, the Quran are all Jewish products," he elaborated, before adding that if South Africa wanted to boycott these goods, they should first give Swaziland all the land they took, then their calls can be heard.

The CJC vice-chair made it clear that Jews have always been there for blacks but due to ignorance, many did not know all this. He stated that all Jews had done was to make lives for everyone easier as well as for the fact that they control the economy in countries like the US and South Africa, all of which should be considered before these calls for banning Jewish goods are made.

African artists for climate change exhibition at MTN Bushfire 2017

STORIES BY AYANDA DLAMINI

It seems like MTN Bushfire 2017 will come with a more positive impact this year as Yebo! Art and Design has been tasked with the responsibility to facilitate an exhibition that will tackle global warming and environmental issues.

The exhibition themed 'The Burning Question,' will see dozens of artists from across Africa who have been selected to participate at the exhibition set to take place during the MTN Bushfire Festival.

This is according to Yebo! Art's Aleta Armstrong who explained that the exhibition sought to explore the causes and effects of climate change, with a particular focus on its impact on the African continent.

A total of 40 professional and emerging artists from Swaziland, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya will create more than 70 pieces of work for the annual exhibition, the highest number to date.

The show will also be displayed in full on Yebo's website www.yeboswaziland.com at the start of the festival, on May 26, 2017.

Organisers hope the exhibition will help raise awareness of the most pressing issue facing planet earth and inspire local communities to take action in the fight against climate change.

"We are thrilled to have received so many thought-provoking works from such a diverse group of artists. This promises to be an extremely important exhibition, which I hope will motivate

THE 40 ARTISTS TAKING PART IN THE BURNING QUESTION

Khulekani Msweli	- Swaziland	Hannah Johnson	- Swaziland
Bambolwami Sibiba	- South Africa	Leana Rauch	- South Africa
Fela Dlamini	- Swaziland	Khetive Gumede	- Swaziland
Lebohlang Motaung	- South Africa	Tamara Reddy	- South Africa
Mbongeni Dlamini	- Swaziland	Peter Armstrong	- Swaziland
Mbongeni Fakudze	- South Africa	Tony Luza	- South Africa
Dane Armstrong	- Swaziland	Mari Gardner	- Swaziland
Greatjoy Ndlovu	- South Africa	Sharleen Olivier	- South Africa
Philip Mdluli	- Swaziland	Tina Lovely	- Swaziland
Kgomotso Neto	- South Africa	Neville Starling	- Zimbabwe
Martha Stevermer	- Swaziland	Susan Hume	- Swaziland
Happy Dhlame	- South Africa	Isheanesu Dondo	- Zimbabwe
Aleta Armstrong	- Swaziland	Gemini Vaghela	- Kenya
Sven Christian	- South Africa	Azael Langa	- SA
Celimpilo Dlamini	- Swaziland	Ilona Petzer	- SA
Sakhile Mhlongo	- South Africa	Laziehound Loka	- South Africa
Tony Marshak	- Swaziland		
Martin Lund	- South Africa		
Ann Husymans	- Swaziland		
Ofentse Letebele	- South Africa		
Senelisiwe Mdluli	- Swaziland		
Kato Nevelin	- South Africa		
Helen Moir	- Swaziland		
Marietjie Henning	- South Africa		



visitors to become more environmentally conscious and active," said Armstrong.

She further welcomed the fact that the arts industry had finally woken up to the reality and urgency of climate change and was coming up with innovative and creative ways to address the critical issue, "I'd like to see more businesses and individuals follow suit," she said.

Yebo Art and Design has been working on reducing its own environmental footprint through redesigned permaculture gardens, water harvesting, a recycling station and solar panels, to name just a few.

MTN Bushfire is also going green,

with this year's theme focusing on environmentalism and sustainability. According to Armstrong, Bushfire is partnering with a host of organisations to present an interactive and creative space that will encourage visitors to engage with these critical issues, called the 'Bring Your Fire Zone.'

"It's a space that encourages interaction, participation and collaboration," Liam Brickhill, who is the Co-ordinator of the 'Bring Your Fire Zone' said.

"It will play host to an array of exhibitions, performances and related activities.

Yebo's exhibition is one facet of the 'Bring Your Fire Zone' that I'm very

...Year 2050 newspaper to tackle climate change

Yebo! Art and Design has pledged to work with journalists from the Swazi Observer on the innovative project.

The Swazi Observer publication has partnered with Yebo Art and Design and Londza Designs to create a newspaper supplement for the year 2050 to address the issue of climate change.

Journalists and environmental experts will work together to imagine how things in Swaziland and around the world would have changed as a result of global warming, shifting weather patterns and rising sea levels.

According to Londza Designs Director Mbongeni Dlamini, the aim of the supplement; which will form part of the Burning Question art exhibition curated by Yebo! at the annual MTN Bushfire Festival in May, is to educate and inspire debate about the many ways climate change is likely to affect the lives of ordinary citizens in the future.

"We are extremely excited to work on such a unique project," Dlamini said.

"It offers a great opportunity for people to understand the potential effect that the decisions we make now will have on our collective future," he added.

The supplement will be published in the Swazi Observer newspaper in the run-up to the festival, with fur-

ther copies available to view and purchase at the Yebo! Exhibition and online, giving people across the country the opportunity to read and discuss the critical issues raised.

It will be structured to follow the design, style and layout of a regular Observer newspaper, featuring local and international news, business, sport and entertainment pages, with articles addressing a range of concerns ranging from food and water security to energy supply.

Yebo! Art and Design Director Aleta Armstrong praised the Swazi Observer for its commitment to addressing environmental issues in Swaziland.

"The media plays a vital role in informing the public and it's great to see local news outlets taking the lead in tackling this important issue," she said.

Mbongeni Mbingo, the Observer's Managing Editor, will pen an editorial in the supplement, reflecting on the challenges facing Swaziland, as well as some of the successes that are likely to have been made in the fight against climate change by the year 2050. "The burning question, that we as a society have to confront, is what kind of country will Swaziland be in 2050?" Mbingo said.

"How beautiful will our scenery still be? How much will climate change have affected—read ravaged—this beautiful little country of ours?" he

added.

He noted that Swaziland has already experienced the devastating effect of El Nino, as well as the recent Cyclone Dineo, although the landlocked nation was spared the worst of that weather system.

"But, it was the two extremes of these weather patterns that demonstrate the full effects of climate change—a devastating drought and then a tropical storm. This is also what informs us that things are only likely to get worse, which then leads us to imagine what our future holds," said the managing editor.

Mbingo urged individuals to reflect carefully on their actions. "What we do now, and what we have done that impacts on the future; it is the policies, the behaviour and our will to preserve our climate that will impact on the future of Swaziland," he said.

According to Mbingo, this supplement, therefore, is an effort to tackle these uncomfortable truths. "Climate change is a crucial issue, but it is always being ignored, brushed aside, and left for tomorrow. Sadly, our future looks grim; because what we see is a totally different Swaziland to what we have now," he said. "So, as you read through this supplement, take a look around to what you are doing to contribute positively to a better Swaziland 30 years from today," Mbingo concluded.



Geoff Ramokgadi has advised countries considering boycotting goods from Israel to reconsider their decision.

tant who proposed they pay him a salary so he could be taxed but to him that was tantamount to a lie hence he did not want to consider it.

He went on to point out that the school was self-funded with no support from anyone or any organisation and all these factors are what makes him a happy

person, as well as the fact that he has lived to see his dream of building a school for Swazis when many thought he was crazy when he first shared his vision.

However, he said should there be a need for him to get money, it would only take him a phone call and he would have all the money he needs.

Focus on SA scene

ANTI-GOVERNMENT MARCH TO CONTINUE ON ZUMA'S BIRTHDAY

JOHANNESBURG - Jacob Zuma turns 75 on Wednesday but it is unlikely the president will have a happy birthday as the largest anti-government protests since the dawn of democracy are set to continue.

The DA, EFF, COPE, United Democratic Movement and the African Christian Democratic Party will on Wednesday embark on a mass march to the Union Buildings, to protest against the current political crisis facing the country and in light of the recent Cabinet reshuffle, which has seen the rand tumble and the country's economy reduced to junk status.

The march is expected to take place on Zuma's 75th birthday. "We don't care about his birthday nor do we recognise him as the leader of this country."

Ours is to stand united with the people of South Africa in defending our land against corruption," UDM leader Bantu Holomisa said.

On Friday, thousands of people and civil organisations across the country organised marches calling for Zuma to resign.

Holomisa commended everyone for



braving the weather and standing up for what is right.

"They did well. The intimidation by ANC members didn't work. What we saw in the country represented a spirit of unity and tolerance in pursuit of one common goal, to save our country."

He pointed out that the upcoming march had nothing to do with competing with civil society or chasing numbers and added that even if 50

people showed up, the march would still be significant.

ACDP President Kenneth Meshoe said: "South Africans are gatvol."

Meshoe said it might be Zuma's birthday but through the march it would be clear to the president that people no longer cared about him.

DA leader Mmusi Maimane said the march was just the beginning of bigger things to come.

Saturday Star

'Zuma to blame for SA's junk status'

CAPE TOWN - International ratings agency Fitch's decision on Friday to downgrade South Africa's sovereign credit rating to sub-investment grade, so-called junk status, just days after S&P Global also downgraded the country, "is proudly brought to South Africa by President Jacob Zuma," the Inkatha Freedom Party said.

Fitch Ratings downgraded government's long-term foreign and local currency debt to "BB+" from "BBB-", a non-investment grade rating.

"The decision by Fitch Ratings to downgrade South Africa to junk status hot on the heels of [S&P Global's] similar decision earlier this week, is not a surprise but remains of

grave concern as it is the poorest of the poor who will bear the brutal brunt of this decision's effects, amid high unemployment and stunted economic growth. "This downgrade is proudly brought to South Africa by Mr Zuma," IFP spokesman Mkhuleko Hlengwa said.

This credit downgrade to junk status effectively meant that it would be more costly for South Africa to borrow, and the rand would be adversely affected, increasing the cost of imported items.

The IFP had consistently warned that South Africa's economy was not something to willy-nilly play with because it was not immune to external factors such as ratings agencies, Hlengwa said.

News24



Minimal clashes reported during Friday anti-Zuma marches - Govt

PRETORIA - Government says minimal clashes were reported during marches on Friday which saw tens of thousands of South Africans gathering in cities across the country calling for President Jacob Zuma to step down.

Communications Minister Ayanda Dlodlo provided an update on the march at a briefing in Pretoria on

Friday.

Dlodlo commended the public for their responsible behaviour but also the law enforcement agencies.

"We also commend the security cluster for the visibility and maintaining order and stability, with minimal clashes reported."

Dlodlo spoke at length about the Constitution and the public using

lawful means to express their grievances.

"South Africans will have another opportunity to make their mark in 2019 and through this free and fair electoral process, citizens can make their voices heard."

The minister denied this statement was an attempt to dissuade the public from continuing their call for

Zuma to step down.

Government has commended South Africans for exercising their constitutional right to protest in a responsible manner.

Dlodlo thanked protesters for their conduct.

"Friday's activities were a demonstration of strengthening democracy where citizens are engaged in

shaping the public discourse.

They also demonstrated a maturing democracy which guaranteed freedom of association, speech and movement."

She commended the police for ensuring the safety and security of those involved.

"We also commend the security cluster for their visibility and maintaining order and stability with minimal clashes reported."

EWN

We will behave at Kathrada memorial - ANCYL KZN

DURBAN - The ANC Youth League says its members plan to attend today's memorial service for ANC stalwart Ahmed Kathrada in Durban - and promises that they will behave.

The organisers of the event, The Active Citizens Group, are seeking an interdict in the High Court in Durban to bar the ANCYL from attending, saying they fear for the safety of keynote speaker, axed finance minister Pravin Gordhan.

Opposing

The organisation filed their urgent application on Friday, but the matter was delayed for the ANCYL to file an opposing affidavit, which it did late on Friday night.

The head of The Active Citizens Group, Benedict Madokwe, said 1 000 people were expected to attend the event at Sastri College.

He said representatives of the youth league were on record as calling Gordhan an "impimpi" (an agent for monopoly capital) and "in present times it is the most serious accusation that can be directed at a person".

Violence

Others had openly questioned Gordhan's loyalty to the ANC and there was a "clear threat of intimidation and violence".

ANCYL provincial secretary Thanduxolo Sabelo says this is not true.

News24

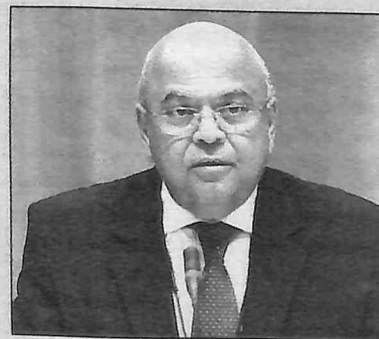
Demand for answers on Gordhan 'intelligence report' growing

JOHANNESBURG - Calls for an investigation are growing into the so-called intelligence report, cited as the basis for removing Pravin Gordhan as Finance Minister.

United Democratic Movement leader, Bantu Holomisa has asked the Intelligence Portfolio Committee to demand an explanation from State Security Minister, David Mahlobo.

ANC Secretary General, Gwede Mantashe said Gordhan's sacking was due to an irretrievable breakdown in the relationship between the president and Gordhan.

Speaker of Parliament, Baleka Mbete said Zuma motivated his decision, not just with a questionable intelligence report, but with thorough his-



Former Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan.

toric background.

The SACP has also asked the inspector general of Intelligence to investigate the report's origins.

But, Mahlobo said he doesn't know of any intelligence report.

"I have not seen the document you are claiming, because those who are claiming to have a document know that it was an intelligence document and it has some issues."

"Why would people with an intelligence report not disclose who gave it to them, because those who have spoken have not said they were given the report at a meeting, whose the author and then the authors should deal with those issues? If that intelligence report is just being purported, why don't they formally present it to the minister of state security or our intelligence inspector for intelligence?"

eNCA



SUNDAYOBSERVER AFRICA NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday

THOUSANDS PROTEST IN SENEGAL AGAINST PRESIDENT SALL

DAKAR - Thousands of people took to the streets of the Senegalese capital Dakar on Friday to protest against President Macky Sall and call for the release of political opponents. The protesters, many dressed in black, demanded the release of Dakar Mayor Khalifa Sall, who had been seen as a presidential candidate for the Socialist Party. He has been held in preventive detention since March 7, facing charges of fraud, misappropriation of public funds, criminal conspiracy and money laundering. As police stood by to maintain order, the crowd chanted slogans

calling for those charges to be dropped.

"We do not accept that Senegal can be turned into a plaything. Macky Sall must return to reason," Fadel Barro, co-founder of the 'Fed Up' youth movement which organised the rally, told the crowd.

He denounced the "numerous imprisonments" of the president's opponents and urged young people to register, ahead of legislative elections to be held on July 30.

Senegal is widely seen as one of Africa's most stable democracies.

But accusations of corruption have hit the brother of President Sall -- who is unrelated to Khalifa Sall -- and plagued ministers in the administration of former president Abdoulaye Wade.

The 'Fed Up' group was formed in 2012 to oppose Wade's bid for a controversial third consecutive term as president, which sparked deadly violence in Dakar.

AFP

Congo's Kabila names opposition figure Tshibala prime minister

DAKAR - Democratic Republic of Congo President Joseph Kabila named a former member of the largest opposition party as prime minister on Friday, a move likely to further divide Kabila's opponents after talks to negotiate his exit from power broke down.

A statement from the presidency named Bruno Tshibala as prime minister in a new transitional government meant to organise a presidential election by year-end, following Kabila's refusal to step down when his mandate expired in December.

Opponents of Kabila, who has ruled Congo since his father's assassination in 2001, suspect he intends to repeatedly delay elections until he can organise a referendum to let himself stand for a third term, as his counterparts in neighbouring Congo Republic and Rwanda have done. Kabila denies those charges, saying the election delays are due to challenges registering millions of voters and budgetary constraints.

Security forces killed dozens of civilians in protests over election delays last year. Worsening militia violence in recent months has meanwhile raised fears of a backslide toward the civil wars of the turn of the century that killed millions.

Under a deal struck with the opposition in December, Kabila can stay in office until after an election required to be held by the end of this year. But negotiations to implement the pact collapsed last week and Tshibala's nomination is almost certain to weaken fledgling efforts to make Kabila abide by it.

Reuters



Democratic Republic of Congo President Joseph Kabila.

President Mugabe's son 'removed from Dubai'

HARARE - Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's two sons have reportedly relocated to South Africa from Dubai and Zimbabwe, respectively, amid fears their personal security might be "compromised" in the neighbouring country.

According to Zimbabwe Independent, the two sons - Robert Jr and Bellarmine Chatunga - have been in Johannesburg since the start of the year for studies.

"First Family shifted their kids to South Africa for studies and a better life after Robert Jr was removed from Dubai under controversial circumstances. Chatunga was also reportedly moved to make him focus on his studies, away from Zimbabwe's suffocating environment and his familiar social scene playground," the report said.

There were, however, security concerns, with Mugabe's family and security bosses say-



Robert Jr and Bellarmine Chatunga Mugabe.

ing the two could be targeted "not just for crime, but also for political reasons," the report said.

South Africa is home to millions of Zimbabweans who fled Mugabe's political repression and economic failure.

Last year, First Lady Grace

Mugabe claimed that soldiers and top ZANU-PF officials angling for power wanted to kill Chatunga.

Reports quoted Grace at the time as saying: "Imagine it has got to a stage where they want to kill my son Bellarmine."

News24

Buhari's govt irritated about hearing of Chibok girls

LAGOS - Ahead of the third anniversary of the kidnap of over 200 school girls in Chibok, the Bring Back Our Girls BBOG movement has accused the President Muhammadu Buhari administration of trying to shut the group up, saying the president now gets cold and irritated at the mention of the girls' abduction.

In a statement issued on Friday night in Abuja and signed by Aisha Yesufu, the BBOG said: "These days, we have observed a coldness, ominous silence and irritability of key officials whenever the government is reminded of its constitutional duty to rescue Chibok



Chibok girls in tearful reunion with families.

girls and all other abducted citizens".

The abduction, which caused an international outrage, formed a major plank of the electioneering campaign of the All Progressives Congress APC and Buhari.

The statement came barely seven days to the third

anniversary of the abduction, which took place on April 14, 2014.

"Today is Day 1 089 since schoolgirls of government secondary school, Chibok were abducted in their school by terrorists; 57 escaped, 24 returned, 195 of them remain missing," AFP

BRIEFS

SA in dock for failing to arrest Sudan's Bashir

THE HAGUE - South Africa will on Friday seek to defend its failure to arrest visiting Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir who is wanted on charges of genocide, at an unprecedented hearing before international war crimes judges.

NEWS24

Boko Haram torches military base

MAIDUGURI - Boko Haram jihadists have torched a military base in north-east Nigeria, a day after the group killed seven people in a separate raid, residents said.

Jihadists believed to be loyal to a Boko Haram faction that is recognised by the Islamic State group on Thursday attacked the base in Wajirko village, 150km from Maiduguri, capital of Borno state, forcing the soldiers to flee.

AFP

Over 6 000 flee 'terrifying' violence in S Sudan town

JUBA - More than 6 000 people have fled fighting in southern South Sudan, with refugees recounting the slaughter of civilians by armed forces, the United Nations refugee agency said on Friday.

Fighting between government forces and rebels erupted on Monday in the town of Pajok in the country's southern Equatoria region, a previously peaceful part of the country that has seen a surge in conflict in recent months.

AFP

Nigeria naira slides past 400 per dollar on black market

LAGOS - Nigeria's naira slid past 400 on the black market on Friday, amid tight dollar supply, despite a series of currency forwards sold by the central bank this month to clear demand for the US currency on the official market, traders said. The naira was quoted at 405 per dollar on the black market on Friday. It traded at 306.15 on the official market.

Reuters

Mali, France rule out talks with jihadists after attacks

BAMAKO - France and Mali on Friday ruled out any talks with jihadist groups responsible for repeated attacks on Malian and foreign forces, rejecting calls to bring them to the negotiating table.

A peace conference in Mali last Sunday called for talks with the leaders of two violent Islamist groups. Militants linked to Malian jihadist Iyad Ag Ghali have claimed dozens of attacks on Malian, United Nations and French troops operating in Mali's desert north.

"They are terrorists," France's Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault told reporters. "How do you negotiate with terrorists? This is a fight with no ambiguity."

AFP

BRIEFS

Iran's Rouhani wants chemical attack in Syria investigated

TEHRAN - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani yesterday called for an impartial probe of this week's suspected chemical weapons attack in Syria and warned that US missile strikes in response risked escalating extremism in the region.

"We are asking for an impartial international fact-finding body to be set up... to find out where these chemical weapons came from," Rouhani said during a speech yesterday.

REUTERS

Furious Russia slams Britain during UN Security Council meeting

MOSCOW - Russia accused Britain of "colonial hypocrisy" after the UK voiced support for US air strikes in Syria during a tense emergency meeting of the United Nations (UN) Security Council.

Matthew Rycroft, the UK's ambassador to the UN, said Syrian President Bashar al-Assad had been "put on notice" after Donald Trump ordered cruise missile strikes on a Syrian air base in response to a chemical attack on the rebel-held town of Khan Sheikhoun that killed at least 72 people, including 20 children.

Independent

US restricts drone flights over 133 military facilities

WASHINGTON - The US government is restricting drone flights over 133 military facilities for security reasons, marking the first time such flight restrictions have been applied only to drones rather than aircraft in general. The Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement that it was acting in response to requests from the Defence Department and other security and intelligence agencies. No specific threat was cited.

AP

Trump's visceral response prompts Syria strikes

PALM BEACH - President Donald Trump's missile barrage on Syria - the first major military gambit of his presidency - revealed a leader fuelled by instinct and emotion, and one willing to shake up strategy in an instant. Early on Tuesday, horrifying details started trickling into the White House Situation Room - a secure suite in the bowels of the West Wing that serves as the presidency's eyes and ears on the globe.

AFP

Basque group ETA gives authorities list of weapons caches

PARIS - The armed Basque separatist group ETA has formally given the French authorities a list of location of its weapons, ammunition and explosives.

The International Verification Commission, in charge of verifying the process, said in a statement yesterday that "this information was immediately conveyed to the relevant French authorities, who will now secure and collect ETA's arsenal".

AFP



SUNDAYOBSERVER WORLD NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday

US PROBING IF RUSSIA TOOK PART IN CHEMICAL WEAPONS ATTACK

PALM BEACH - The US is looking into whether Russia participated in the Syrian chemical weapons attack that provoked President Donald Trump's airstrikes against the Assad government, a revelation that could have dramatic implications for relations between Washington and Moscow.

On Friday, senior US military officials said a drone belonging to either Russia or Syria was seen hovering over the site of the chemical weapons attack after the assault earlier this week. Russia is one of Syria's most important patrons and has long resisted US efforts to push President Bashar Assad from power.

Even as Trump advisers insisted that Thursday night's US missile strike did not mark a significant shift in American policy, he



US President Trump called on all civilised nations to work to stop the bloodshed in Syria.

called on other nations to help "end the slaughter and bloodshed in Syria".

The president approved the strike while in Florida for a two-day summit with Chinese President

Xi Jinping. He did not respond to shouted questions about the assault from reporters as he opened meetings with Xi on Friday.

The strikes - 59 missiles launched from the USS Ross and USS Porter

- hit the government-controlled Shayrat air base in central Syria, where US officials say the Syrian military planes that dropped the chemicals had taken off. The US missiles hit at 20:45 in Washington, 03:45 on Friday morning in Syria.

The missiles targeted the base's airstrips, hangars, control tower and ammunition areas, officials said.

Russia condemned the move as an act of "aggression", but there was widespread praise from other nations, including Saudi Arabia and Turkey, which support the Syrian opposition.

British Prime Minister Theresa May's office says the action was "an appropriate response to the barbaric chemical weapons attack launched by the Syrian regime, and is intended to deter further attacks". AP

Swedish police suspect arrested man was driver in truck attack

STOCKHOLM - Swedish police said yesterday that a man arrested on "suspicion of terrorist crime" was likely to be the driver of a truck that ploughed into a crowd of people in central Stockholm a day earlier.

"We suspect that the man who was arrested is the perpetrator," Stockholm police spokesman Lars Bystrom told AFP.

The attack on Friday killed four people and injured 15, nine of them seriously.

Police had earlier said they had detained a man who "matched the description" of a photo released of a suspect wearing a dark hoodie and military green jacket.

Bystrom said the arrested man "could be the same person in



Suspect seen after suspected terror attack outside a department store.

the picture".

According to the newspaper Aftonbladet, the individual in the photo is a 39-year-old man of Uzbek origin and a supporter

of the Islamic State (IS) group. If confirmed as a terror attack, it would be Sweden's first such deadly assault.

TimesLive

Venezuela opposition leader Capriles barred from office

CARACAS - Venezuelan opposition leader and two-time presidential candidate Henrique Capriles said on Friday he has been banned from holding political office for 15 years, a move that could galvanise protests against the leftist government.

It was not clear why authorities took action against Capriles. But the punishment deals a blow to the opposition after stepped-up protests this week and accusations that President Nicolas Maduro was leading the country to dictatorship and

cracking down on dissent.

Elections

A ban on holding office would stop Capriles from running for president again in elections currently scheduled for late 2018.

A protester died on Thursday. "URGENT: I inform the country and international public opinion that I am being notified at this very moment of a BAN for 15-years," tweeted Capriles, adding that his legal team would speak later on Friday.

The Venezuelan comptroller's office has for a decade used a procedure known as "dis-

qualification" that blocks politicians from holding office if they are deemed to have committed "irregularities" in managing state resources.

The comptroller earlier this year said he was considering barring Capriles, who is currently governor of the central coastal state of Miranda, from holding office.

Over the last few days, authorities have also accused Capriles of fomenting violence and bloodshed by leading increasingly intense protests against the unpopular Maduro. AFP

Trump drops China bashing during warm Xi summit

PALM BEACH - US President Donald Trump ditched his trademark anti-China bombast, hailing an "outstanding" relationship with counterpart Xi Jinping at the end of a superpower summit Friday overshadowed by events in Syria.

"We have made tremendous progress in our relationship with China," Trump said effusively at the close of a high-stakes but studiously familiar first meeting between the pair at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida.

"I think truly progress has been made," Trump said, declaring his relationship with Xi as "outstanding."

The friendly tone was a far cry from Trump's acerbic campaign denunciations about China's "rape" of the US economy and his vow to punish Beijing with punitive tariffs.

Xi reciprocated Trump's warm words, saying the summit had "uniquely important significance" and thanking Trump for a warm reception.

Beijing's most powerful leader in decades reciprocated, inviting the neophyte president on a coveted state visit to China later in the year. Trump accepted, with a date yet to be determined.

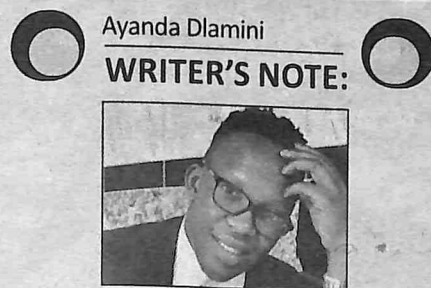
We "arrived at many common understandings," Xi added, "the most important being deepening our friendship and building a kind of trust."

AFP

SundayObserver Scene

YING YANG COUPLE'S ISSUE

MY SOUL
MATE



Ayanda Dlamini

WRITER'S NOTE:

Seeing two individuals in love is such an adorable thing. For me personally, it makes me want to fall in love over and over again. I mean, you find two people in a relationship with different personalities and lifestyles but complement each other.

Relationships with such components are beautiful. I envy them.

This actually reminds me of back in school in Science classes; the magnetic force, unlike poles attract. Same happens with some relationships and couples; opposites match beautifully.

The way I see it, if you have someone who is almost completely like you at some point in time, there is no balance and that could bring fights in the relationship because your partner turns to be exactly you and if you don't appreciate yourself enough and embracing your flaws, you will hate your partner because she/he is something that you don't appreciate. If you cheat, he/she cheats as well.

When you have what we call a yin yang relationship; which is opposite individuals, you can have harmony all the way. Ying yang relationships always work because you are able to complement each other. Hence today we've decided to give recognition to Yin Yang couples. Yin and Yang couples complement each other in every aspect and polarities naturally best in balance and harmony. This kind of relationship will work when there is respect for the differences and when couples don't try to dominate each other, but instead embrace each other's style of relating. If they can admire each other's yin or yang qualities, they can then blend their approaches when taking the decisions they have to make from day to day. They will recognise their approaches as complementary, each adding to the other. The result will be harmony in the decision making process and in confronting relationship issues.

On our cover today, we have Penny and Wimpie Brouwer. They are a very good example of yin yang couple. Despite the fact that they are different in colour (that doesn't count actually), they complement each other with their differences. Penny is into arts and music and she is out there but Wimpie is just a typical man who is into fishing and very down to earth. He supports his wife when it comes to arts, which is something he is really not into it. Read more about Yin (Penny) meets Yang (Wimpie) on Page 4. We also have Zanelle and Mzwandile; guys they so complete each other looking at their daily activities. Zanelle is feminist and her husband is just a cool basket baller. You can indulge on Page 5. On our fashion tips today, we have few tips on couples' matching outfits; how to rock matching outfits with your partner, casual or formal. Take few notes on the opposite page.

Till next week, enjoy! **Yandie.**

COURTSHIP GESTURES, SIGNAL

Before you meet your soul mate, there is stage where we all go through trying to find a perfect soul mate.

Finding a mate (partner) is the most crucial part of life, we all know that. It consumes lot of energy - time. I mean creating a strong rapport with partner and retaining it is a challenge itself.

We all go through the first phase of courtship. So we've compiled few courtship gestures of both men and women. Readers, this will help you know if that woman or man fancies you. Before you even get to the signal and gesture of courtship, I must say women send more signals than men.



Women courtship gestures and signal:

According to our research, women use most of the same basic smarten gestures as men, including touching the hair, sometimes the clothing, one or both hands on hips, foot and body pointing towards the man, extended intimate gaze and increasing eye contact.

So we've gathered few courtship gestures and signals. This will help us men to see if we are lucky enough to score the right candidate (girl);

The head toss and hair flick

This is the usual gesture women display when she is around a man she fancies. The head is flicked back, to toss the hair over the shoulders or away from the face. Even women with short hair will use this gesture. It's a way for a woman to show that she cares about how she looks to a man. Guys we've seen this. You go to a club or lounge; a woman who fancies you will start flicking her Brazilian or Cambodian hair.

Self-touching

They say our minds get our bodies to act out our secret desires; so it is with self-touching. Women



have more nerve sensors for experiencing touch than men, making them more sensitive to touch sensations. When a woman slowly and sensually touches her thigh, neck or throat, it infers that, if a man plays his cards right, he may be able to touch her in this same way.

The limp wrist

Walking or sitting while holding your limp wrist as a lady, is a sub-

mission signal used exclusively by women and homosexuals. This is very attractive to men because it makes them feel as if they can dominate. In business situations, however, a limp wrist distracts a woman's credibility and others will fail to take her seriously, although some men will probably ask her for a date.

Sideways glance over raised shoulder

Apparently the raised shoulder is self-mimicry of the rounded female breast.

With partially drooped eyelids, the woman holds the man's gaze just long enough for him to notice, and then she quickly looks away. This action produces the feeling of peeping in the woman who does it and being peeped at by the man who receives it.

MEN COURTSHIP SIGNALS AND GESTURES

Men displays involve the showing of power, wealth, and status. Compared to those of women, there are not too many.

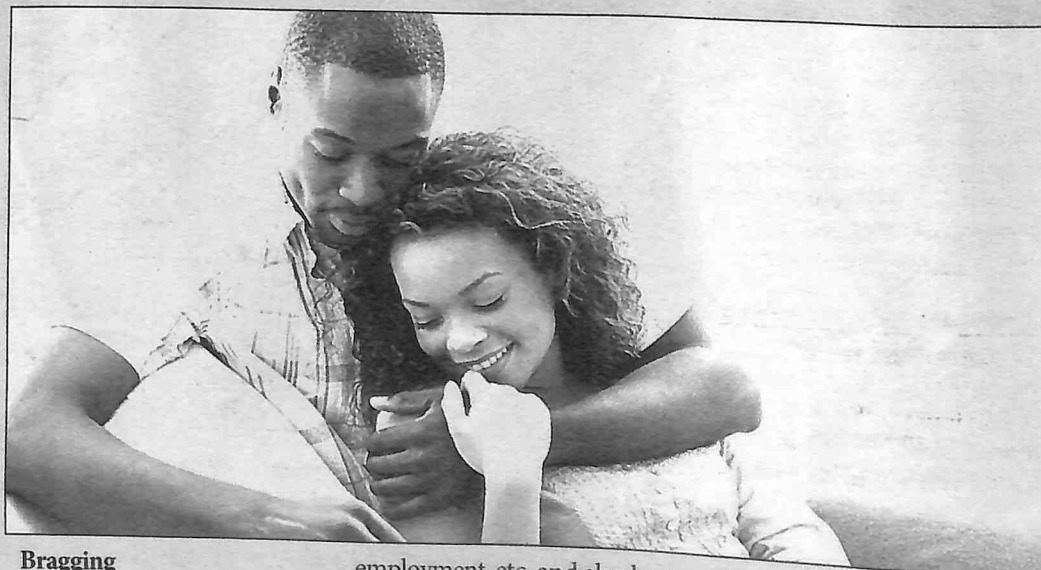
While women will dress sensually, wear make-up and use wide range of courtship gestures. When it comes to courtship, most men are as effective as someone standing in a river trying to catch fish by hitting them on the head with a big stick.

According to research, men are generally not good at sending or receiving the signal used in the mating game but most simple react to signals they see.

Here are some few famous gestures men use;

Rev car engines

We've seen this; many guys tend to rev their car engines to get attention from the ladies. Not only that, but to also show his power.



Bragging

This type of courtship gesture is used by most men.

They brag about many things in their conversation with the women.

They brag about their cars' worth, clothing, accessories,

employment, etc, and also brag about how much they earn and challenge other men.

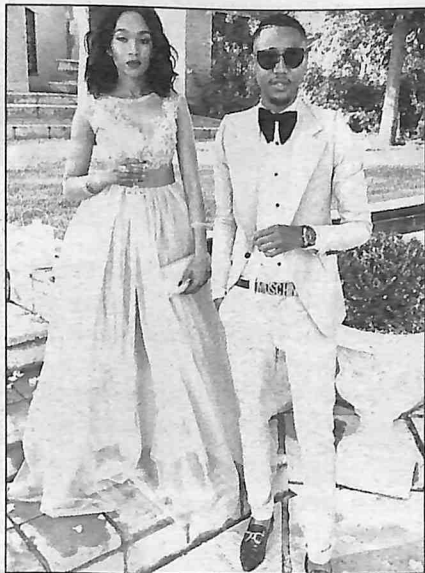
Offers you a drink or lunch

This is one of the common gestures men use.

They offer lunch to the women they fancy, but sometimes it

depends on the signal the girl showed to the guy before being offered lunch. Coming back to offering a drink, this happens in clubs or lounges.

He pays attention to your moves and everything before he even asks to buy you a drink.



FASHION: YING YANG COUPLES ON MATCHING OUTFITS TIPS

In relationships, some prefer to keep their love on the down low, some wear their hearts on their coordinating sleeves.

Matching couples clothing is a cute way to make a style statement which proclaims that we are proud of our partner at the same time

We've seen couples on social media matching up their outfits. Trust me, it looks good and for me personally, it's one of my relationship goals. It's so adorable but it depends on how you rock your outfit with your partner. So lately I'm so hooked on Andile 'Shaun the Stylist', (a South African stylist) on Instagram with his girlfriend Lebohang Mabe who happened to be a manager at Sissy boy Label store in Gauteng. I mean their social media platforms (both Facebook and Instagram) oozes love with their matching outfits; formal or casual they nail it. By the way, they call themselves Andihang.

So today I've prepared few tips for our Ying Yang couples. Come on guys, wear your heart on your sleeves and inspire us.

OUTSTANDING IN ONE COLOUR

Matching outfit ideas for couples need not be complicated. It can be as simple wearing clothes in the same colour. You can avoid the boring monotony (wearing same one but in different shades) by wearing accessories that pop out and define your characteristics as a couple.

ROMANTIC IN ALTERNATING COLOURS/PATTERNS

Matching outfit ideas for couples need not necessarily involve the same tops and bottoms. You and your beau can still look synchronised in alternating colours.

FASHIONABLE IN FORMAL

Matching outfit ideas for couples need not be confined to casual day outs. To establish your power couple status, both of you can wear similar high-fashion outfits.

Take inspiration from celebrity A-list couples who are often seen in congruent gown and suits combos. Then again, it wouldn't hurt if you decide to wear a



crisp suit that is similar to that of your hubby's.

LOVELY IN LEATHER

It might not be that cool these days, but if you want to look edgy with your boyfriend, then go for leather matching outfit ideas for couples. Perhaps the best unifying factor is a leather jacket – a biker jacket for him, and a cute motto jacket for you. To solidify the rock couple look, you both can wear leather boots.

SILLY IN THE SAME SHIRT

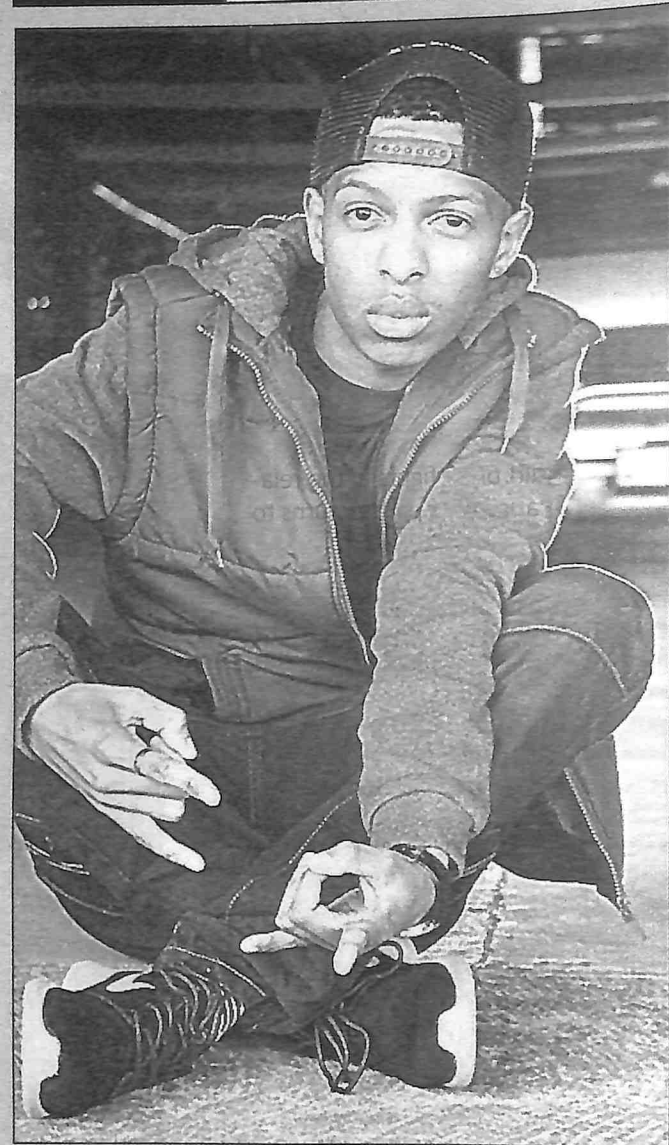
When one talks of matching outfit ideas for couples, one immediately thinks of couple shirts.

While they can be cute, some designs can be appalling. If you don't want to be one of these nauseatingly sweet couples, you can still achieve a harmonious look in the same shirt. A graphic American flag shirt, such as the tops worn by the couple below, is just one of the many fun examples of matching outfit ideas for couples.

With Yandie

SOCIAL WATCH

SOCIAL SCENE



Let me first congratulate Flameboy Universe for selling his album on TIDAL since the social media gurus are not applauding the young rapper's achievement. I mean really guys, not every song gets to be sold on TIDAL. We are talking about TIDAL; Jay-Z's music streaming service.

TIDAL is a subscription-based music streaming service that combines lossless audio and high-definition music videos with exclusive content and curated editorial celebrating the culture of music. Included in Tidal's offerings are concert live streams, ticket giveaways and other experiential events like listening parties and meet-and-greets with artists and not just any artists.

Apparently, the service has over 46 million tracks and 192 000 music videos.

Tidal pays the highest percentage of royalties to music artists and songwriters within the music streaming market, while offering two levels of digital music streaming service.

HIP hop artists are running helter-skelter releasing albums in the march towards the MTN SWAMA Awards.

Flameboy Universe has also joined in the race and released his debut album titled 'Rich People.' The album hit online music stores on March 31 and now precisely available in over 150 online stores including iTunes, Amazon, Deezer. Flameboy Universe.

The rapper is yet to perform once again at the House on Fire stage on April 21 before taking to the bigger stage.

The youngster's album is distributed by a company called Langalam.com. This is the very same company that assisted the rapper in his single being accepted for streaming on Jay Z's music store.

The company is owned by a Swazi artist resident in England, Sibusiso Ntshangase, also known as King Siso. Big ups man!

This is what we need; competition amongst artists. Thanks to MTN SWAMAs for having best the hip hop category as every hip hop artists is fighting for this award.

YING MEETS YANG

Ying and Yang couples complement each other in every respect and polarities naturally go all-out for balance and harmony. A yin yang relationship works when there is respect for the differ-

ences and when couples don't try to dominate each other, but instead embrace each other's style of relating. We've seen Doo Aphane and Mike, Silvia and Musa Mthethwa, Jordy and Loma Shiba, just to name

a few. It's all about embracing each other's differences and form one admirable thing. These couples raise eyebrows with the public and everyone would be like 'What? How come? But they are so in love though. Look

at them'. So today we have Penny and Wimpie Bouwer; yes, they are black and white physical but we are not dwelling much on their skin colour, we are looking at their differences in terms of personalities and

qualities. The two combined make a strong what we call 'yin yang couple.' We also have Zanele and Mzwandile Vilakati. Zanele is a feminist and she met her yang Mzwandile, a very down to earth basketballer.

"It was definitely love at first sight. Nearly 17 years ago, we were walking in opposite directions at a shopping complex in Big Bend.

As we passed each other, our eyes locked and there was an instant connection. I remember thinking 'wow,' and as I turned to take a second glance, I saw Wimpie had turned her head too and was walking backwards, watching me. A couple of days later a mutual friend of ours, Jack, introduced us to each other.

And that was that," Penny says as she looks adoringly at her husband. These two are a perfect example of Yin Yan looking at their colour differences.

"We're already Black and White. We've actually been called Top Deck before. But yes, we regard ours as a Yin Yang relationship," they both laugh.

From being in a mixed relationship point of view, we have encountered questionable remarks about our relationship, but we've never taken it to heart, and it shows. Looking at other relationships in general, we get excited when we see other couples celebrating their love and making it work.

Most of the time we've found that communication is key in order for both of us to understand where the other is emotionally. We encourage, compliment, and support each other constantly," Penny says.

"Not a single day has gone by without us telling each other that we love one another. Even when we're apart.

It's the small gestures that go a long way, like an unexpected cup of coffee, a pleasant surprise that we know each other likes. It shows that

WIMPIE AND PENNY



"He understands and supports my passion to make a difference in the music and arts industry in Swaziland"



you're always thinking of them," Wimpie tells SCENE.

What's so adorable about these two; they are friends, they have fun times, rough times, and they encourage each other to be the best.

"We do have that odd occasion where we lose balance and accuse each other of not being a good friend.

But we communicate and resolve our issues by addressing them ASAP. Red wine can be the cause and cure for many things."

"Penny is smart and a go getter. She's not judgmental and always looks at the good in things first.

She's young at heart and a fantastic mother to our kids. I admire that we can do things together, from cooking killer meals together to playing candy crush competitively.

The sky certainly isn't the limit for her," Wimpie says.

Penny admires Wimpie's love for nature and his passion for outdoors.

"He has such zest for life. I admire the values he instils in our kids and encourages them to enjoy the outdoors, and not be afraid of any-

thing.

I admire how he is their hero. Also his consistent love and care for me, even though I know I make him cross a lot of times.

We are very different in some of the things we like and enjoy, but make it a point to engage and participate in each other's interests. Our shared interests involve cooking, exploring new venues, and dancing of course. We laugh a lot together too.

Responsibilities

We also understand our roles and responsibilities as parents, as well as respecting each other's space,

We say 'I love you' to each other daily, and mean it. It's also something positive we've seen in our kids, who tell us every morning when they wake up and before they go to sleep that they love us.

For us, this shows that regardless of where our relationship is at any given time, the love always shines through, from us.

We kiss good morning, we kiss goodbye, we kiss hello, we kiss goodnight, even if we're going through a slight shake in our relationship," Penny looks at Wimpie.

Wimpie believes he is not in control in the relationship.

"We are both just passengers. God is in control of this love journey and we understand our responsibilities to our family," he says, holding

his wife's hand.

Wimpie was hypnotised by the purple 'Woody Woodpecker' dress Penny was wearing when they first met.

"Nobody knows that they are 'The One' for sure, but I based my decision on the different feelings and emotions I experienced when I just thought of or saw her," he says.

These two are so deeply in love, you can just tell from mere looking. As they are looking at each other, I ask Penny how she feels when Wimpie looks at or compliments other women, she rolls her eyes.

"He made his decision to be with me and I'd be very ignorant to pretend that there aren't hot women out here. You can look at the menu but you can't order. Guys will always be guys, come on!" she laughs.

It took Penny a few seconds to say yes to Wimpie's proposal.

"The very first day Jack introduced us. Wimpie still claims I kissed him first. I said yes to marry him after six years of dating. We've been married for 11 now."

A word of advice to other couples:

"The key thing to remember in a relationship is that as partners, we are here to witness each other's lives. Not to dictate or instruct you how to live it. It's about sharing experiences, good and bad. Laughing, living and enjoying the purpose God put you on this earth for."



IT'S NOT ALWAYS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

They usually say love takes time or some prefer to say if it is true love, then it is worth the wait.

This is true with the Vilakati's who say their relationship wasn't the fabricated 'love at first sight' belief but has turned out to be a forever thing, which they attribute to God as the glue that helps them stick together.

Asked if they would refer to their relationship as a 'yin yang,' The queen of Mzwandile Vilakati's heart, Zanele is quick to answer; "Yin Yang suggests a balance between good and bad, we would say yes we balance each other, especially when it comes to fun and seriousness.

So how long did it take for Zanele to say yes to Mzwandile? "Well as they say the rest was history after we had met at a mutual friend's place in Pretoria."

Some years later, a relationship is not without turmoil and heartbreaks but the Vilakatis use an open communication plan to sort out differences and still maintain the spark in their marriage.

They have what they refer to as 'check-ins'. During these times, they sit down and talk over issues, "We have learned to express ourselves with words that build our relationship rather than tear each other apart.

We choose to speak in love language to make the truth less hurtful at times. So instead of "I hate it when you do this and that" it would be "baby when you do this I feel hurt, please try to do this instead" Zanele says.

Forever is a long-time and the journey gets steep sometimes but when there is a hand holding your hand saying 'one step at a time' it becomes easier.

In the journey there are other people who spark interest in the relationship better yet some are for some weird reason, interested in a married man or wife.

What is the recipe to unhook those feelings or simply put; when your partner walks down the street and sees a beautiful woman and can't help but stare at her, how do you feel? SCENE asks Zanele, she responds "jealous of course, lol, but I do know that it is man's responsibility to lift up the woman so it's fine."

As though there would be a gauge to measure when one is too good for a partner or when one isn't trying at all, that would be better.

However life has no manual, you just live each day as it comes and do all you can to love the next person better.

When you have been together for far too long, the grave mistake then occurs, that of getting used to the person and forget to keep improving your relationship.

The Vilakati's secret to maintain the spark in their marriage is to pray together, have dinner or lunch together and always think what the other partner would feel in a certain situation.

They both add "When you share a praying platform, God intervenes and makes the heart softer and the mind willing to look at the other side of the point of misunderstanding."

Surely one can take a leaf from the Vilakatis.

The most vocal in the marriage, Zanele continues "our daughter also plays a pivotal role in keeping us intact. She is a philosopher and will ask why until you send her to mummy or daddy."

Coming down to parenthood, life is different when there is only the two of you but once a little one comes along, a few things change in order to give the child a proper upbringing but then that does not mean that the spark must vanish, keep the light shining. The Vilakatis say "our relationship was two years old when we had a child, do we even remember how it was before?

When you have been together for far too long, the grave mistake then occurs that of getting used to the person and forget to keep improving your relationship.



No, we make time for each other and are grateful to have our parents around to bail us out as well as siblings who are willing to babysit.

SCENE asked the two what each admires about the other Zanele said, "he went from shy to being a presentation master, he is willing to go out of his comfort zone to achieve more and build himself more. I admire that self-determination."

Zanele does not take submitting to her husband as oppression, despite being a feminist.

She says when love and kindness is involved submissiveness comes automatically. Relationships are all about listening and understanding and "in the Vilakati household daddy and mommy are King and Queen so it comes naturally," she beams with a smile.

Swazi born gospel maestro Siphon Makhabane has always been known for a rare talent of spotting, unearthing, nurturing and developing gifts of other souls and or groups in the music industry.

Born at Mhlangatane in the Northern Hhohho region, Makhabane quit schooling whilst in Grade Five (Standard Three) due to lack of funds and thus his dream to make something out of his education career disappeared into oblivion like morning dew wiped off green grass by the rays of the morning sun.

Makhabane migrated to South Africa in Nelspruit where he set up a home and briefly worked for Telkom SA before he realised his calling was not in the world of work (at least white collar or in the formal sense).

It was not long before he began churning out music under the banner of 'Brother Siphon Makhabane' and debuted with 'Thuma Umlilo' in 1993. That was the beginning of an upsurge in the upcoming gospel musician who was to later dish out popular tunes that became anthems of many a praise team and congregation. At the time he was working with Amanxusa KaKrestu, which was to be the name of his first music company later; Amanxusa Music Productions.

In 1996 he released 'Yek' Intokozo' and all agreed the man had arrived on the big stage with a bang.

In 2005 he formed Big Fish Music Productions, which has seen the release of big names in the gospel music industry, space insufficient to enumerate them all. They include the likes of Hlengiwe Mhlaba, Thobekile Mkhwanazi and Malibongwe Gcwabe.

We all had thought he had retired from the music scene in 2009 when he released 'Ebenezer' (thus far you've been with me-God) but persistent requests from fans saw him taking up the mic four years later at Newcastle in Durban when he released the 'Live in Newcastle' album.

A few years back, he announced that his son Nhlanhla Makhabane had taken over management of Big Fish Music Company.

In the past 20 years, 'Big Fish', as he is known, has mentored musicians such as Hlengiwe Mhlaba, Thobekile Mkhwanazi, Ncandweni Christ Ambassadors, Israel Mosehla, Shongwe and Khuphuka Saved Group, Malibongwe Gcwabe, among others.

Most of these musicians have become household names in the music industry.

So when he had hosted a talent search in Mpumalanga last year looking for fresh talent, it was no new phenomenon to this gentle giant at times sleepy but steadfast in the trade.

The gospel ensemble called Mpumalanga Praise is now ready to face the world. The group has released its debut and live album Mpumalanga Praise Volume I.

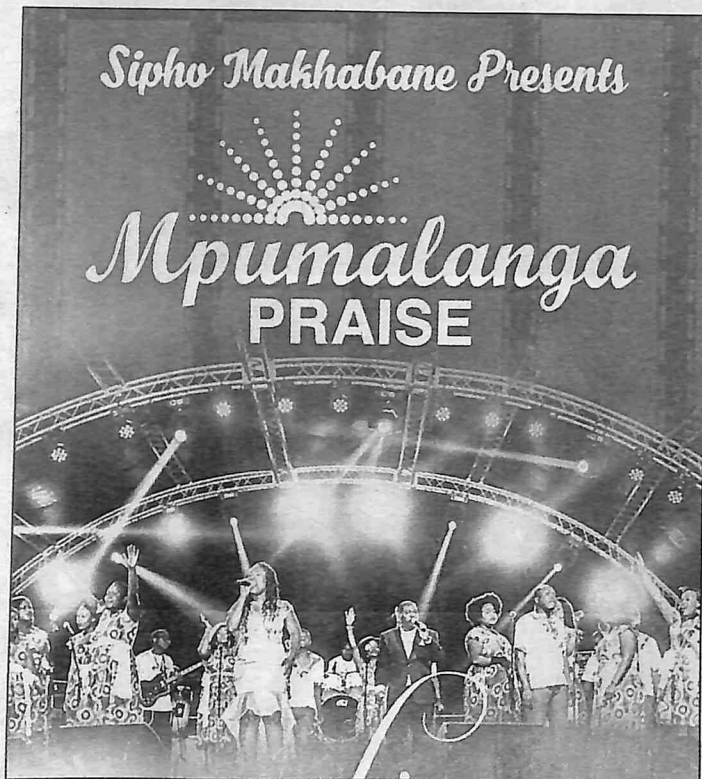
The project was recorded in November at the Church on the Hill in Nelspruit through the help of Mpumalanga Arts, Culture and Recreation.

It is made up of 30 members who come from different areas in Mpumalanga such as Piet Retief, Belfast, Secunda, Ermelo, Bushbuck Ridge, Nkomazi, and Hendrina. The album presents you with both contemporary and traditional gospel sound. MP feature musicians such as Tshepiso Motaung, Makhabane himself, Donny Ngwenyama and Phindile Phocky.

'Big Fish' points out that he started the MP developmental project in responding to the economic challenges of the country.

MPUMALANGA PRAISE:

SIPHO MAKHABANE'S LATEST VENTURE



But most importantly, he wanted to give back to his province, which is Mpumalanga.

"Wherever I go, people always seek out my help. I have mentored and nurtured a lot of musicians all over the country. But I thought it would be a good thing if I do something for the Mpumalanga province. The MP project is set to help young people who have talent but are not working."

"We recruited them to be members of this group so they show the world what they're made of."

Those that have matured voices and are ready for solo careers, will be recorded. Proceeds from the group they will be able to send home because most of them come

from disadvantaged backgrounds," he says.

MP sets itself apart from other choirs by focusing on African traditional gospel music. It presents a fresh, authentic sound. The album has a refreshing mix of songs that bring together old classics and new worship and praise songs. The choir mixes traditional sounds with a contemporary flair that creates a warm presence on the album.

Mpumalanga Praise was launched officially yesterday at the Church on the Hill in Nelspruit. Artists who performed were; Thinah Zungu, Donny and Thobekile.

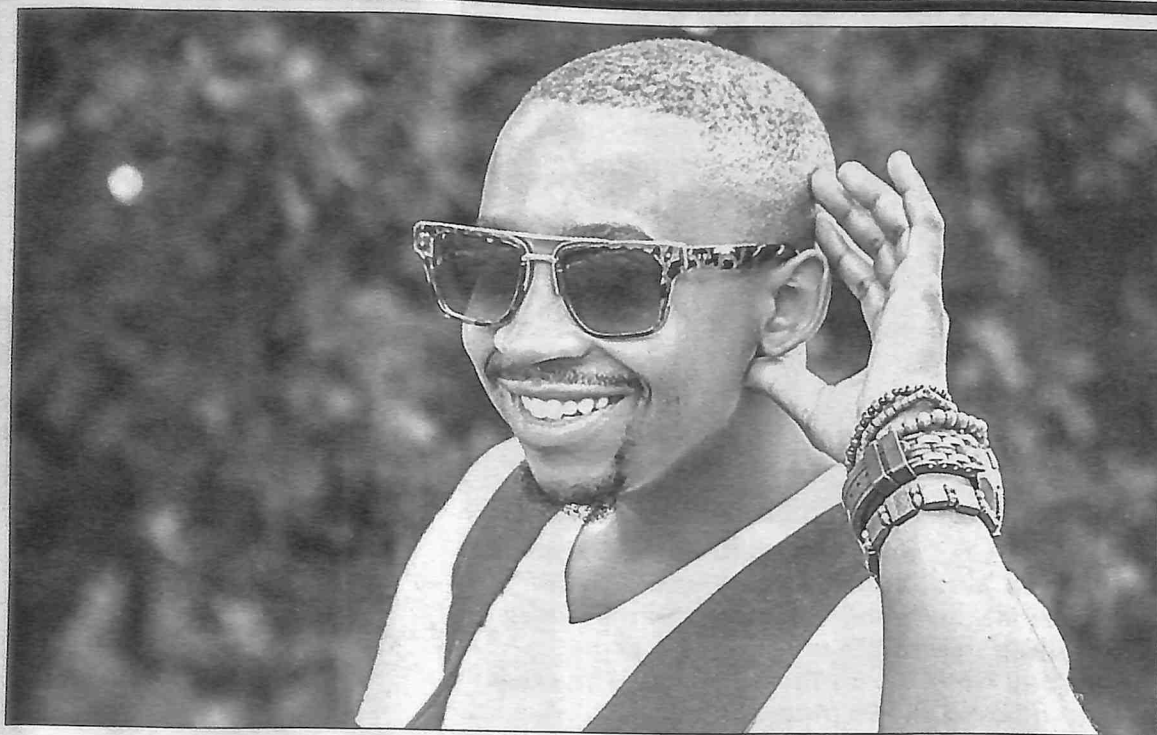
The group performed for the first time in public on December 31 in Middelburg and got rave reviews from the critics. Even

Makhabane was pleased by the group's performance.

"I was happy with their performance. They surprised me because most of them only learnt the finer aspects of music when recruited them in June following the rehearsals conducted."

These are kids who come from rural areas but they performed as if they have been doing this for years. That is why we will take two musicians from the group and record solo albums for them. Their place (in MP) will be taken by new musicians."

Makhabane will again embark on a talent search this year, looking for seven new faces to be part of the MP around Mpumalanga.



SANDS GETS RECOGNITION IN SAMAs

The sky is only the limit when it comes to Sands as he has a cut in the Best Soul category in South African Music Awards (SAMAs). This is big in our entertainment history.

For the first time in Sands' music journey, he made an entry in the best soul category alongside South African heavy weights Idol Karabo, Amanda Black and many more.

News

According to Sands' Manager Phila Dlamini, they were not aware of this good news, until our sister publication contacted them.

The South African Music Awards

(SAMA) has announced that the number of entries for this year's ceremony has increased substantially in comparison to last year.

According to their website, the music industry submitted entries over a three-month period starting from November 1, 2016 until January 31, 2017.

After a stringent vetting process that involved officials from the Recording Industry of South Africa (RiSA) and record company representatives, these potential nominees have been handed over to panels of independent experts drawn from radio, TV, newspapers, blogs and the recording industry for

the judging process to begin.

In April the SAMAs will reveal the five nominees in each category as voted for by the panel of judges and verified by independent auditors.

Fans

"We have decided that this year, for the first time ever, we would reveal the entire list of artists who have entered the SAMA so that fans, followers and lovers of music would be privy as to who has entered to avoid surprises when we announce the final nomination list in the next few weeks," said RiSA CEO Nhlanhla Sibisi on a SAMA press release found on their website.

More young girls interested in the comedy industry

The stand up and learn programme has been a remarkable success as it has finally come to an end and more girls are taking part in the registering. This was during the first elimination round during the schools talent search.

Mandy Ginindza, first lady of comedy, has been an inspiration to the youngsters.

According to the Swaziland International Comedy Festival ambassador Mduduzi 'Mdura' Dlamini, who was one of the judges during the talent search tour in Manzini, Ezulwini and Mbabane, there is so much talent hidden in the youth.

Not only were the judges impressed by some of the pupil's performances but the teachers were impressed in their performances and promised to start a comedy club which will help the young pupils improve their comedy skills.

"The schools tour programme which was aimed at scouting for young and tal-

ented future comedians in different high schools for the year 2017 has come to an end. The exciting part of the competition is still yet to come as different pupils from different schools will be battling for the winner title," Dlamini said.

Dlamini mentioned that The Stand Up and Learn talent search is not the last search that will happen in Swaziland as it will be happening every year as the comedy festival will also be an annual event.

"The next step with all the winners from the different schools is they will be attending a workshop which will be hosted at Happy Valley Hotel on April 8, 2017 where the young and talented upcoming comedians will get some training on how to be a good stand-up comedian," Dlamini added.



METRO FM IS MY HOME - ROBERT

Marawa is not going anywhere. In light of the major reshuffles at Metro FM, Robert Marawa has reassured fans that he will not be leaving the radio station.

There's been widespread speculation over Robert's future at Metro FM considering the annual shake-up at the radio station that has hogged headlines over the past week.

The rumour mill was also fuelled by links that Robert could have possibly been moving to Tbo Touch's Touch HD.

Then it was all too much for anxious fans to handle when Robert was absent from his regular radio slot earlier this week. This led to a wave of questions over whether the sports personality would be joining the major reshuffle.

However, Robert has poured cold water on the claims, calling Metro FM his home. "Metro FM is my home and unless the management has taken a decision to remove me I will remain there," Robert told

TshisaLIVE.

SABC spokesperson Kaizer Kganyago also denied that Robert was leaving Metro FM and said they had not received a resignation letter from him.

Kaizer would not reveal why Robert was not on air but said the station's talent often took breaks from their shows.

"It is no different to any other industry where people take time off to rest or keep other commitments. People should not be concerned. We will

communicate any changes to our line-up to the media," Kaizer said.

Speculation over Robert's future started when Tbo Touch invited him to dinner over Twitter, suggesting that the pair had business deals to discuss.

Touch once again had tongues wagging when he told a fan that they may have to hold Robert's spot at Touch HD for only "24 hours or less".



MEL B'S NANNY SLEPT WITH THE STAR'S EX-HUSBAND

MEL B's nanny Lorraine Gilles has found herself at the centre of the ex-Spice Girls' explosive divorce case from her husband of 10 years, Stephen Belafonte.

In her divorce papers, Mel B states that her ex-husband Stephen Belafonte impregnated the family's 26-year-old nanny Lorraine Gilles and then paid for her to have an abortion.

The star also alleges that Stephen paid Lorraine £241 000 for "nanny services" during her seven years of employment with the family. In her legal documents to the court,

Mel B describes how estranged husband Stephen set Lorraine up as "her rival" and would degrade the ex-Spice girl by comparing her to the young blonde.

She wrote: "Stephen would degrade me in front of her by comparing me to Lorraine, telling me how much younger and better looking she was," [undefined] Mel B claims that her ex-husband Stephen and Lorraine were sleeping together.

Mel B, 41, said she later discovered that her husband and Lorraine were sleeping with each other and Lorraine was pregnant as a result.

Behind the Scene

DOCUMENTARY FILM EXPO AT HOUSE ON FIRE

So on Thursday I attended the much talked about Swazi brewed documentaries 'This is my Swaziland' and 'Amarula Trees Eswatini' screening at House on Fire.

The attendance was quiet good; most people came to support SWAWOLI. I mean high profile individuals such as EU Ambassador to Swaziland Nicola Bellomo and his wife, Matsapha Town Board CEO Gciniwe Fakudze, MTN Brand and Sponsorship Manager Fisiwe Vilane, Swaziland Beverages' Nqobile, Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini, Jiggs Thorne, just to name a few. Personalities as well came in numbers; Thembinkhosi Mthethwa and his wife, Kiki Mkhwanazi, Honest Mhlanga, Welile Masuku, and many more.

Documentary film expo consisted of two documentaries; 'This is my Swaziland'; showing beautiful sceneries of the country and current Miss Tourism Nadia Nascimento takes viewers on a tour through the Swazi landscape, big retailers, hotels to stay, the Bushfire Festival, and 4x4 community tourism combined with charity.

The second one; 'Amarula trees Eswatini' which was filmed at various places in Swaziland. The film reveals the impact of the marula trees in uniting and availing business opportunities for the Swazi people. It is a 50 minutes film.



EU Ambassador to Swaziland Nicola Bellomo making his remarks at the documentary screening.



Kiki Mkhwanazi and Welile Masuku could not miss the function as they were seen wearing lovely african prints outfits.



Swazi Way Of Life Cinema (SWAWOLI) team Bongekile 'B-Kay' Shiba, Miss Tourism Nadia Nascimento Cliff Daniels and Inalda Antonio Jorge pose for the lenses after receiving a certificate of recognition at the Documentary Film Expo on Thursday night. The event was held at House on Fire (Amphitheatre). (Pics: Ayanda Dlamini)



Penelope Dlamini of House of Penny displaying lovely accessories at the entrance.



Newly-weds Fifi and Thembinkhosi Mthethwa were also at the event.



B-Kay Shiba delivering her speech.



Fisiwe Vilane and Daniel Toro chatting after the ceremony.



Alex Barreiro looked gorgeous at the screening.



Melusi 'Zox' Dlamini took his family out on the day too.



People came in numbers to support SWAWOLI at their Swazi brewed screening.

THE RED PEN



Phila Dlamini Vilakati

A TEACHER'S PRAYER...

Lord Jesus, when you lived and worked among people, they called you TEACHER. Help me oh God to remember the greatness of the work which has been given to me as a teacher.

Give me patients with those who are slow to learn. Let me discipline with love. Help me to always inspire, reassure and encourage not discourage. And in the midst of frustrations and worries or even anger while doing my job, help me to always remember that the future of the country, is in my hands. The future of the future itself lies with me!

*Brenda is a withdrawn character in one of my lower classes. She has mood swings; at times calm and jolly but sometimes shows aggression, anger and hostility towards the other pupils. She has this rebellious or defiant behaviour. During recess, Brenda does not partake in the usual activities. Her academic performance in general is unstable too. She may submit well presented work or in some instances just not write at all—showing an apparent lack of supervision from home as well. At some point Brenda had unexplained bruises on her face. Is this child abused? Little did I know that these were warning signs. The presence of warning signs do not necessarily mean a child is being abused though.

I finally decided to confront Brenda about her absurd behaviour. I was mad because she had deliberately missed a test and didn't even care to apologise or let alone give a valid explanation for her absence. She has a poor record of school attendance by the way.

While pursuing the case, she did not respond at first. I thought she was just being cheeky like any teenage girl. I didn't scold her all that much, I decided to be gentle and try to nurse the situation. From the bottom of my heart I just wanted to know the truth. Unfortunately, the truth became a painful burden to me for days. When Brenda burst into tears I immediately sensed something was terribly wrong. The fourteen year old girl had been abused since she was seven. At this juncture, nobody knew but me! I had somehow softened her and dug it all out. Is this the hard role that we teachers have to take?

After this sad ordeal, I took it upon myself to learn more about abuse. Google has taught me that the signs of child abuse are not always obvious and a child might not ever tell anyone what's happening to them. Children might be scared that the abuser will find out; and worried that the abuse will get worse. The effects usually last into adulthood. I was shocked to discover that if somebody was abused as a child it is more likely that they will suffer abuse again and again.

The most painful revelation was that sometimes children don't even realise that what's happening is abuse. A teacher friend from Siphocosi recently told me about how she was disturbed by seeing a fifteen year old boy kissing a girl of about nine. What are the chances that the little girl will figure out what's going on? As parents we hardly ever sit to explain these romantic episodes they watch on TV. Before long the girl could be raped still thinking it is how 'things' should be happening.

Long term effects of abuse and neglect can be very serious. Ranging from emotional difficulties such as anger, anxiety, sadness or low self-esteem, right up to mental health problems. Depression, eating disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder and suicidal thoughts prevail easily. An abused child will struggle with relationships and parenting later in life. She can also have conduct problems including anti-social and criminal behaviour. Abuse goes both ways by the way. Your son is not exempted. Child abuse is more than bruises and broken bones. While sexual and physical abuse might be the most visible, other types of abuse, such as emotional abuse and neglect, also leave deep, lasting scars. Abuse includes; ignoring children's needs, exposing them to unsupervised, dangerous situations or making a child feel worthless or stupid. I hope you did notice that I didn't mention or reveal the kind of abuse Brenda was subjected to. I am trying to protect her because she will read this. She is getting the help she needs from the relevant places. Brenda is our heroine for the day. She is a warrior, she will conquer!

"UNTIL THE LION TELLS HIS SIDE OF THE STORY, THE TALE OF THE HUNT WILL ALWAYS GLORIFY THE HUNTER" — Zimbabwean Proverb

Analysis & opinion



BY MBONGENI MBONGO

GOVT HAS SHOWED ITS HAND IN SPTC CASE

● The reality is that this iceberg that has hit SPTC is proof that Cabinet fails to see the bigger picture, and that it does not have the best interest at heart of SPTC. The time for the unbundling of SPTC was now; the time for the parastatal to move of the dependency syndrome was now. It will never be. SPTC has everything to operate in the mobile space—it always has actually. It probably just lacks political support (and a bit of a skelem!).



The decision to stop Swaziland Post and Telecommunications (SPTC) from opting out of the joint venture agreement with Swazi MTN does not surprise as much as it disappoints.

But it says a lot of government's intentions when it comes to the telecommunications industry. One could say this is a loud statement from government.

Effectively, government has instructed SPTC to not pursue the negotiations over the separation, following the liberalisation of the industry. Initially, SPTC was given permission to pursue the transformation exercise obviously with a clear mandate to launch its own mobile network. Almost a year later, the same government has had a change of heart, and you have to ask yourself why.

In this period, everyone at SPTC had been pursuing the new strategy and direction, including beginning the process to separate into three entities. But, in a surprising twist of events, the parastatal has now been informed that it should wait for the new government to start afresh its pursuit of becoming a mobile operator, despite that it currently has a licence. Were it not that SPTC has to wait for the coming into effect of the Communications Act of 2013, it would long have been a player in the industry.

But, while waiting for that exercise and for Parliament to stop playing marbles, Swazi Mobile was given licence to become a mobile operator—effectively the third such licence.

Opportunity

That left SPTC twitching its fingers, fully aware that this was an opportunity gone for them. You have to admit that this on its own gives Swazi Mobile an advantage, but even then no one would have expected the change of heart from Hospital Hill.

The decision to suspend the process for SPTC is a total tragedy for not just the parastatal and its employees, and in general the telecommunications industry. It throws SPTC into turmoil, and further doubt over its future. SPTC now has to wait at least two years to enter into the mobile space. In the mean time, it has to watch as Swazi Mobile asserts itself, while also dealing with the haemorrhaging of its financial standing.

The argument that it will survive is one huge fallacy, and should be dismissed with all the contempt it deserves.

How will SPTC survive—on the

handouts from Swazi MTN? How will it sustain its business, especially when we all know it is bursting at the seams with staff? When we all know that the future of the business is in the mobile space, and out of the JVA, yet government still wants to pin the company to an old model that is hardly sustainable.

But, what we can look to is that SPTC has now been placed in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). It will now survive on government subvention, and of course the dividend from MTN. It is clear it will struggle keeping its human resource, who will jump out of this Titanic at the slightest opportunity.

Interest

The reality is that this iceberg that has hit SPTC is proof that Cabinet fails to see the bigger picture, and that it does not have the best interest at heart of SPTC. The time for the unbundling of SPTC was now; the time for the parastatal to move of the dependency syndrome was now. It will never be. SPTC has everything to operate in the mobile space—it always has actually. It probably just lacks political support (and a bit of a skelem!). SPTC has always demonstrated its willingness if not readiness to compete.

The company has always begged to be allowed to leave its partnership with MTN. You would therefore have expected that when the chance availed itself, that would be the first thing that government would have considered. This is important if we consider, for instance, that there is heightened expectation and excitement over the coming second player in the industry.

Were this to be SPTC, it would have worked wonders. People, it must be said, are dying for a second operator; they want competition. SPTC was destined to be the second player—until Cabinet happened. You then have to ask yourself if this was deliberate, if the public was not being misled all along. Why does government have to allow this expensive process to carry on and then somersault? How much has been wasted on this exercise before it is suspended? What is it that government is afraid of with SPTC becoming a mobile—is it to do with lack of trust in the executive, or is it other forces at play?

Confirm

What this comes down to, is that no one cares for SPTC—at least no one that matters. The minister has not done the situation any good in the manner this has been handled. I am struggling, for instance, to appreciate his reasoning with his denial of knowledge of this same move, only for the prime minister to confirm it a week later. I can't understand why he would not see the need to be upfront with this decision, and help us all out of our misery.

The people at SPTC deserve to know the truth, and with his denial, he only succeeds in prolonging an anxiety, or contempt for the parastatal. It must be painful. In fact, it is painful.

We should be concerned for SPTC as an entity; we should be concerned at the impact of this decision, if not the future. We should be concerned at what cost this decision is being made. Perhaps the cost doesn't matter because

clearly government thinks there is enough money to sustain the company, and not allow it to stand on its two feet.

What should trouble us further is that this government has once more failed SPTC, its employees and the telecommunications industry. Cabinet has clearly refused to accept the responsibility of turning SPTC around, and has passed the buck. They have also refused to think outside the box, and would rather take decisions that are safe.

Clearly, we can also conclude that Cabinet is not the one to take us to the first world status, because by their logic, they would rather things stayed the same—whatever their reasoning. You can accept this kind of decision being made by the board of directors, but not Cabinet. Never mind that Cabinet should be putting SPTC ahead of any other interests—personal and political. Cabinet should be working towards ensuring that SPTC is transformed, and successfully, and not to be seen as stifling it.

By its decision, government is officially endorsing the crumbling of SPTC. As you read this, you can spare a thought for those people who are employed and how deflated they must be.

Truth

These employees have been here before; not once, not twice. The truth is, these false dawns have ended in the same devastating manner. Perhaps there will never be a Telecoms mobile. But, what we can be certain of is that this move demonstrates the kind of thinking at Hospital Hill, and what cost they can commit us to, to get their way.



SWAZILAND READY FOR THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION:

Is Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher once said "change is the only constant in life." Consequently, the narrative of evolution as observed from mother nature has been "adapt or perish."

It holds true also for the world of work as observed through the industrial revolutions. Today, we live in a digital information age that is changing the way we work, live and socialise. As in previous industrial revolutions, change to the world of work is inevitable nor can it be delayed. It is therefore, imperative that we examine closely the forces that are transforming the world of work and the implications that they present for current and future Swazi generations.

Though disruptive at first, the first and second industrial revolutions resulted in increased social mobility and urbanisation, as previously disadvantaged people began to have jobs.

The current industrial revolution which involves the mechanisation and computerisation of the workplace comes at a time of global economic recession characterised by already high levels of unemployment, the working poor, atypical contracts of employment, increased migration, climate change, an unprecedented population boom and volatile geo-economic politics at global and regional levels.

The first industrial revolution took place in the mid 1700s in England, through the mechanisation of the textile industry and the development of the steam engine. It replaced the cottage industry with factories.

The second revolution started in the United States in the early 20th century, with Henry Ford's moving assembly line in the manufacture of cars, which ushered in the age of mass production. In his book titled "The Third Industrial

Revolution; How Lateral Power is Transforming Energy, the economy, and the world, Jeremy Rifkin links the third industrial revolution to the advent of the internet and advances in the sourcing, storage and distribution of renewable energy, which all works together to create an environmentally sustainable mass of energy. Some academics have questioned, whether this is at all an industrial revolution or whether it should be considered as part of the fourth industrial revolution.

In his article titled "The Fourth Industrial Revolution: What it means, how to respond," Dr. Klaus Schwab, the Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum describes the fourth industrial revolution as being "... characterised by a fusion of technologies that is blurring the lines between the physical, digital, and biological spheres." In another publication, he points out that it involves a completely new and dramatic alignment of automation, robotics, crypto-currencies, 3D printing, genetics, artificial intelligence, crowd platforms, cloud functionality, nanotechnology, self-healing materials with microvascular techniques, biotechnology and other forms of computerisation.

In response to this global phenomenon, the Director General of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Guy Ryder, at the 104th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) held in June 2015 launched the Future of Work initiative.

Introducing the concept, the DG highlighted the need for the ILO and its mem-

In this context, the conversation on the Future of Work in Swaziland demands urgent, comprehensive and widespread discourse in light of the undermentioned statistics that reflect that we are already not doing well in creating jobs yet we are losing more.

ber states to mark its 100 celebration in 2019 by creating space for engagement on the future of work in light of the fast pace at which the world of work is being transformed, sometimes in ways that undermine the decent work agenda.

He pointed out that the national dialogues, the High-Level Global Commission on the Future of Work and the subsequent tripartite debates and consultations to take place in 2019 shall inter alia give guidance to the work of the ILO on promoting social justice even within the context of a rapidly transforming world of work. On the 29th-30th of March 2017, Swaziland held its first national dialogue on the Future of Work, which was hosted by the ministry of labour and social security with the support of the ILO. In attendance were workers, employers, government, academia, civil society and social security institutions. In his presentation during the seminar, Dr. Thula Dlamini from the Swaziland Economic Policy Analysis and Research

Centre (SEPARC) pointed out that developing countries were likely to be the most negatively affected by this technological revolution manifesting itself in an internet of things "wherein various gadgets are interconnected to one another through the internet." This is because, whilst many of these countries are already in distress, the pace at which the technology is changing undermines interventions necessary for re-skilling workers who have been displaced by the revolution.

This is because Moore's law in relation to technology shows that computing power doubles within a period of 18 to 24 months.

In this context, the conversation on the Future of Work in Swaziland demands urgent, comprehensive and widespread discourse in light of the undermentioned statistics that reflect that we are already not doing well in creating jobs yet we are losing more.

The economy is stagnant, at the annu-

al GDP growth rate of 1.7 per cent when compared to the SADC average of growth rate of 3.84 per cent in 2015 (African Economic Outlook). The unemployment rate (strict) is currently 28.1 per cent, with the relaxed definition which includes those who have given up looking for employment at 41.8 per cent. The SADC Abridged Consolidated Employment Report of March 2017 shows that Swaziland has the highest unemployment rate (strict) in the SADC region followed by South Africa at 24.9 per cent, Namibia at 18.4 per cent, the other countries being under 7.7 per cent. Youth unemployment is also highest in Swaziland at 38.5 per cent, followed by South Africa with 35.9 per cent and Namibia with 27.4 per cent followed by Zimbabwe with 12 per cent.

The working poverty rate in Swaziland is the third highest at 43.2 per cent following after Malawi's 61 per cent and Zimbabwe's 70.8 per cent. With Swaziland and South Africa seeming to be the region's underperformers, it appears not to be a surprise that they have the highest union density rates at 24.8 per cent and 16.9 per cent respectively.

The Ministry of Labour & Social Security's Annual Performance Reports for 2015/16 (submitted in February 2016) and 2016/2017 (submitted in March 2017) respectively reflect that between January-December 2015, 1 152 employees were retrenched by 25 companies and between July-December 2016, 259 employees were retrenched by 12 companies, for various reasons ranging from company closures, financial difficulties and non-renewal of business contracts.

WHAT ARE THE REPERCUSSIONS OF ONE LOST NIGHT'S SLEEP?

We've all know of people at work who are persistently rude, obstructive and selfish.

It's estimated that these workers with counterproductive behaviours cost the US economy \$200bn a year. Now Laura Giurge at Erasmus University Rotterdam thinks she has discovered such negative behaviours can be caused by just one night's bad sleep.

Whatever the initial cause of counterproductive behaviours at work, "a night of poor sleep can make it harder for someone to stop doing it," Giurge has said. Poor sleep seems to trigger these behaviours again the next day, similar to addiction's negative feedback loop. Giurge found the day after a bad night's sleep workers showed negative workplace attitudes and lower self-regulation.

Lack of sleep can impact on work, social skills and performance. In other research, sleep deprivation has been shown to reduce cognitive and emotional functioning generally, leading to worse performance, decision-

making, communication, and empathy with others. Emotionally, the sleep-deprived have increased feelings of tiredness, irritability, mood changes, frustration and risk-taking behaviours.

Workers

Giurge's research also shows these addictive counterproductive behaviours were found in workers with little power within the organisation rather than leaders - which is hardly surprising. But sleep deprivation is rife in CEOs too and, unlike counterproductive workers, they can take things to extremes.

Perhaps the best-known case of CEO sleep-related burnout is that of Arianna Huffington, creator of the Huffington Post. Her appalling self-inflicted sleep deprivation led her to pass out and collapse. To her credit, she didn't just change her life so that she had time to sleep, she made sure that her employees had time to sleep too, even when this meant hav-

ing sleep pods in the office.

Just one night's bad sleep can have fatal consequences in transportation, emergency services and war. A single night shift is enough to make even the most dedicated people sleep-deprived. Dr Steven Lockley in the Harvard Work Hours, Health and Safety Group proved that good doctors become positively dangerous during night shifts.

Night

Lockley suspected that even Harvard doctors - some of the best doctors in the world - would be deeply influenced by working night shifts. His team set up a random controlled trial to discover if this was true, and the results were truly shocking. Doctors on the 24-hour shifts (used in the US) made 36 per cent more serious medical errors and five times as many serious misdiagnoses. Even their consultants showed an increased risk of burn-out and depression.

These doctors are not alone - night

shifts can be dangerous for medical staff and patients in the NHS too. In a study of more than 50 000 NHS nurses, those working shifts at night had increased levels of obesity, caffeine intake, total calorie intake, they smoked more, and had overall less sleep.

The underlying problem, as one nurse remarked, is that it is "almost impossible to get any sustained sleep during the day". Despite these problems in the NHS over half the staff work unpaid overtime.

Staff in the NHS are deeply aware of the negative impact on patients and staff of badly scheduled night shifts and 12-hour daytime shifts. Working hours became a major issue last year, and junior doctors in the NHS planned industrial action as a result. Currently NHS staff can experience excessive working hours, poorly organised night shifts and sleep deprivation, and two-thirds of doctors may be under serious stress. The

NHS staff are rightly worried about the quality of care for patients, and they are not alone: in America, 24-hour shifts are still the norm in hospitals, despite Lockley's work.

Literally billions of workers are sleep-deprived because their working hours and commutes leave them too little time to sleep. More than 20 per cent of all workers are in jobs with unsocial hours, and the number of jobs requiring night shifts is increasing.

There are solutions. Working hours should be kept to sensible limits and when this happens performance improves. Most workers and adolescents suffer from sleep deprivation because their work starts too early, so starting education and work at 10am could be implemented, which improves health and performance. There are better shift patterns that could be put in place for the emergency services and the NHS. Then maybe, just maybe, there would be fewer workers with counterproductive behaviours.

Paul Kelley (Guardian Online)

....Rudeness is just the start

MIND THAT ERROR

ADIDI UYO



ENDLESS VIOLATION OF FFAG

Grammar has a couple or more principles concerning agreement, but the agreement between the subject of a sentence and its verb is certainly not only the first, but also the foremost agreement of grammar. To coin an acronym, that is **FFAG**.

Violation of the most prominent agreement of grammar may not be characterised as rampant, but it is certainly endless. Consequently, there is no dearth of cases to use whenever we want to revisit the error of subject-verb disagreement, **S-VD**.

There are a few factors that make the violation of **FFAG** quite common. Check this sentence to see whether you can fathom the factor that has made the writer violate the principle of subject-verb agreement. The sentence is the second paragraph of a news story in the Times of Swaziland, March 23, 2017, with the headline: "Local pharmacies distance themselves from sex pills." And it reads, thus: "This is because while it was reported that the consignment was destined for Swaziland, none of the local pharmaceutical distributors and wholesalers know about the pills."

Invariably, the error of subject-verb disagreement is committed when we cannot determine the real or true subject of a sentence. Several factors are responsible for this inability, but the two of them that usually work in tandem may be said to be the most common. One of the two factors is that which some grammarians call "gravity." And the other factor is that which, for want of a better word, may be referred to as "prepositional put-off."

Look carefully at the aforementioned sentence which we have under our spotlight, and you will find the two factors at work. The subject whose verb is in error is the one in the main clause of the sentence, to wit, the pronoun, "none."

And the verb is "know." If the verb, "know," were to come immediately after the subject, "none," very few writers would not be cognisant of the fact that they were making a mistake, since the subject is singular, whereas the verb is plural.

But that was not the case with the sentence because of what the preposition, "of," after the pronoun, "none," has done.

You see, the prepositional phrase has put-off the writer, so to say, from the real subject of the sentence. The phrase does so by changing the writer's focus to the plural compound noun, "distributors and wholesalers," which follows the preposition, "of," and makes him or her for-

get the singular subject, "none."

Thereafter, the compound plural noun exerts the force of gravity on the verb, making the writer see it as the subject of the sentence; hence it comes rather naturally for him or her to use the plural form, "know," instead of its singular form, "knows." To undo the violation of the subject-verb agreement, the sentence needs to be revised, thus: "This is because while it was reported that the consignment was destined for Swaziland, none of the local pharmaceutical distributors and wholesalers knows about the pills."

Here is a similar violation of **FFAG**: "In the lottery we call child rearing, we can agree that none of us know what we're doing." This is the opening sentence in an opinion piece with the title, "We all suck at something" - Lifestyle Magazine, Sunday Times, January 29, 2017.

The same actors feature in the previous sentence and this one, but what makes this one very different from the previous one is the length of its prepositional phrase which is headed by "of."

Whereas, in the previous case, there are seven words, including the preposition, that separate the subject from the verb, in this sentence there are only two words. This, you may agree, is not enough.

You would agree with me that this distance of just two short words between subject and verb is not enough to make the writer take his eyes off the ball, as the saying goes. And by the ball here we mean the subject of the sentence, which is "none." Besides, there is no plural noun of any sort in the prepositional phrase which one can say is exerting the force of gravity on the verb.

So, what factor can explain the error? Well, instead of hazarding a guess, let's just say that the sentence needs to be revised, thus: "In the lottery we call child rearing, we can agree that none of us knows what we're doing."

When we say the violation of **FFAG**

is endless, it is no exaggeration. Here is another violation, but unlike the previous one, the factor to which it can be attributed is much more fathomable.

The sentence reads, thus: "None of these have been fulfilled." It is the first sentence of the eleventh paragraph of an opinion piece in the Times of Swaziland, January 20, 2017, titled, **HOW TO FAIL**.

Actually, the two factors that go in tandem are at work in that sentence, short as it is. The subject of the sentence is the singular pronoun, "none," but it is the plural pronoun, "these," that has exerted the force of gravity on the verb, "have." This should not be the case.

The sentence needs to be revised to read, thus: "None of these has been fulfilled."

Say, can you fathom the factor responsible for the violation of **FFAG** in the following sentence? It is the lead of a news story in the Sunday Sun of September 21, 2014, with the headline, "Sex crime down but murder is on the rise."

And it reads, thus: "Last week's release of crime figures for 2013-2014 seem to show that the bad guys are getting the upper hand in Mzansi's everlasting real life game of cops and robbers."

If you look very closely at that sentence, you will find the so-called prepositional put-off very much at work, together with the force of gravity.

The subject of the sentence is the singular noun, "release," so its verb cannot be plural, "seem." But by now you can explain why the writer has violated the fundamental agreement of grammar: He or she had succumbed to the force of gravity exerted by "crime figures."

But that cannot be! The sentence needs to be revised, thus: "Last week's release of crime figures for 2013-2014 seems to show that the bad guys are getting the upper hand in Mzansi's everlasting real life game of cops and robbers."

And here is the flip side of the foregoing error of subject-verb disagreement, something that is not quite common: "Cases of pupils engaging in sexual intercourse seems to be on the rise as three Grade I pupils from Mqolo Primary School were caught performing sexual acts in the toilet." This is the lead of a news story in the Times of Swaziland, December 5, 2016 with the headline, "3 Grade I pupils caught in toilet sex."

Operating in that sentence is the dual factor of prepositional put-off and gravitational force. But this time the force of the singular noun at the end of the prepositional phrase, to wit, "sexual intercourse," makes the writer use the singular verb, "seems," instead of the plural verb, "seem," for the real subject of the sentence is the plural noun, "cases."

The headline of the Observer On Saturday, March 25, 2017, with its kicker to booth, reads, thus: "Border Committee headed by Prince Guduza reveals... **PRETORIA, LIMPOPO BELONGS TO SWAZILAND.**" The violation of the first and foremost agreement of grammar in this headline is very glaring.

However, we must note that the error raises a little journalistic problem, or, to be more exact, a little editorial problem. For here is the question that arises: "Does the fact that the verb, **BELONGS**, is inside a quotation mark absolve the person who cast the headline from the error of subject-verb disagreement which it contains?"

If indeed that was the exact statement made by the head of the Border Committee, should the headline caster not have detected the error and corrected it rather than let it go into print like that?

Methinks it serves the reputation of the newspaper better if that were the case, and the headline proper had read: **'PRETORIA, LIMPOPO BELONG TO SWAZILAND.'**

"We hope this newspaper takes a leaf from this and gravitate towards

more improved reporting." This is the sole sentence of the tenth paragraph of an article in the Observer On Saturday, April 16, 2016, titled: **THEMBA MSIBI SAYS PM WON NOTHING.**

When we have a compound predicate, its component verbs must agree with the subject of the sentence. In that sentence, one of the verbs, "takes," agrees with the subject, "newspaper," but the second verb, "gravitate," does not, because it is plural. The sentence therefore needs to be corrected, thus: "We hope this newspaper takes a leaf from this and gravitates towards more improved reporting."

In the Swazi Observer of April 16, 2016 was a piece titled, **LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT - WHY BOTH ARE KEY FOR INSTITUTIONAL SUCCESS.** Its very first sentence contains one violation of **FFAG**.

The sentence reads: "For a very long time, organisations focused on management development but as change continue to increase pace, proactive institutions are realising the need to develop strong leadership teams so as to cope with the change that is posed by the business environment."

Now, that's a piece of cake: "change" must take on a singular verb, "continues," not the plural, "continue." With the subject and the verb of the sentence so close together, one wonders why there should be any violation of **FFAG** though!

THE END IS UPON ALL OF US is the title of a piece in the Times of Swaziland, March 29, 2017. Its sixth paragraph reads, thus: "I think as human beings we conveniently forget that one of our first directives, encoded in our DNA even, are to adapt or die."

In the relative clause introduced by "that," the subject is "one (of our first directives)," but the verb that follows it is "are." Obviously, this is wrong. For the subject to agree with its verb, the verb must be singular in number: It must be "is."

Dups is autism aware



The month of April is internationally dedicated to autism awareness, and Dups would like to express support for those with the condition and their carers.

We know how expensive some autism medication and therapies can be. With health insurance, the expense of caring for those with autism and other chronic health conditions becomes bearable. Dups now has affordable healthcare under the United General Insurance banner. Another plan we would encourage parents whose chil-

dren have chronic health conditions to consider is the Dignified Family Support Plan.

This policy was put in place to ensure that families have something to fall back on before the winding up of the breadwinner's estate. The pay-out will ensure that individuals with disabilities in the family continue to have the care they need in terms of medication, therapy, and everything else even after the breadwinner is no longer with them.

On to other news, March was a very busy month in our stable, and all the activity had been targeted at ensuring that we do our bit to support Swazis from different walks of life live the best life. We attended the launch of the intervarsity games at Uniswa where we donated hand rails, squash balls and racquets for enthusiasts at the

institution.

Squash is a sport that's fast gaining momentum all over the world and there is a possibility that it will be included in the 2024 Olympics. If there is one thing we are not short of in the country, is talent, and what would stop us fielding our own players should this come to fruition? What we need more of is dedication from schools, the corporate world, parents, and young people to popularise the sport.

Dups is absolutely thrilled with its continued partnership with the Swaziland Squash Association to support and raise more awareness to the game of squash. We attended the launch of the squash tournament on Thursday, and look forward to exciting times ahead.

We hope more people will be motivated to start playing, or at least find some sport to participate in for both physical and mental wellbeing.

March was also a sad month with the passing of South African theatre

and political icons, Joe Mafela and Ahmed Kathrada respectively. May their souls rest in peace. Mafela died in a road accident, and his passing makes you sit up and take note of the fragility of life. In a heartbeat, his family had lost an integral part of themselves.

Death came without a warning to him. If it came to you or a family member in the same manner, is your house in order?

What measures have you put in place to ensure that you get a decent burial? After the burial, what becomes of your children? Have you made any arrangements for their financial sustenance?

When you go, how would you like to be celebrated? Mafela had a show-stopping tombstone resembling a living room with a couch, a table, and a huge flat-screen TV set. Did you know that you can be celebrated in spectacular fashion with the Dups Tribute

Cover?

This cover pays out cash to the nominated beneficiary to enable them put up a memorial in the form of a tombstone for the policy holder and his/her spouse upon their death.

The plan can be taken for an individual policy holder or the policy holder and his/her spouse.

This benefit can be accessed after a three month period after the death of the policy holder or his/her spouse for purposes of installing a tombstone.

Please give us a call on 2505 2028 to find out about the Tribute Cover, Family Support Plan, and the UGI healthcare plan.

You can also send queries to info@dupsgroup.com, www.facebook.com/dups or on Twitter @dupsinsurance and we will get back to you as soon as we can. Feel free to also pay us a visit at our offices in Manzini, Matata, Matsapha, Simunye, Nhlanguano, Mbabane, Pigg's Peak and Siteki.



A Job Shadow Certification Ceremony held at Swaziland Environment Authority



**NOKUKHANYA
GAMEDZE**

JA BOARD CHAIR

JA Swaziland is most popular for its flagship programme which is the JA Company Program which offers a hands-on entrepreneurship course.

In all essence, we are an organisation that fosters entrepreneurship among in and out of school youth in Swaziland. However, we are well aware of the value of choosing a career path in life for young people and we have our work readiness programme which prepares young people for the world of work. As much as we wish to see more young people create their own employment through entrepreneurship, we also want to emphasise the value of education, attaining the highest level of education and then stand a better chance of building your own business.

WHAT IS THE JOB SHADOW PROGRAMME?

It is a work readiness education programme that prepares learners for the world of work with skills such as resume writing, and interview skills.

Learners are placed on a five-days work place based career exploration programme hosted in actual business environment. Host opportunities are provided by the local business community and this programme is only offered to Form

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE JA WORK READINESS PROGRAM



A site coordinator assisting a student conduct activities during a Job Shadow attachment at Swaziland Environment Authority.

Four learners who have completed the JA In-school programme.

JA Job Shadow programme completes the JA In-school experience. It follows after the pupils has completed the JA economic for success and company programme. Job shadowing is a work experience option where pupils learn about a job by walking through the work

day as a shadow to a competent worker.

The job shadowing work experience is temporary, unpaid exposure to the workplace in an occupational area of interest to the pupil.

WHAT PUPILS DO DURING A JOB SHADOW

Pupils witness firsthand the work

environment, employability and occupational skills in practice, the value of professional training and potential career options. Job shadowing is designed to increase career awareness, help model pupil behaviour through examples and reinforce in the pupil the link between managing a company and work requirements. Generally, almost

any workplace is a potential job shadowing site. Job shadowing is a very useful activity that allows the pupils to explore a career that they are interested in. It provides more insight than just reading a job description or asking an employee to describe what they do.

While job shadowing, people are able to ask questions and experience the trials, triumphs, small nuances, and normal day-to-day activities they might experience while working in that specific job. The pupil is able to experience how the professional approaches the job, the necessary social cooperation, standard operating procedures, and the tools that are needed to perform the job and be successful. Through this exposure, a person is able to gain insight into their potential field of choice and decide for themselves whether this is a field that they are interested in pursuing.

JA 2016 JOB SHADOW STATISTICS

The previous year we were able to provide the job shadow programme to atleast 300 pupils in 24 schools and it was achieved at 100 per cent rate. The schools that were engaged came from the four regions in the following proportions; Manzini 46 per cent, Hhohho 33 per cent, Lubombo 17 per cent and Shiselweni four per cent. The target for the hosting companies was 81, however 59 companies hosted the pupils, this translates to

Much ado about split beans

We've read the articles in the local newspapers about NMC's split beans and wondered to ourselves what kind of beans split beans are.

We've heard the adverts on radio and we honestly might have wondered what the hullabaloo was about. "What are these split beans that have suddenly hit the market?" we ask. And then suddenly, the NMC team is all over the shops doing food tasting events with the same split beans, but some of us may still be in the dark as to what split beans truly are.

Well, split beans are dry, red speckled sugar beans which have the cotyledons separated to such an extent that

they are nowhere attached by the testa or otherwise. They are also portions of dry beans and cotyledons that are broken off. Broken testa means the protective outer covering of a seed of which a portion or the whole covering is broken off.

These split beans get split into two parts, and sometimes more, during handling, storage, transportation and packaging. NMC split beans are mostly broken into two parts. They are harvested as whole beans but get split during the different processes which they are taken through before they reach our shop shelves.

What happens to the beans that get split? Are they discarded as rejects?

Are they then considered to be inferior products because they are now split? Are they no longer good for human consumption? These are the burning questions in people's minds.

Well, firstly, packaging of sugar beans allows a certain percentage of broken particles in the packaging of whole red speckled sugar beans. It's a minimal percentage which is anything between five per cent and 15 per cent depending on the grade of the beans, and this is why we find a few broken beans in our packaged red speckled sugar beans. But what happens to the rest of the broken beans? Are there usually huge amounts of broken beans found when packaging? The answer is yes, there are tonnes and tonnes of split beans out there. The ever visionary NMC leadership realised that the nutritional

value, flavour and general benefits of the red speckled sugar beans were not compromised at all by the beans being split, but instead, these beans had more advantages and then saw it fit to package these beans and resell them to the public not as rejects, but as an equally competitive dry bean product but deliberately graded low.

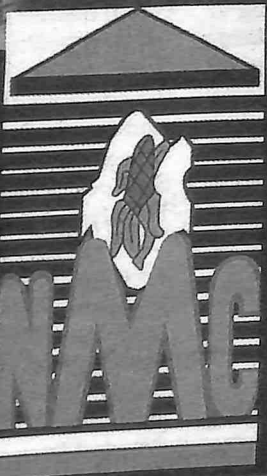
Currently, we have split beans making it onto the different shops shelves in the country. Not only is the flavour exactly the same as that of the whole beans that we are used to but, split beans cook at almost half the time of whole beans and therefore they save both time and energy while at the same time they are much cheaper than the complete grain beans we are used to. Is that not what we have all been wishing for? Furthermore, split beans like whole red speckled



**NOKWANDA
DLAMINI-
MASUKU**

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22 companies who declined to host the pupils. Even though 22 companies declined to host the pupils, we were still able to successfully attach the 300 pupils to the 59 companies.

VALUE TO THE COMPANIES

The job shadow programme provides an opportunity to companies to educate young people on their functions while they are attached to their organisations. One of the most valuable marketing tools for organisations is word of mouth which then translates to the reputation of an organisation. Through the job shadow programme, companies get a chance to invest in educating the general public about their services through these young people who then take on to their social networks and spread the word about the organisation and its services. This platform also creates an opportunity for cooperates to give back to their communities by offering opportunities that these young people can utilise for their professional development.

It also becomes an opportune it for institutions to market the careers that are available in the job market which ultimately positively influences the decisions of a young person in as far as the career choice is concerned. We therefore, cannot overemphasise the importance of these companies that support us in this endeavour. We also urge other organisations to assist us in this programme by opening their doors for the pupils to engage in the job shadow.

CONCLUSION

Pupils who participate in Junior Achievement programmes demonstrate a significant understanding of economics and business concepts, particularly those who participate in programmes that focus on entrepreneurship.

JA programmes show pupils the value of an education, bridge the gap between what they are learning in the classroom with the real world, and equip them with the skills and tools they need to be more successful in school and their future careers. Our programmes prepare pupils to proactively manage their finances, become entrepreneurs, and develop skills that will be recognised and valuable in a global workforce.

JA programmes aim to prepare young people for adult professional life and the world of work. The programmes help youth become job creators for themselves and others as entrepreneurs, to get jobs and keep jobs, to make healthy financial decisions about wealth creation and retention.

We therefore wish to continue our partnership with the corporate sector in ensuring that opportunities for the job shadow programme are afforded to these young people which will shape their career paths and future decisions as entrepreneurs.



TOURISM & TRAVEL

BY BONGANI DLAMINI
STA Marketing Manager
Email: mm@tourismauthority.org.sz



AMERICAN BLOGGING COUPLE AWESTRUCK BY OUR KINGDOM



Tourism Abandoned movie theatre at Bulembu which has become an attraction.

Nothing delights us more than seeing the beauty of our country Swaziland being freely described by visitors on their various blog sites and other media platforms.

American travel writers Cameron Seagle and Natasha Alden, who independently visited our kingdom last year, have taken to their blog 'the-worldpursuit.com' to share a captivating story about the places they visited while in Swaziland, as well as amazing pictures they captured at those places. They write:

"Besides witnessing everyday life in Swaziland and chatting with the friendly Swazi's, there were a number of highlights that we experienced while travelling the small country.

HIKE UP SIBEBE ROCK

Just north of the capital of Mbabane is Swaziland's famous rock, Sibebe. Sibebe isn't just famous in Swaziland, oh no, it is actually the second largest freestanding rock in the world! You can either admire Sibebe from ground level or spend a morning hiking it. There are numerous hiking trails to get anyone up the mountain in a couple of hours' time. There are local guides there willing to take visitors as well if they do not want to go without one. Don't forget to bring some Sibebe beers with you so you can enjoy them at the top!

HAVE A SUNDOWNER AT HOUSE ON FIRE

House on Fire is an amazing venue located at Mandela's Farm. It houses an entertainment complex, shops, art gallery, restaurant, and accommodation with a picturesque African backdrop. One must go to House on Fire and admire all the fantastic art sculptures. Afterward, have a sundowner and snacks at Mandela's restaurant.

We ate here a few times and the food is delicious! If you're looking for WiFi, Mandela's Farm also has decently fast connection although it is not free.

Besides eating and entertainment there are some great shops here too. Our favourite was Gone Rural, a social enterprise whose main focus is empowering the local women of Swaziland.

Gone Rural gives Swazi women

jobs that allow them to work and create handcrafts in their home villages. Meaning they can care for their homesteads and also work. The Gone Rural shop at Mandela's Farm sells these products and the handcrafts are amazingly beautiful and unique!

GO SHOPPING AT THE SWAZI CANDLES CENTRE

Swaziland has an astonishing collection of handmade products made by the locals throughout the country. If you're looking to spend a little money, then an afternoon at Swazi Candles is just what you need. Once stepping into Swazi Candles all eyes will be fixated on the hundreds of different candles that they produce. Every candle is handmade and each has its own unique style, texture, and colour.

There are many other shops in the centre once you are done admiring all the pretty candles. A true shopaholic could easily spend an hour or two strolling in and out of Baobab Batik, Black Mamba, and Sambane Cafe.

MAKE FRIENDS WITH

ZEBRAS AT MLILWANE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Located in Ezulwini Valley, is the quiet Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary. Spending a day here certainly won't disappoint anyone who has just come from Kruger National Park in South Africa. Unlike Kruger, you can actually get out of your car and stretch those legs at Mlilwane. There are no predators. We enjoyed being able to view nature without the car windshield in between us. For lunch, we ate at the Hippo Haunt Restaurant which served up amazing vegetable curry! If you aren't in Ezulwini then there are plenty of other reserves in Swaziland like the Mkhaya Game Reserve.

STOP AT NGWENYA GLASS AFTER THE BORDER

Did I mention that Swaziland has some amazing handcraft products? Right after coming over the Oshoek Border Post from South Africa is the town of Ngwenya. We recommend stopping at Ngwenya Glass to watch the glassblowers make beautiful glasses, paperweights, and all types of glass amazements. There is

even a cafe for those that need a "pick me up" from the long drive into the Kingdom.

SMELL THE ASBESTOS IN BULEMBU TOWN

Just kidding, don't sniff anything! Bulembu used to be a Swazi mining town producing mass amounts of asbestos. Back in the day Bulembu was booming with schools, housing, a club and even a movie theatre. Then the world found out the dangers of asbestos and in 2001 and the mine completely shut down, turning Bulembu into a ghost town. Now the town has been revitalised into an initiative giving a safe haven for Swazi orphans. The town has a museum, bakery, and interesting abandoned buildings for visitors to gallivant around now. Our visit to Bulembu was one of our favourite things to do and see in Swaziland."

To see more of their pictures captured in Swaziland, visit <https://the-worldpursuit.com/things-to-do-and-see-in-swaziland/>.



sugar beans have the following benefits:

They have high soluble fibre content. Soluble fibre absorbs water in the stomach forming a gel,

that slows down the absorption of the bean's carbohydrates.

They can therefore help balance blood sugar

levels while providing steady, slow-burning energy, which makes them a good choice for people with diabetes suffering with insulin resistance and people who are generally weight watchers and like to follow a healthy lifestyle. This is because beans pack a lot of fibre and therefore make us feel full for longer and as result, we eat less throughout the course of the day. They also contain both soluble and insoluble fibre, which means they work double to keep our digestive systems running smoothly.

Apart from providing slow-burning complex carbohydrates, sugar beans can increase energy levels by helping restore more iron, which helps transport oxygen from the lungs to all body cells, and is also part of key enzyme systems for energy production and metabolism. They also help regulate blood sugar and they help lower cholesterol levels. Also, beans contribute towards making the heart happy. No really, they are good for the heart because with lowered cholesterol comes the reduced risk of heart attacks. For every

one per cent of cholesterol lowered, this lowers chances of a heart attack by two per cent.

They are also said to be high in iron, are a good source of vitamin B and are known to help reduce chances of cancer and are a well-known replacement for meat. They are also used in a variety of vegetarian dishes.

And to top this all off, the one major reason we all had for not cooking beans often enough is that they are expensive to buy from the shop, and they are expensive to cook because they use up so much electricity! But with NMC's split beans in the market, beans now cost almost half the price of whole beans and they cook in almost half the time.

The idea of even considering such a superior product as a possible 'reject' must completely leave our minds. This product is right up there with the best.

What's your excuse for not buying split beans? Come get your split beans from NMC, we are waiting for you!



BY Comfort Mabuza

Inflicting excruciating pain and causing so much harm to innocent children within our homes and schools is no longer acceptable in this time and age.

Let's be very honest right from the onset, there is a difference between brutality and discipline. When we daily read with shock how teachers are brutally assaulting children who end up in clinics and hospitals, it certainly leaves them with dented egos and images within their own peers let alone the deep psychological impact this has on them. Poorly administering any form of corporal punishment without following the laid down guidelines in the education policies is a nightmare. Thing is, whatever is going on within the schools and to some extent to family set-up is not ideal for the upbringing of children. Whatever happened to the African wisdom and proverb, 'every child belongs to the community?' Children have rights deserving protection as crafted in the Convention of the Rights of Children (CRC).

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

It boils down to the socialisation process, where children are beaten up by the elderly for perceived unwelcome behaviour and expected conduct, founded on the principle 'if you spare the rod you spoil the child.' Those who come from a Christian upbringing will attest that scriptural references **Proverbs 22:15** are cited, "*Bulima buboshelwe engcondvweni yemntfwana; kodvwa luswati luyabutsintsita bonkhe* – Folly is bound in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him."

Within the Swazi context the fond of saying "a rod does correct the child's wayward behaviour – *Luswati luyamakha umntfwana*" is used to justify corporal punishment. From a mere glance from the shared wisdom we can deduce that parents feel morally obligated to apply corporal punishment aimed at bringing about acceptable behaviour.

Of course, teachers are also expressing anger and frustration with so many instances of abusive beatings that are so severe. One wonders if there's an acceptable measurement or standard applicable for such corporal punishment often done at the heat of the moment where we dismally fail to manage our frustration and emotions.

"Yea I got you this time around and you deserve even more beating because for being naughty" are often used when meting corporal punishment.

Unfortunately, our homes brood so much violence that has become acceptable human behaviour. The results are such that this gives birth to untold harm in the development of a child cycle.

Any form of brutality has a great impact on the child's psychological

deficiencies and no wonder they end up becoming rebellious as a form of protest. We certainly cannot afford this vicious cycle.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT GIVES BIRTH TO REVENGE TENDANCIES

If you visit some of the juvenile correctional centres where children are incarcerated, you will be shocked to discover some are serving sentences as a result of coming from violence prone backgrounds where they were exposed to excessive beating and upbringing. Some of us grew up where corporal punishment was a norm and acceptable, and somehow we grew up desiring to revenge to those who inflicted such mistreatments when we were without power to fight back. No child welcomes corporal punishment easily, in fact, it does not sit well with them. I am reminded of a case where the advent of free education has since allowed even elderly children to re-enter formal schooling, and in one instance they resorted to ganging up and beat the lights out of the teachers they deemed unreasonable with this corporal punishment. Some do want to detain teachers in their staff-room demanding answers why they are being unreasonable with this unmerited assaulted.

Well you might think this is an exaggerated scenario, but if you were to spend time interviewing some aggrieved children, chances are that most one way or the other they would like to retaliate as a form of revenge. The questions that bag answers are: do we really want to bring up a generation that is full of revenge? Are we not instilling a value system that invigorates violence which gives birth to more viciousness? No wonder then people end up resorting to guerrilla fights wanting to settle their differences.

Is this the next generation we want to bring up our children? Whether by default or design, growing up under a violent environment makes one become a venomous person forever loaded with anger and the use of piercing words in the process as part of settling personal scores cannot be avoided. Unfortunately, we are developing timely volcano that could erupt anytime, equally capable of bringing about a violent generation of gangsters within our communities. We need to revisit the whole corporal punishment saga as

If you visit some of the juvenile correctional centres where children are incarcerated, you will be shocked to discover some are serving sentences as a result of coming from violence prone backgrounds where they were exposed to excessive beating and upbringing.

a form of correcting unbecoming behaviour from our children.

They have rights that should be seen protected at all times.

CORRECTIVE DISCIPLINE

At the heart of corrective discipline lies the realisation that children will one way or the other misbehave and as part of instilling acceptable behaviour as they grow up, our role should be that of ensuring that we continue engaging in corrective practise. Proponents of corrective discipline attest that grounding a child and applying certain sanctions is enough form of punishment nowadays. Such sanctions are aimed at sending a strong message home, that whatever wrong one is doing it is unacceptable and not welcomed. Depriving children to watch their favourable TV programmes should be lesson enough to drive the message home. In some instances, cutting their allowances as a form of punishment is also ideal.

Some parents apply sanctions by refusing their children to go out to play with their peers for certain days until it dawns to them that what they did was totally cannot be condoned.

Well, those who are opposed to this form of punishment are saying children end up having a field day forever laughing at the helpless parents who end up being the one feeling more frustrated and so incapacitated when correcting them. Well whatever the rationale, corrective punishment should be aimed at communicating that whatever are doing wrong, is totally unacceptable.

Unfortunately, parents can become a divided front when such sanctions are applied, as one party can become too sympathetic and in the process end up feeling a great pity for the

child, hence the grounding rules or even cutting back of allowances are easily broken and children win big time in the process. We should not become a divided lot when invoking corrective punishment to children. Parents should not become soft and kind hearted during such encounters as children get away with murder in the process. Corrective punishment should send a strong message that wayward behaviour is totally unacceptable without resorting to barbaric brutality which violates children's rights. Such cruelty should be avoided at all costs and must not be seen as being part of a civilized society.

BRUTALITY IS BARBARIC AND INHUMAN

When children live in fear not knowing how they will be punished for sins of omission it certainly creates anxiety and traumatic experiences. Those who are in support of such brutality are equally guilty of flexing their own muscles to helpless children in the process feeling in charge and in control. Well, human basic instincts attest to the fact that if one is in a powerful position chances are that some end up abusing that very power.

Who should discipline the powerful if for any reason they go beyond their limit in exerting any form of punishment? I am yet to see someone applying corporal punishment with a smile. In reality, it is never easy to manage one's emotions when being angry, and you can imagine what happens when beating a child who is vulnerable. At the end of the day we become worse off than animals where the law of the jungle reigns supreme. We should avoid such unbecoming behaviour that destroys healthy human relations and unaccepted behaviour. What kind of generation are we bringing up?

PARTING SHOT

Human beings must be seen showing love when disciplining. Any form of corporal punishment is not acceptable as it is normally not meted correctly. Violence applied to any person instilling so much pain leaves them with deep seated anger and bitterness forever wanting to revenge. Children have rights that must be seen protected. Inflicting brutality in the name of discipline to children is definitely not on in this time and age.



JOY NDWANDWE'S ZONE LEADERSHIP

April 25th 2017 marks #50th hoisting Swaziland's National Flag, hence celebrating heritage. This began with attending culture day and Mahamba Gorge Hiking, events that resonated with my soul.

I truly appreciate Lavundlamanti High School culture day invitation, and congratulate them for organising a successful event with yummy soul food. However I request government to consider tarring or pro-base for Siphofaneni to Sithobela road, this 28 km road, is short but a rough terrain. I cannot image the teacher's cars life span, when driving daily on such challenging terrain. Evidently teachers are a source of inspiration, they perform their duties even after driving through challenging terrains. Most significantly whilst driving across an empty river and one with limited water, indicative of lack or unreliable water supply within the area.

Culture Day

Lavundlamanti High School was an eye opener, the level of active participation and commitment to celebrating culture. Particularly when the teachers and school leadership are predominately young adults, it was inspiring indeed. Seeing young Swazi adults committing their lives to educating Swazi learners in rural communities brings tears to my eyes. As they sacrifice the lifestyles and comfort zones privileges of urban centres to give back and contribute to lives of future generations. This was a truly appreciated insight lesson presented during the culture day celebration, a reminder on how selfless Swazi young adults can be. In pursuit of career development whilst nurturing the next generation that will drive this country in the first world.

The dances, poets, and plays that were educative captured critical elements of Swazi culture and moral challenges, presented by pupils and teachers. Thus enabling the experiencing of seamless relationships between learners and teachers during this celebration. In essence what was eminent is that culture day is for all Swazi children to enjoy. Whether they are learners or teachers, on this day they unite celebrating their culture, without overstepping teacher or learner relationships. This celebration afforded Lavundlamanti High School an opportunity to be civic space, as the community, families and leadership of the area were united. This experience provide reflection time how education, when it opens doors, can be an excellent civic space. Thus, creating an enabling environment for contributing towards the social cohesion within its geographic sphere of influence.

The speakers were McMillan Publishing, Head Teacher, Lubombo Regional SiSwati Inspector, and guest speaker was CEO, Swazi Television. The speeches themes were in harmony, as all speakers expressed the significance and importance of SiSwati language and culture, for all citizens. Such that Swazi's know who they are in order to move forward rooted within their cultural context. Mr Austin Dlamini popularly known as 'Sigcoko' was unapologetic when stating how, *kuphahla* is the way of life even when you are religious, in his view. Unless one is a newly converted Christian who is still searching for Christianity depth, otherwise earlier converted Christians do not negate *kuphahla*. They understand how traditions stays the same, whilst customs change due to external influences whilst culture is dynamic.

Gorge Hiking

Last Sunday, I was invited by Swazi's Angels to the Mahamba Gorge Hiking, Recognising Shiselweni's worth and beauty. This was a worthwhile and beautiful event, which connected my soul whilst communing with nature. Hiking up the mountain enabled me to detox all toxins in

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my body as part of my 'garbage in, garbage out' lifestyle. Hiked up with speed but going down always challenges affirming the adage 'ukhwelile indzaba isekwehleni', you have hiked up but the story is hiking down. Hiking up had numerous lessons of life, as nature is the greatest teacher for humanity. Each step moving upward made me reflect on how I always wished to move towards greater heights. Therefore one has to be cautious on how every step has stumbling stones, which are rooted such that you cannot physically uproot them.

However you find a way of placing your feet on a firm place to stand, you can move to the next level. These rocks are not manmade, hence this terrain is rough and rocky by nature's design. Evidently nature's design is God's design, an invaluable life lesson on how to navigate rough and rocky terrains. Such that you place each foot knowing that these rocks are immovable, they were designed by God. Hence the SiSwati adage 'umhlaba uyengcayelwa' meaning tread carefully on earth, a significant moment whilst hiking up. As you may stamp on rocks placed by God, which will tumble you down to the mountain base. Due to your inability to place your feet on the rocks that propels you to the top, where you will summit. As you hike up the mountain also step on rocks that will look aggressive and yet they are in your path to intimidate you. They are so insecure such that they block people who are rising above adversities, blocking with jealousy, envy and greed.

This hike also reminded me on how to summit is not the completion of a journey. As you still have to walk across less intimidating rocky terrain, and catch a deep breath. Thus, providing you time to reflect on the hike up, whilst preparing to hike down. When walking across the mountain, reflected on how those rocks created an opportunity for reflecting on my spiritual journey. A journey that has been rocky and rough terrain, with all the insecure people sending negativity, because they lack vision, engulfed by the anointment of jealousy, envy and greed. I reflected on how when hiking up, stepped onto rooted rocks, which needed an awaking. On how tradition, customs and culture must transcend into indigenous cos-

mologies and knowledge systems. This reflection opened my soul, connected with my ancestors, forefathers and God. On how they transverse rocky and rough terrains barefooted, to populate this Southern Africa. From Cameroon and Rift Valley, when hiking down, I imagined their feet blisters, considering this hike was rough of me whilst wearing running shoes.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Friday at the culture day celebration shared the podium with 'Sigcoko' popular for 'khala mdumbha dumbane' SBIS Programme, my significant moment. What was important, is how we shared a common vision, on moving forward rooted within your

cultural context. My speech was raising awareness on how advancing to the first world requires analysts, researchers, scholars, professors and intellectual property investors specialised in indigenous knowledge. Therefore 'Lwati Lenzabuko' must be integrated into education systems, and shared the

story of a boy wishing to research 'Litfungu' 'cow dung beetle' to create a model for small business, for Masters in Economic. This is the Africa we want and the SADC we want, creating opportunity for indigenous knowledge to be integrated within education. Particularly, when this 'Lwati Lenzabuko' emanates from early childhood development, which is considered by mainstream education as 'poverty' lifestyle.

My mission as an African renaissance activist, committed to African developmental solutions rooted within heritage. This manifests even when celebrating culture day and communing with nature during a hike.

Finally, celebrated heritage during #40th wedding anniversary of Babe Knox and Mama Tsidi Nxumalo. My speech, on how I was a Makhubu snob, resisting to connect with Nkambeni. Hence I appreciate their integrating me into the Ndwandwe family. As we enjoyed physical fitness, family lunches and events, bonding through numerous roles ranging from father, mother, brother, and sister. Most significantly their counsel and guidance when I confide in them despite our different world views. Hence I sang uMhubhe at this celebration of my soul family.

As you may stamp on rocks placed by God, which will tumble you down to the mountain base. Due to your inability to place your feet on the rocks that propel you to the top, where you will summit. As you hike up the mountain also step on rocks that will look aggressive and yet they are in your path to intimidate you.

Ignorance on Down syndrome breeds discrimination



Disability Rights Advocate

E-mail: celi@asantestewartfoundation.com

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It is encouraging when more and more mothers come forward to share their stories on raising children with disabilities.

I believe this goes a long way in raising awareness in the community. When people understand what affected families go through, they might be more empathetic and less liable to be insensitive.

Mandisa* gave birth to a child that appeared typical, apart from her low birth weight of 2.5kg. Lungile*, who is now 12, didn't gain much weight and Mandisa took her to several doctors to find out what could have been the cause. All the tests done never picked up anything abnormal. She was able to reach all the milestones, like sitting, crawling, standing and eventually walking by 18 months.

The speech was what took long to come as she was only able to talk at six years-old. Although this was not her first child, she unfortunately did not see any tell-tale signs of Down syndrome. When Lungile was about a year old, she had to see an ENT (Ear, Nose and Throat) specialist who asked Mandisa if she was aware that her child had Down syndrome.

He went on to explain everything regarding the condition before referring her to a doctor in South Africa. That doctor referred her for occupational therapy, from where she got another referral for speech therapy.

"What was sad was that many people, including my relatives, were aware of my child's condition, but nobody wanted to break the news to me. At first I asked God why me especially because I am one person who loves people with disabilities.

Later on I realised that God gave me this child because he saw my heart and knew that I would love her," said Mandisa. She added caring for Lungile had not been an easy journey, emotionally, financially, socially and spiritually, but credited God and her family's support in making it bearable. Lungile gets support for her older siblings, teachers, school mates as well as Sunday School Teachers at her local church, who accommodate her for who she is. There are, nevertheless, still many challenges that Mandisa and other parents like her encounter as they raise children with Down syndrome.

Mandisa describes Lungile as a bubbly child who is extremely kind and loving, but her distinctive Down syndrome features usually draw stares and not much love from people. She says the discrimination in society is particularly heartbreaking because it is evident in children who refuse to play with Lungile when she reaches out to them. She just loves taking care of people, including her classmates who she usually assists

with walking to class at drop-off time and packing their bags before home time. The discrimination she encounters is a wet blanket on her sunny personality and she has since stopped trying to engage other kids, choosing instead to watch television and play computer games.

Mandisa believes discrimination primarily emanates from people not understanding Down syndrome, and equating it to madness. There needs to be more advocacy for Down syndrome in schools, churches and communities because people don't understand it yet; most parents end up hiding their children to protect them from the bad treatment they receive from society, she says.

"People have said and done a lot of unpleasant things to my daughter but the most outstanding was when a doctor said to me, 'Take out your retarded child'. Lungile was sick, I don't even recall if he ever said anything concerning the sickness. Another instance was when she tried to touch a laptop of one of my relatives and he immediately took it away as though she had leprosy which was contagious," said Mandisa.

To top all the man-made challenges, parents whose children have the condition have to contend health problems that usually accompany it. When Lungile was young, there were frequent visits to doctors for various ailments including skin problems. Thankfully, she outgrew most of the ailments but is still receiving treatment for the persistent skin problems by a doctor outside the borders of the country. The shortage or non-

availability of specialist doctors locally is a big thorn in the flesh for most parents because they cannot always access the doctors whenever they want to, and seeing the doctors takes a huge chunk out of the family coffers.

Mandisa's wish is for Lungile to be fully independent and live a fulfilling life like everyone else. "My worst fear is what would happen to her when I'm no more. The society we live in is not kind to people with challenges, especially females. Bad people see an object to be sexually abused, ridiculed, discriminated, and all sort of negativity which leads to low-self-esteem of the individual,"

low-self-esteem of the individual," said Mandisa. She also worries that as Lungile approaches puberty, would she be able to manage her reproductive health issues such as menstruation and being taken advantage of.

Mandisa urged parents whose children have Down syndrome in the country to come together in order to share ideas on how to overcome specific situations. She also encouraged society to educate itself about what Down syndrome is and then be more accommodative towards people with this condition. "I also implore the ministry of education to consider special schools for people with special needs. If it is inclusive education, they should fully cater for the children with special needs from pre-school to vocational training," she said. Lungile is at a private school, but when her time there is up, her mother doesn't know where to take her. "Swaziland is a very small economy where there are no facilities to cater for such a disability. I am also sceptical of taking her to facilities beyond the borders as I fear abuse. I have just left everything in the hands of God. There is one thing that I know, that God has good plans about my daughter, plans not to destroy her but to give her hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)," Mandisa said.

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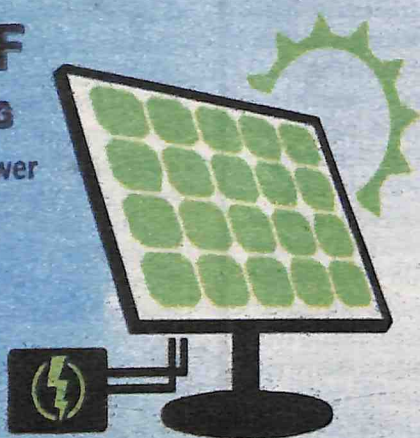
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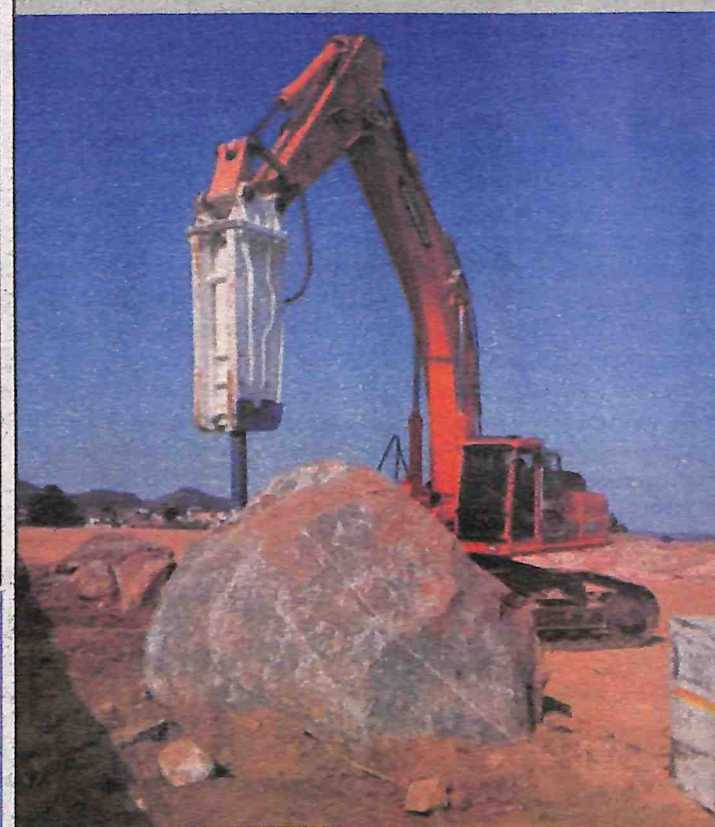
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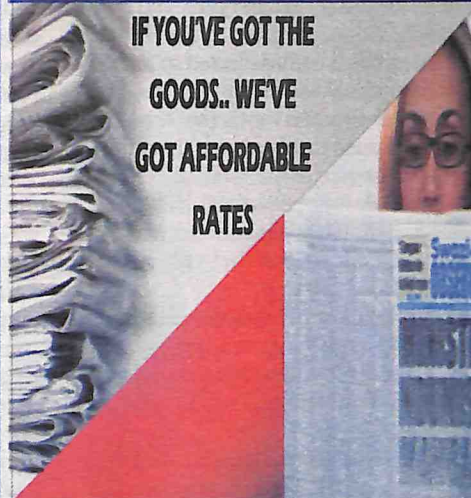
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NEYMAR IS BETTER THAN MESSI, RONALDO

BARCELONA - Romario believes Neymar is the best player in the world, ahead of Barcelona team-mate Lionel Messi and Real Madrid rival Cristiano Ronaldo. Neymar has played a starring role for Brazil, scoring six goals in CONMEBOL qualifying to help the South American giants become the first nation to book a spot at next year's World Cup.

Good

The 25-year-old has also been in good form for La Liga titleholders Barca this season, netting 15 goals in all competitions as he bagged his 100th goal for the Spaniards last week.

And Brazilian icon Romario feels Neymar has surpassed Messi and Ronaldo, who have shared the past

nine Ballon d'Or awards.

"Nowadays, Neymar is our [Brazil's] biggest star.

Respect

He's the best player in the world right now, with all due respect to Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo - which, particularly, I believe has been much inferior to the other two," he told ESPN.

"For what he's been doing both for Barca and Selecao, it's about time Neymar is elected the number one in the planet.

"We [Brazilians] put all our trust in a player like Neymar, he's the one that can give us in [the] Russia [World Cup]." *Goal*



Brazilian star Neymar.

Balotelli brace keeps Nice in title hunt

NICE - Mario Balotelli scored a first-half double as Nice came from behind to win 2-1 at Lille on Friday and keep their unlikely bid for the French title alive.

Ibrahim Amadou's early deflected strike had Lille in front at the Stade Pierre-Mauroy, but Balotelli quickly equalised with a sublime finish and then tapped in what proved to be the winner on the stroke of the interval.

The goals took Balotelli's total in Ligue 1 this season to 13 in 19 appearances but, remarkably, they were the first of that tally he has scored away from home.

Nice, who have already established a best-ever points tally with six games of the season still to play, move provisionally above defending champions Paris Saint-Germain and into second place.

They are just a point behind leaders and local rivals Monaco, but the principality club and PSG both have two games in hand.

That means a first league title since 1959 remains a long shot, but they are refusing to give up. Lucien Favre's team have been beaten only twice all season and are now unbeaten in nine matches since losing 3-0 at Monaco at the start of February.

That run has seen them draw three times and win their remaining six matches all by a margin of a single goal.

"The first goal was a fine counter-attack and Balotelli surprised the goalkeeper with his finish," said Favre.

"In training, he gets more involved, and this is absolutely essential for the team and also for him. He is more in motion, makes more runs back. Although he can still improve, it is a positive for us."

As well as still being in the title running, Nice are now certain to play in Europe next season. They cannot finish any lower than fourth, but they are close to securing a top-three finish for the first time since 1976, and with it Champions League qualification -- they are now 16 points ahead of Lyon.

Nice have been hit by injuries to key players and for the fourth game in succession they fell behind, this time in the 14th minute when Amadou's shot from 20 yards found the net via a wicked deflection off Ricardo Pereira.

Goal

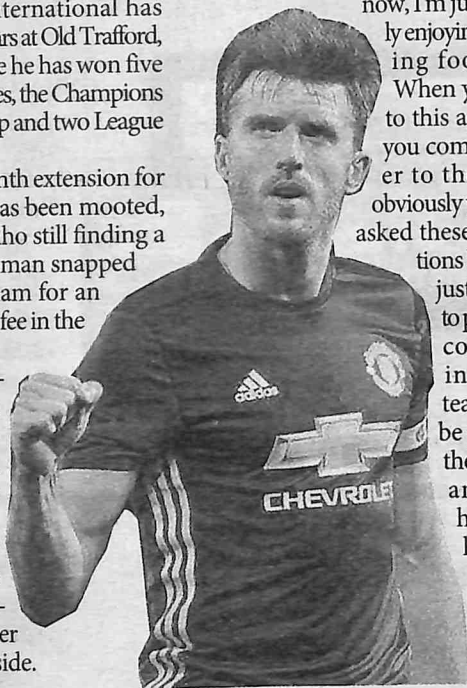
Carrick makes future call as he approaches end of Man Utd contract

MANCHESTER - Michael Carrick is set to be out of contract at Manchester United this summer, but he has ruled out ever playing for another English team.

The England international has spent close to 11-years at Old Trafford, during which time he has won five Premier League titles, the Champions League, the FA Cup and two League Cups.

Another 12-month extension for the 35-year-old has been mooted, with Jose Mourinho still finding a regular role for a man snapped up from Tottenham for an initial £14 million fee in the summer of 2006.

Carrick is reluctant to be drawn on what his short-term future holds, with games still to come this season and a testimonial to plan, but he has ruled out turning out for another Premier League side.



Michael Carrick is set to be out of contract at Manchester United this summer.

Inzaghi hails Hamsik as Serie A's most 'complete player'

ROME - Napoli star Marek Hamsik is probably the most complete player in Serie A, according to Lazio boss Simone Inzaghi.

The club captain has scored 14 times and registered 12 assists in all competitions this season and is just three short of Diego Maradona's all-time goal record of 115.

Inzaghi, speaking ahead of Lazio's clash with Napoli at the Stadio Olimpico on Sunday, believes Hamsik is the strongest all-round performer in Italy's top-flight.

"Personally, I really like Hamsik," he told Corriere dello Sport. "He's

"It won't be anywhere else in England [next season], no," he told Sky Sports.

"I've had too many good times here to do that elsewhere.

"I've said it for a number of months

now, I'm just really enjoying playing football.

When you get to this age and you come closer to the end, obviously you get asked these questions but I'm

just trying to play and compete in the team and be part of the squad and see how long that takes.

Goal

a complete player. In that sense, he's perhaps the best there is in Italy." Sunday's meeting gives Lazio the chance to close to within a point of third-place Napoli in the Serie A standings with a win.

Enjoyed

Inzaghi's side have already enjoyed a successful campaign, having knocked out Inter and city rivals Roma to reach the Coppa Italia final, but the former striker is not giving up on a Champions League spot.

"Having 60 points in the league is amazing," he said. "But we're not satisfied. We have to try to get as many as we can." *Goal*

New CAF president Ahmad considering AFCON every four years

ANTANANARIVO - Newly elected Confederation of African Football (CAF) President Ahmad Ahmad has revealed that he asked experts to investigate a controversial contract signed by his predecessor Issa Hayatou.

The contract sold off the continental football mother body's global television rights to a French company, Lagardere Sports for 12-years.

Hayatou's administration sold CAF's worldwide TV rights from 2017 to 2028 to the French media company which is based in Paris for \$1 billion (R13.7 billion).

"The contract was signed by the previous CAF [administration]. Right now there are court proceedings against this contract," Ahmad said on The Sowetan.

"We just got elected. I have now put the technical people to (work to) look into this contract. There are

people who are specialised in TV and marketing to study this case about the contract. "We took a decision after a discussion with the previous general-secretary (Hicham El Amrani), and we did that just to protect the Confederation of African football if there is any wrongdoing," he added.

"This is why the previous secretary-general left office, and we agreed to it. "Now we are living in an environ-

ment where there must have been transparency and democracy, and we have to ensure that the new CAF follows up on everything that is not along with transparency and democracy," he continued.

"This is why I'm waiting for analysis to come back to me before I take any decision. Everyone is completely agreed that it is not a good contract and not good for African football."

"Right now I can guarantee you that

I will never sign any long contract regarding CAF," he stressed.

The Malagasy football administrator also stated that he will consult with experts on whether the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) should be held every two or four years. "The Africa Cup of Nations is the most important competition in Africa and even

in the world it is the third-most important," he said. "I will open discussions, and consult the people involved in football, including media and officials, to discuss if there is a need to increase the amount of time between AFCONs."

"I am ready to listen. I am not someone who will make decisions on my own. It's up to the people," he concluded. *Goal*



Newly elected Confederation of African Football (CAF) President Ahmad Ahmad.

'I could have played for Man Utd'

BRASILIA - Ronaldinho maintains that he has no regrets at having snubbed Premier League interest from Manchester United and Chelsea at the height of his playing career.

The Brazilian forward was one of the most sought-after talents in world football over the summer of 2003.

United were keen on landing the World Cup winner to help cover the loss of David Beckham to Real Madrid, with Paris Saint-Germain leaving themselves open to offers.

It was, however, to be a bid from Barcelona which blew all of the others out of the water and appealed the most to a man who would go on to win a number of major honours at Camp Nou - including the La Liga title, the Champions League and the World Player of the Year award.

"I never even thought of that," Ronaldinho told FourFourTwo when quizzed on the interest from England. "Yes, I could have played for another club, but I went to Barcelona because of my friendship with Sandro Rosell. I could have played for Manchester United."

"My brother was already study-

ing what I would do after PSG. I was a World Cup winner then, and that opened a lot of doors.

"But when Sandro was elected, I had the chance to see the club and the city, and the choice became easy."

Ronaldinho admits that he was also targeted by Chelsea at various stages throughout his career.

There was also talk of a possible shock switch to Blackburn Rovers at one stage, but no deal ever materialised and of the finest players of his generation never graced the English top-flight.

"I don't regret not having played in England, but it could have been special because it's a fantastic league," Ronaldinho added.

"Chelsea tried to take me there once, and some other teams were interested in signing me, too."

"The league there is so fast and so intense all of the time - it's great to watch and not boring at all."

"I don't tend to watch all 90 minutes of Premier League games, but I will see more of the highlights and the goals in the Premier League than I see of other leagues around the world." *Goal*

'I AM NOT ONE OF BEST MIDFIELDERS IN THE WORLD'

LONDON - N'Golo Kante has played down any suggestion that he is "one of the best midfielders in the world," despite many placing him in that category.

The French midfielder burst onto the scene in 2015-16 after linking up with Leicester City.

He helped to inspire the Foxes to a remarkable Premier League title triumph, earning him senior international recognition and a £30 million move to Chelsea.

Closing

Kante is now closing in on another top-flight title, with his presence in the middle of the park considered to be crucial for the Blues as he continues to draw widespread praise.

The humble 26-year-old has, however, told the Daily Mirror: "Last season we were champions with Leicester and at the moment we are top of the league with Chelsea."

"That's why people put it on me but it is not me. I have been in two good teams."

"I am not one of the best midfielders in the world or something like that. I play with some talented players like Cesc Fabregas, Nemanja Matic and Nathaniel Chalobah. They have different styles and I can learn from everyone."

"I need to keep improving tactically, defensively and offensively for the last pass, the last shot."

Kante's

success is down to his seemingly endless supply of energy, with every blade of grass covered in any given performance.

Once again he is eager to play down the focus on his footballing 'engine', with the all-action midfielder claiming that his drive comes from a love of the game.

He added: "People say 'look at his energy, look at his tackling' but I always wanted to give the best for the team and if I need to run until the end, I will try to."

"There is always a chance to play, be healthy and with no problems. Football is something I like so when I have this chance to play, I like to give my best."

Kante has made 33 appearances for Chelsea this season, with two goals netted in Premier League and FA Cup clashes with Manchester United at Stamford Bridge.

Goal

N'Golo Kante.

Blitzboks beat Canada, set up NZ showdown

CAPE TOWN - The Blitzboks finished the pool stage at the Hong Kong Sevens unbeaten after cruising past Canada in their final Pool B encounter yesterday.

The Blitzboks won 26-7 after the sides were dead-locked at seven-all at half-time.

Earlier yesterday, Neil Powell's men beat Kenya 35-10 while they opened their campaign on Friday with a hard-fought 17-10 victory over France.

In their clash against the Canadians,

Dylan Sage opened the scoring with a try that was converted by Branco du Preez.

Canada replied with a try and conversion by Justin Douglas and Nathan Hirayama, respectively, as the teams headed to the tunnel tied at seven-apiece at the break.

Converted

Ruhan Nel put the Blitzboks ahead in the second stanza with a try that was converted by Cecil Afrika.

Afrika then put the contest beyond

doubt with a try of his own, but was unable to add the extras.

Siviwe Soyizwapi rubbed salt into the Canadians wounds with a late five-pointer which was converted by Zain Davids.

With their victory, the Blitzboks set up a Cup quarter-final clash against New Zealand at 06:06 (SA time) today.

South Africa, 23 points ahead of England in the 2016/17 World Rugby Sevens Series standings, have won four of the six tournaments so far this season.

Sports24

Hamilton to start Chinese Grand Prix on pole

BEIJING - Lewis Hamilton drove through the fog of Shanghai to claim pole position for today's Chinese Grand Prix.

The Brit was almost two hundredths of a second quicker than Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, who will start second. Valtteri Bottas, of Mercedes, was third fastest, and Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen fourth.

With his job done, Hamilton climbed scaffolding on the pit straight to salute the fans, who waved Union Jacks back at him.

It is turning into a Mercedes-Ferrari duel at the front, with the rest way back. Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo, fifth quickest, was nearly a second slower than Raikkonen.

Cancelled

The hope now is that the grand prix is on, rather than cancelled because of bad weather that may prevent the medical helicopter taking off. That was the case during practice on Friday, and more bad weather is anticipated for the race.

Even yesterday when conditions were among the best they have been in recent days the ever-present smog impaired visibility. The biggest shunt of qualifying was suffered by Sauber's Antonio Giovinazzi, the 23-year-old Italian who is standing in for the unfit Pascal Wehrlein. Giovinazzi ran wide coming on to the start straight, caught his wheels on the slippery green



paint, spun into the barriers and ricocheted into the middle of the road.

The afternoon's action was delayed while the barrier was mended. Giovinazzi's car, parts of which were strewn across the tarmac, was hoisted out of the way.

Max Verstappen suffered a lack of power and qualified 19th for Red Bull, who have serious remedial work to do if they are to enter the title fray.

Renault's Jolyon Palmer was 18th fastest after his final flying lap was derailed by the yellow flags for the Giovinazzi crash.

Palmer said: "I was miles up on previous time so I think my lap was enough for Q2. I couldn't believe it because the car has been feeling good this weekend. I had a flat spot on the first run which affected me." Palmer was due to be investigated by the stewards for speeding under the yellows but was confident he would be cleared.

"I lost a second in the final sector," said the Brit. "If they look at the data I think they will see I was cruising across the line."

Dailymail

Angelique Kerber downs defending champ Watson

MONTERREY - Angelique Kerber defeated defending champion Heather Watson 6-4, 6-4 on Friday to reach the semi-finals of the WTA tournament in Monterrey, Mexico.

Germany's Kerber saved all eight break points she faced in a gritty display against Britain's Watson, setting up a semi-final clash with fourth-seeded Spaniard Carla Suarez Navarro, who was a 6-1, 6-1 winner over French seventh seed Alize Cornet.

"I think it was a good match, especially at the end," said Kerber, who made early breaks in each set stand up despite the pressure applied by Watson. Three-time champion Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, the second seed, battled through three sets to defeat fifth-seeded Hungarian Timea Babos 6-2, 3-6, 7-5.

Russia's Pavlyuchenkova needed almost two hours to turn back a late charge from Babos. She had appeared to be cruising when she took the opening set in less than 20 minutes.

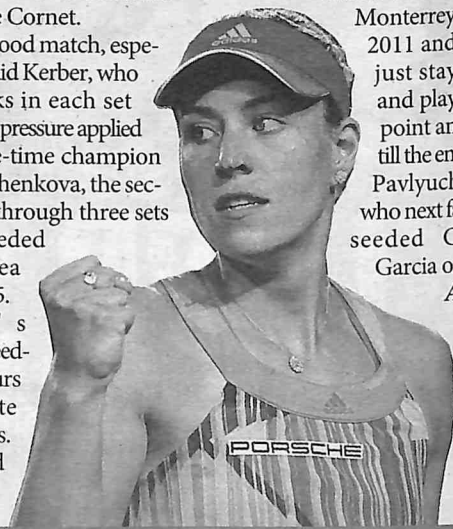
But Babos grabbed a late break

in the second set to force the third.

Babos earned the first break of the decisive set, and missed three chances to make it a double break before Pavlyuchenkova broke back to knot the set at 3-3, finally seizing her chance to close out the match on Babos's serve. "I started to feel the tiredness a little bit - it's been a long and tough trip for me - but I just stayed calm anyhow," said Pavlyuchenkova, who

lifted the trophy in Monterrey in 2010, 2011 and 2013. "I just stayed calm and played every point and fought till the end," added Pavlyuchenkova, who next faces third seeded Caroline Garcia of France.

AFP



Angelique Kerber celebrates after defeating champion Heather Watson 6-4, 6-4 on Friday. (AP)

Man Utd boss Mourinho refuses to be drawn into Rashford debate

MANCHESTER - Manchester United boss Jose Mourinho claims his opinion "is not important" as the debate regarding Marcus Rashford's involvement with the England U-21 side drags on.

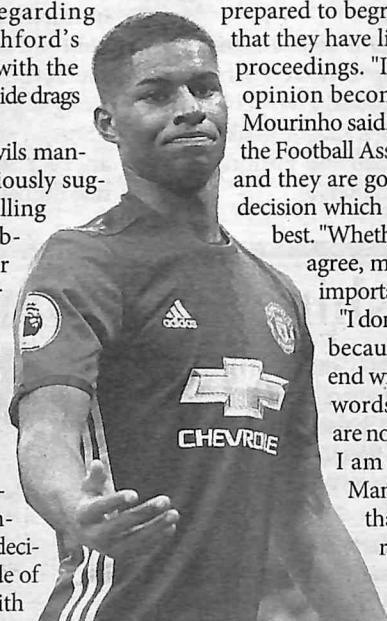
The Red Devils manager has previously suggested that calling upon an established member of the senior squad for the 2017 European Championship in Poland "makes no sense".

He has, however, now conceded that the decision lies outside of his control, with Gareth Southgate

expressing a desire to see the 19-year-old included in Aidy Boothroyd's ranks. The Football Association will now have the final say, with United prepared to begrudgingly accept that they have little influence in proceedings. "I don't think my opinion becomes important," Mourinho said. "The power is in the Football Association's hands and they are going to make the decision which they think is the best. Whether I agree or disagree, my opinion is not important."

"I don't want to discuss because maybe it will end with you using my words and my words are not strong. I know I am the manager of Man United, I know that, but I have no right, no legal right in this situation."

Goal



Marcus Rashford.

McIlroy faces Masters weekend battle

AUGUSTA - Rory McIlroy, one-over par after 36 holes at the Masters, heads into the weekend in worse shape than he had hoped, needing to raise his game to stay in contention.

The world number two shot an even par 72 on Thursday and one-over 73 on Friday in swirling winds gusting up to 65km/h. In a share of 12th place, it was the first time since 2010 that he had failed to beat par in at least one of his first two rounds at Augusta National. Americans Charley Hoffman and Rickie Fowler are in a four-way tie for first place on four-under 140 with Belgium's Thomas Pieters and Spain's Sergio Garcia.

"I feel like I need something in the 60s tomorrow at least to get myself in there," said McIlroy, who bogeyed the final hole Friday after the wind caught the green and frustrated a birdie attempt.

"The wind got me with my putt, sort of the ball went up the green instead of coming back down," he said. If he had sunk that putt, he would have been going into the final two rounds one under par instead of one over, a psychological advantage at least, if nothing more.

"I'm disappointed by what happened at the last (hole), but I'm in a decent position going into the weekend," he said. AFP



KLOPP CALLS FOR THE SUPER SUBS

Liverpool come back from behind against Stoke as Coutinho and Firmino score within 126 seconds of each other after coming on to turn Anfield tie on its head

STOKE - Philippe Coutinho became the Premier League's top scoring Brazilian as the forward and compatriot Roberto Firmino helped Liverpool come from behind to win 2-1 at Stoke City yesterday.

Jonathan Walters had put Stoke ahead shortly before the interval, heading home from close range after Xherdan Shaqiri's cross rounded off a rapid counter-attack from the hosts after Ben Woodburn's penalty appeal was rejected.

But a half-time double change from Jurgen Klopp turned the game on its head and boosted Liverpool's hopes of Champions League qualification, with Coutinho and Firmino introduced at the interval.

Coutinho grabbed the equaliser with a neat finish from inside the penalty area and just two minutes later, the visitors were in front in stunning fashion. Firmino let fly with a brilliant volley that gave Lee Grant no chance and, although Simon Mignolet had to deny Saido Berahino his first Stoke goal, Klopp's men held on for a priceless victory.

Liverpool's first win in six away Premier League matches keeps them in third place, while Stoke are not quite safe despite having 36 points on the board after losing their fourth straight league game.

Shaqiri was making his first appearance for Stoke since January and he had the ball in the net after two min-

utes, only for the offside flag to deny him a goal on his return.

Stoke tested Liverpool's surprise adoption of a back three with sustained early pressure but the first shot came from Divock Origi, whose effort flew well wide after 18 minutes.

Mignolet made a comfortable save from Marko Arnautovic after 28 minutes and the Austrian then hit the side netting from inside the box after Dejan Lovren's mishit clearance looped up kindly. Shortly before half-time, Liverpool were denied strong penalty appeals when Woodburn went down under Pieters' challenge and Stoke promptly scored on the counter-attack.

Daily Mail

Three points more important than PL records for Leicester boss

LONDON - Rookie boss Craig Shakespeare will equal a Premier League record if Leicester beat Everton but he insists the team remaining unbeaten is more important than any personal accolades.

Shakespeare is the first British boss to win his first five games in the Premier League and the 53-year-old will join some esteemed company alongside Carlo Ancelotti and Pep Guardiola as the only managers to win their first six should Leicester win at Goodison Park today.

Shakespeare wants his players to maintain the momentum they have built and remain undefeated - regardless of where that might put him in the record books.

He said: "Of course, the idea is to win. But if you can't win you make sure you don't lose."

"I think it would mean more getting the three points rather than records. It is nice and they come with the territory of the games, but more importantly it is about the three points for us as a team. And if we can't manage to get the win, then we make sure we don't lose."

"It would be nice to keep the momentum going with another win. I couldn't have wished for a better start."

"The idea is to start out and make sure you are competitive and you know the opposition's strengths and weaknesses. We know it is a

difficult task against Everton but we know the players will be ready and up for it."

Pivotal to Leicester's winning streak under Shakespeare has been Jamie Vardy's return to form.

The striker had scored five Premier League goals all season up until Claudio Ranieri's sacking in February but he has netted five times in as many league games under Shakespeare.

Explaining Vardy's upturn in fortunes, the Leicester boss said: "I think it is more a case of what the team has done for Jamie - and I think he would be the first to appreciate that."

"Confidence in strikers is there for everyone to see. He is in a rich vein of form and we need that to continue. We need to keep supplying him."

Leicester will still be without captain Wes Morgan against Everton.

The central defender has missed the last three matches with a back injury and he will remain on the sidelines at Goodison Park, as well as missing the first leg of the Foxes' Champions League quarter-final clash in Madrid next week.

Midfielder Nampalys Mendy is also still out with his knee problem and he is set to see a specialist.

TEAMTALK

Son shines as sublime Spurs keep pressure on Chelsea

LONDON - Tottenham kept up their pursuit of Premier League leaders Chelsea as some brilliant first-half finishing set up a dazzling 4-0 win over Watford at White Hart Lane.

Top scorer Harry Kane was back on the bench from an ankle injury absence to see deputy Vincent Janssen add to his catalogue of painful misses before Dele Alli magnificently opened the scoring with his 16th league goal of the season.

England colleague Eric Dier and Son Heung-min joined in the fun with similarly emphatic strikes from outside the box, although Watford boss Walter Mazzarri will lament poor closing down on the first and third Spurs goals.

Watford appeared simply helpless as they were cut open for Son to add a sumptuous fourth, their ambitions of stringing together three consecutive top-flight wins for the first time this season having long since evaporated.

It amounted to a far more assured route to victory for Mauricio Pochettino's side than the remarkably frantic mid-



Son slides a gilt-edged chance to wrap up his second Spurs hat-trick of the season but his right-footed shot was placed wide. (Daily Mail)

week comeback at Swansea City and cut Chelsea's advantage at the summit to four points, at least until Antonio Conte's men face Bournemouth in yesterday's late kick-off.

Janssen almost had his first Premier League goal from open play when he cleverly spun Craig Cathcart in the ninth minute, forcing Heurelho Gomes

to save with his legs.

It was an assured start from Walter Mazzarri's side, but they should have fallen behind in the 19th minute when Janssen's combination of dwindling confidence and wretched luck came to their aid.

Kieran Trippier stunned a volley across the face of goal and, although

the Netherlands international was partially unsighted by Watford defender Adrian Mariappa, Janssen inexplicably managed to hit the crossbar after the ball spun up off his thigh two yards from goal.

Shortly afterwards, the outstretched and beleaguered striker failed to get the decisive touch on another dan-

gerous Trippier cross, while he strayed needlessly offside following a fine run and pass from Alli.

The England midfielder stunningly took matters into his own hands in the 33rd minute, exchanging passes with Son before arching a dipping effort over Gomes and into the top corner.

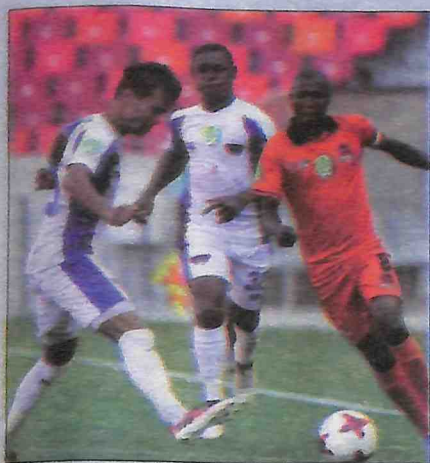
Son was involved once more in the 39th minute when his deflected cross fell kindly for Dier to venomously rifle home from the edge of the area, and the South Korea winger got in on the act, to effectively end the contest before half-time.

Christian Eriksen seized upon a poor headed clearance from Cathcart to feed Son, who was allowed to advance towards the area and unleash a crisp left-footed shot from 25 yards into the bottom corner, moving into double figures in the Premier League this term.

Tottenham's dominance made for a carnival atmosphere in this sun-drenched corner of north London that Son's second ramped up even further.

Goal

South African SOCCER



Chippa United advance to Nedbank Cup quarterfinals

PLOKwane - Chippa United advanced to the Nedbank Cup quarterfinals, after recording a 2-0 win over Polokwane City at the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium.

The match started tentatively with both teams building from the back and trying to hold onto possession.

In the first ten minutes of the game most of the play was in the middle of the park as both teams were knocking the ball around trying to build momentum.

The Rise and Shine kept the ball well and looked to penetrate the Chilli Boys through the middle however they were not finding openings.

There was not much of a change in the final ten minutes of the half from both sides, as they went into the break with the score locked at 0-0.

Substitution

In the 59th minute Dan Malesela took off the defender Siyabonga Ngubane and bringing on the striker Linda Shiba.

The move seemed to have paid off as immediately after the substitution - 60th minute - Buyani Sali broke the deadlock for Chippa United with a compose finish from 12-yards out.

Dan Malesela had abandoned his defensive strategy and was now playing their normal possession football in front of their own crowd.

In the 70th minute the Rise and Shine were now pinned back into their half and could not play possession game as in the first-half. *Soccerladuma*

SUNDOWNS BOOTED OUT OF NEDBANK CUP

JOHANNESBURG - Mamelodi Sundowns were sent crashing out of the Nedbank Cup, after suffering a 1-0 defeat to Golden Arrows yesterday afternoon.

The Brazilians signaled their attacking early on, as the likes Thapelo Morena and Billiat clear-cut chances in the opening 15 minutes.

Arrows should have taken the lead in the 26th

minute, but Sibusiso Sibeko somehow placed his effort wide of the mark from six-yards out.

Pitso Mosimane's charges were in control for most of the opening half, but they were finding it tough to break down the Arrows defence.

Problems

Arrows were certainly a threat on the counter with Kudakwashe Mahachi and Nduduzo

Sibiya caused a couple problems down the respective flanks. Nonetheless, the score remained goalless as the side entered the halftime break.

The hosts saw a lot of the ball in the opening exchanges of the second half, but were only restricted to efforts from distance.

Sundowns were then dealt a blow in the 59th minute, as Mzikiyise Mashaba was forced off

with an injury. He was replaced by Themba Zwane. Arrows eventually broke the deadlock in the 66th minute, as Sibiya did well to dummy his marker, before firing a low effort into the far corner. Mosimane responded by introducing Yannick Zakri replaced Anele Ngcongca in the 72nd minute, as they pushed for an equalising goal. *Soccerladuma*



Mphahlele optimistic Chiefs can win league, Cup

JOHANNESBURG - Kaizer Chiefs defender Ramahlwe Mphahlele believes that their chances of PSL supremacy and annexing the Nedbank Cup crown this season are still within their grasp.

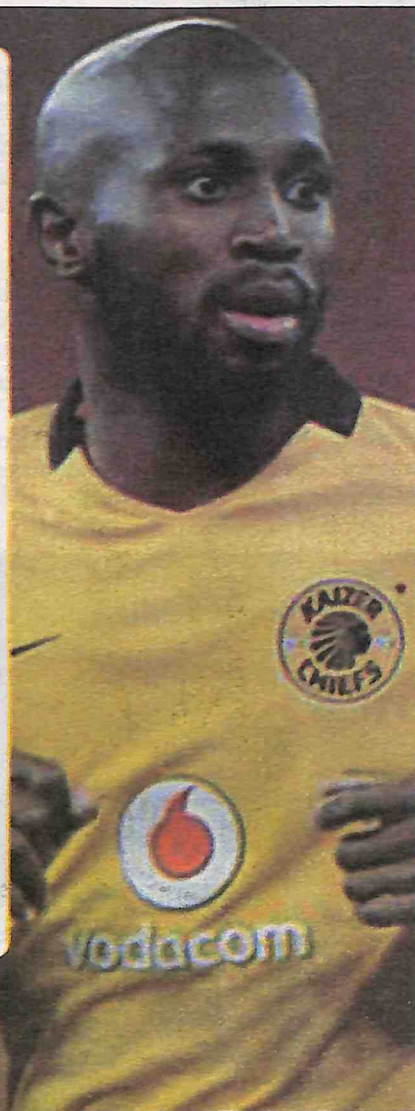
"We are still among the league title contenders and we are still in the Nedbank Cup contention, so I'm optimistic that we still have a chance to win something in this season," Mphahlele told Vodacom Soccer. The Soweto giants are yet to taste defeat since they went down 3-1 to Chippa United at the start of December 2016. Chiefs are coming off a hard-fought 2-1 win over Mamelodi Sundowns in

their last PSL clash last week Saturday which revived their league title aspirations.

Happy

"Look, this is my first season with Chiefs, and I cannot hide the fact that I would be a very happy man to win a silverware in my first season with the team," he said. Furthermore, Mphahlele is happy to have established himself as a regular start ahead of amongst others Kgotsi Moleko at Chiefs. "I'm happy that I have settled well since I joined the team before the beginning of the season, and I'm now amongst the team's regular players," Mphahlele concluded.

GOAL



Bidvest Wits, Smouha Play Out Stalemate

JOHANNESBURG - Bidvest Wits and Smouha could not be separated, as they played out a 0-0 draw in the first leg of their CAF Confederation Cup qualifier.

The Clever Boys saw a lot of the ball in the early stages of the first half, although they didn't really create much going forward.

Wits' best chance at goal arrived after 32 minutes when Elias Pelembe's free-kick found Gabadinho Mhango, who headed over the crossbar from close range.

It also proved to be a quiet half for Wits goalkeeper, Moeneeb Josephs, as he was not forced into any threatening saves in the opening 45 minutes.

The score remained goalless as the sides entered the halftime break.

Push

Wits continued to push for an opening goal in the second half and went close in the 51st minute, as Mhango fired just over the crossbar, before Josephs pulled off a fine save two minutes later.

Hunt opted for a double change after the hour-mark, as Sifiso Myeni and Phakamani Mahlambi replaced Pelembe and Cuthbert Malajila.

The Clever Boys nearly went ahead after 69 minutes when Mahlambi went close with an effort from distance, before Pule forced the Smouha goalkeeper into a fine save a minute later. The ABSA Premiership outfit pushed for the opener in the closing stages, with Pule going close with a header. *Soccer Laduma*

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'STOP FIXATING ON IBRAHIMOVIC'

MANCHESTER - Ryan Giggs thinks it is irrelevant whether Zlatan Ibrahimovic stays beyond the end of this season or not as Manchester United need to find other players that can step up and score goals. Ibrahimovic has been in sensational form for Manchester United this campaign, scoring 16 of their 43 Premier League goals this term and another 11 in other competitions. Players like Anthony Martial and Marcus Rashford have come under

scrutiny for failing to fill in for the 35-year-old when called upon.

And Giggs thinks other players in the squad need to come to the fore with Juan Mata (10) the only other member of the squad to reach double figures for the season.

"The problem isn't whether Ibrahimovic stays or goes, it's where they are going to get the goals from everywhere else," Giggs told the Daily Mail. "Rather than concentrating on Ibrahimovic being here or not, the others need to step up.

"They're getting in those positions, but it's concentration when it falls for you. "You can't just rely on one person because they can have an off day. Leicester last year. OK, Jamie Vardy scored a lot of goals, but Riyad Mahrez got 17. That's what you need. "That's how the United teams I played in were like. I'd chip in with seven or eight, Becks would, Scholes would. Four centre forwards would. The centre halves. Denis Irwin too. The goals came from everywhere."

TEAMTALK

Hitzfeld slams English doctors for extended Shaqiri absence

LONDON - Former Switzerland and Bayern Munich manager Ottmar Hitzfeld has suggested that Xherdan Shaqiri's slow return from injury has been partially due to Stoke's sub-par medical staff.

The Switzerland international has missed nine matches with problems in both calves, though he was initially only expected to be out a week or two.

And Hitzfeld has pointed the finger squarely at English medical methods to explain his former player's extended absence.

"In general, the medical department

in England are not as strong, not so well trained as those in Switzerland or in Germany," Hitzfeld told Blick.

Speed

"The English have the worse doctors than the Swiss or the Germans. Regarding regeneration, preparation or fitness, Switzerland and Germany are ahead of the English.

"Xherdan is a powerful young man. He has many incredible muscles and calves like I have thighs. This makes you more vulnerable, especially because Xherdan relies on his speed, from his acceleration; his speed and manoeu-

vrability."

Were Shaqiri still at former club Bayern Munich, Hitzfeld reckons he would have been back in action already.

"The best practice was at Bayern," Hitzfeld said. "Dr. [Hans-Wilhelm] Muller-Wohlfahrt is a genius in Europe.

"He has incredible feeling in his fingertips. He feels every little change of a muscle fibre. Shaqiri is now missing from Stoke."

Shaqiri has made 14 Premier League appearances this season, scoring three goals.

GOAL

'Olivier Giroud not leaving Arsenal'

LONDON - There is no substance to reports linking Arsenal striker Olivier Giroud with a summer transfer to Marseille, according to his agent.

It has been suggested that the Ligue 1 outfit have already made contact with the France international regarding a return to his homeland.

The speculation has been sparked by Giroud's lack of starts with the Gunners this season, with the 30-year-old cutting a frustrated figure at times.

His representative has, however, sought to play down talk regarding a possible switch to Stade Velodrome.

Michael Manuella told Sport24: "It's a lie.

"There's nothing going on between the player and Marseille."

Giroud has been handed just seven Premier League starts by Arsene Wenger this season.

Alexis Sanchez has filled a central berth for much of the campaign, while Danny Welbeck has been slotted straight back into the side after returning from injury.

Despite a lack of opportunities, Giroud has still managed 13 goals in all competitions.

He has previously expressed a desire to reach 100 efforts for the club - a total he is currently five short of - but Manuella concedes that a move could be made when the window re-opens if suitable offers are tabled.

He added: "I can't say that nothing will happen this summer, but currently, it's not a topic of discussion."

Goal



AC Milan warned Argentine starlet Barco will cost €20m

ROME - AC Milan have been told that they will have to pay close to €20 million to sign 18-year-old midfielder Ezequiel Barco.

The Italian side have been linked to the Independiente youth graduate, who has featured regularly for them this season, with Argentine press reporting the Serie A side scouted him recently. However, Milan are one of many teams said to be tracking Barco and Independiente's General Manager, Hector Maldonado, says the bright prospect will cost any suitors a

hefty price.

"He has great talent, and is a player who matters a lot for the present and future of Independiente," he told

Calciomercato. "We believe he can become a champion, he is a technical player and very quick.

"We heard about the possible interest of AC Milan but nobody contacted us. It's possible they watched him, but we have had no direct confirmation.

"If Milan want Barco, it is better to talk about it through the clubs or through intermediaries."

Goal

Carrick admits Moyes 'just didn't work' at Manchester United

LONDON - Michael Carrick has admitted that things "just didn't work" when David Moyes was manager of Manchester United.

Moyes succeeded Alex Ferguson after he stepped down at the end of the 2012-13 season, in which United won their 20th top-flight title.

However, the former Everton boss endured a dismal campaign at Old Trafford and was sacked following a 2-0 defeat against his old club in April 2014 - a result that ensured United would not qualify for the Champions League.

Carrick has denied that there was unrest in the dressing room during Moyes' tenure but has conceded that the season was a difficult one.

"It was a tough time. I think we can all say that with Sir Alex leaving and the changes that happened after that. It was a tough season, there's no getting away from that," he told Sky Sports News.

"We had some success in the Champions League and we weren't too far away from getting past Bayern [Munich] in the quarter-finals so it's fine margins I think

When you look at it, it just didn't work that season and we didn't have a great season in the end.

"Unfortunately for David, he lost his job so I'm sad how it finished but I suppose that's football. If you don't get the results, and you're the manager, you suffer for it.

"Of course it was going to be a tough job to take, but whether it was impossible or not, I'm not sure.

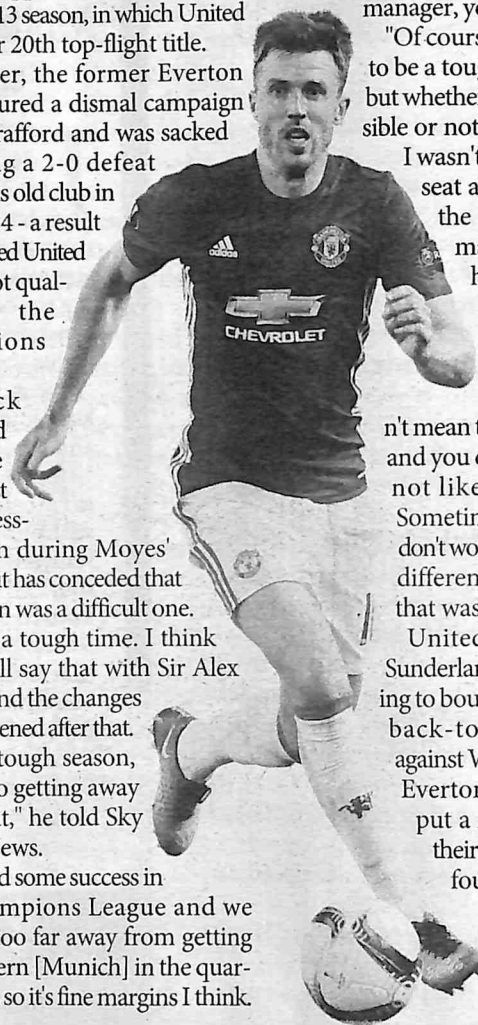
I wasn't sitting in that seat and I wasn't in the position to be manager. You'd have to ask him I suppose.

"Just because it's tough times, it doesn't mean there's fighting

and you don't get on or not like each other. Sometimes things just don't work out for many different reasons and that was the case."

United face Moyes' Sunderland today looking to bounce back from back-to-back draws against West Brom and Everton, which have put a major dent in their hopes of a top-four finish.

Goal



FIXTURES

German Bundesliga

15:30 Hertha BSC
17:30 Ingolstadt

v Augsburg
v Darmstadt 98

Italian Serie A

12:30 Sampdoria
15:00 Cagliari
15:00 Bologna
15:00 Milan
15:00 Crotone
15:00 Udinese
20:45 Lazio

v Fiorentina
v Torino
v Roma
v Palermo
v Internazionale
v Genoa
v Napoli

Nedbank Cup

15:00 Bloemfontein C
15:00 Acorumbush

v Mbombela United
v Kaizer Chiefs

Premier League

14:30 Sunderland
17:00 Everton

v Manchester United
v Leicester City

Spanish La Liga

12:00 Granada
16:15 Celta de Vigo
18:30 Osasuna
20:45 Las Palmas

v Valencia
v Eibar
v Leganes
v Real Betis

Estadio El Sadar



GIROUD



GRIEZMANN HALTS REAL'S TITLE CHARGE

MADRID - Antoine Griezmann's classy finish five minutes from time dealt Real Madrid's La Liga title chances a huge blow as Atletico Madrid rescued a 1-1 draw at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Pepe's towering header early in the second half looked to have Madrid heading five points clear at the top.

However, Barcelona now have a third straight title back in their own hands after Griezmann rounded Kelyor Navas to slot home at the near post.

Real lead Barcelona by three points with eight games left, but the two face each other at the Bernabeu on April

23. Atletico had won their three previous league visits to the Bernabeu and enjoyed the brighter start as Saul Niguez was inches away from opening the scoring inside five minutes when his header from Koke's cross flew just wide.

Beaten

Cristiano Ronaldo's hat-trick separated the sides in a 3-0 Real win earlier this season and the World Player of the Year was first to threaten for the hosts as his near post drive was beaten away by Jan Oblak.

Griezmann hit the post at the other end but had already been flagged off-

side as Atletico maintained a threat on the counter-attack.

However, Real took control of the game as the first half wore on and only two stunning stops prevented Zinedine Zidane's men from taking a half-time lead. Firstly, Oblak tipped over Karim Benzema's effort after a neat one-two with Ronaldo had freed the Frenchman inside the box.

Moments later Ronaldo couldn't believe his eyes when his fierce goal-bound effort was turned to safety by Stefan Savic's incredible headed clearance from under his own crossbar.

guardian



Kouyate strike eases Hammers' relegation fears

LONDON - West Ham put daylight between themselves and the Premier League's bottom three with a much-needed 1-0 victory over Swansea City to leave Paul Clement's men deep in the relegation mire.

Five consecutive defeats had left West Ham just five points clear of the 18th-placed visitors, piling pressure on Manager Slaven Bilic, but a first win in over two months, courtesy of Cheikhou Kouyate's goal, relieved a nervy London Stadium. The Hammers struggled to take advantage of a poor Swansea performance but Kouyate's first league goal of the season eased the hosts' worries on the stroke of half-time.

Chances to extend that lead

were few and far between in the second period with West Ham dropping deep and battling hard to keep the visitors, and substitute Fernando Llorente in particular, at bay.

Condemning

The win takes Bilic's men to 36 points, condemning Swansea to a fifth straight away loss - their worst ever run on the road in the Premier League - as their own fight for survival became tougher still. A scrappy opening 20 minutes gave way to a spell of West Ham pressure, with Manuel Lanzini fizzing a 25-yard free-kick over the top and Robert Snodgrass' dangerous header saved by Lukasz Fabianski on the goal line.

Goal



Jordy Clasie stretches his arms out wide in celebration after breaking the deadlock at the Hawthorns.

Clasie opens Premier League account with fine strike

WEST BROM - Jordy Clasie scored his first Premier League goal as Southampton got back to winning ways on the road with a 1-0 victory over West Brom at The Hawthorns. Claude Puel's side helped haul themselves well clear of a potential relegation fight by winning two of their previous three away games - a 4-0 success at Sunderland and a 4-3 triumph at Watford coming before a 2-1 defeat at Tottenham - and opened the scoring midway through the first half yesterday as Clasie fired home from the edge of the penalty box.

The Saints had opportunities to add to their lead before half-time, too, with Shane Long proving particularly wasteful in front of goal.

But West Brom were unable to make them pay, Jonny Evans denied

by Fraser Forster's fine reaction save with virtually the last action of the game.

The win moves ninth-placed Southampton to within four points of their opponents in the table, although they do still have two games in hand over Tony Pulis' side.

The visitors enjoyed the majority of possession in the early stages, but failed to create any clear-cut chances.

And West Brom came close to opening the scoring 20 minutes in as Nacer Chadli fired over from 18 yards after Forster had parried away James Morrison's long-range effort.

But Southampton did get the opening goal just moments later through Clasie, the midfielder drilling the ball into the top corner from 20 yards out after good hold-up play from Dusan Tadic. *Goal*

AGUERO STRIKES AS CITY END WINLESS RUN

MANCHESTER - Sergio Aguero struck as Manchester City ended a four-match run without a Premier League win by beating Hull City 3-1 at the Etihad Stadium yesterday.

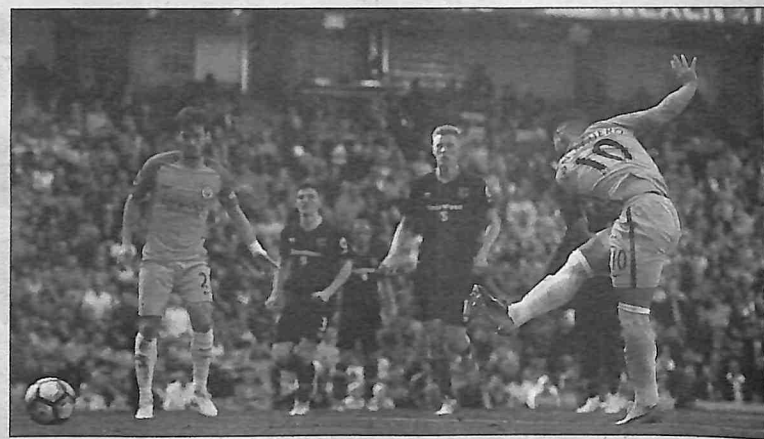
Ahmed Elmohamady's own-goal, just after the half hour mark, gave Pep Guardiola's team a lead at the interval, before they pressed home their advantage.

Aguero squeezed in a second goal three minutes after halftime, set up by Raheem Sterling, who also created the third with a short pass that Fabian Delph thumped in for his first league goal of the season.

Hull pulled one back late on through Italian defender Andrea Ranocchia, with a shot that recalled goalkeeper Claudio Bravo should have saved.

Victory strengthened City's grip on the fourth and final Champions League qualification spot, with Guardiola's men now seven points ahead of fifth-placed Arsenal. Meanwhile Hull remained just above the relegation zone.

Hull's home form has been the key factor in their push for top-flight sur-



Sergio Aguero slams in the second goal just after half time from six yards after a deflected Raheem Sterling cross.

vival since Manager Marco Silva's arrival in January; they arrived at the Etihad having taken just one point from their previous 13 away matches.

Pressure

Silva set up his team to absorb City pressure and then cause problems on the counterattack, which they did at times, without causing Bravo too many difficulties for most of the match.

The Chile international was recalled in goal for his first Premier League appearance since January 21, but all he had to do in the first half was punch away one cross from Kamil Grosicki.

Manchester City threatened early on, with Eldin Jakupovic making a double save from David Silva and Leroy Sane after Aguero's through ball to the Spain playmaker.

AFP

DROP LOOMS FOR BORO AFTER BURNLEY DRAW

MIDDLESBROUGH - Middlesbrough squandered a gilt-edged opportunity to boost their Premier League survival hopes after being held to a 0-0 draw by travel-sick Burnley yesterday.

Boro's failure to take their chances extended their run of games without victory to 14 and kept them second from bottom in the table, six points from safe-

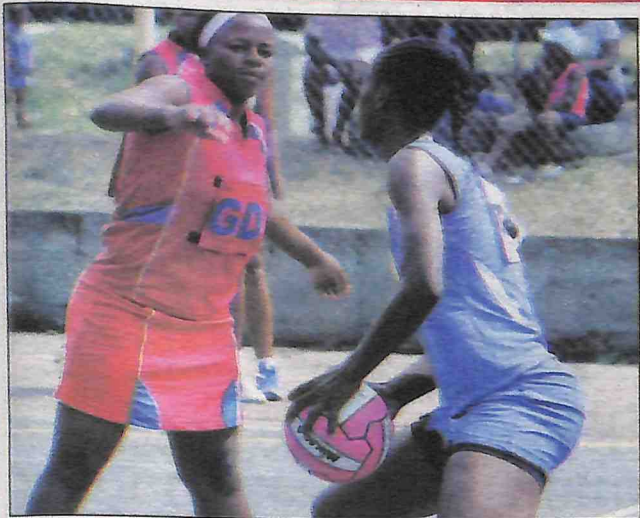
ty. Steve Agnew's men retain a game in hand on the teams immediately above them, but with matches against Arsenal, Manchester City, Chelsea and Liverpool still to come time is quickly running out.

Boro have now gone 12 league games without victory at the start of a calendar year for the first time in their his-

tory. The draw gave Sean Dyche's Burnley only their fourth point away from home of the season and left them eight points above the relegation zone.

A thigh injury to Steven Defour brought Robbie Brady into the Burnley team and the Irishman went close to breaking the deadlock with a 13th minute freekick that hit the bar. *AFP*

SWAZILAND BUILDING SOCIETY E100 000 NETBALL LEAGUE



RSP goal attacker Bathabile Nkambule negotiating her way past Manzini Ladies goal defender Sizakele Ginindza during the Swaziland Building Society E100 000 Netball League game played yesterday at the Zakhele courts. RSP won 75 -31 .(Pics :Sibusiso Masilela).



RSP Goal attacker Bathabile Nkambule controlling the ball while Sizakele Ginindza closes in.



Manzini Ladies captain Mandisa Nkambule being blocked by Cebile Sibandze.



Manzini Ladies goalscorer Bongekile Dube attempting to score after her side was awarded a free throw.



RSP Wing Attacker Hlengiwe Bhembe making a pass. The players vying for the ball during the clash.

#YELELE | SWAZIBANK CUP 2017



SwaziBank Cup Under-20 semi finalists players posing with the trophy during the kit presentation held at the Bank's Auditorium on Friday .
(Pics:Sibusiso Masilela)



SwaziBank Cup MC Secretary Pat Vilakati, SwaziBank Marketing Executive Lindiwe Shongwe and MC Chairman Johannes 'Ace' Siboya following proceedings.



Green Mamba development coach Mbuso Gina receiving their kit from Siboya and Swazibank's Sifiso Mdluli.



Leopard' Thabiso Shabalala and Green Mamba's Lindokuhle Zikalala posing with the trophy.



Buffaloes' Sithembiso Nhlabatsi and Manzini Sundowns also had their moment with the trophy.

#YELELE | SWAZIBANK CUP 2017

PREVIEWS



WILL WANDERERS DROWN IN THE DEEP BLUE OCEAN?

MATSAPHA UNITED VS
MANZINI WANDERERS
SOMHLOLO NATIONAL
STADIUM, 1.30PM

BY SABELO
MAJOLA

Soccer - All roads will lead to Somhlolo National Stadium today where the much anticipated clash between Manzini Wanderers and Matsapha United will take centre stage.

This will be one tricky affair as both sides fight for a spot in the finals of the lucrative knockout tournament.

Matsapha United has reached the last four at the expense of big names in Mbabane Swallows and Manzini Sundowns, making them a force to be reckoned with despite playing in a lower division. The team boasts experienced stars that

have been active in the Premier League for multiple seasons and that is evident in the team's transition in the field of play. Sabelo 'Sawa' Gamedze in particular, is not just key to Matsapha's defence but also overlaps and bangs in goals.

The battle will be centred in the midfield as both sides build up from the back rather than long balls and

Vusumuzi Zungu has been executing his duties perfectly for Matsapha United in the middle of the park while Lwazi 'Shana' Maziya has also been key in that area for Manzini Wanderers.

Matsapha defence will need to be on the lookout for Wanderers upfront duo of Kola Aladeon and Mfanafuthi 'Taribo' Bhembe whose combination has been vital in the

team's performance this season.

WANDERERS

Head Coach: Nyanga 'Crooks' Hlophe.

Captain: Lwazi 'Shana' Maziya.

Key players: Sihle Mkhonta, Tawana Chikore, and

Mfanafuthi 'Taribo' Bhembe.
Match winner: Kola Aladeon.

MATSAPHA UNITED

Head Coach: Saul Chaminuka

Captain: Vusumuzi Zungu

Key players: Sabelo 'Sawa' Gamedze, Menzi Mamba, Sifiso 'Mkhelele' Mdluli
Match Winner: Sdumo Shongwe



Acid test for 'Bull' as they clash with 'Buffs'

YOUNG BUFFALOES VS
MBABANE
HIGHLANDERS
SOMHLOLO NATIONAL
STADIUM, 3.30PM

Soccer - They were 32 at first but the number has decreased to four and today will determine who gets a slot in the finals of the SwaziBank Cup.

The battle between Mbabane Highlanders and Young Buffaloes in the league ended in a barren draw in the first round and the two sides are yet to face off in the second round but before that, they will battle it out today to make it to the last game of the tournament where a sum of Elmillion awaits the champions. Young Buffaloes are favorites to come out victorious in this clash judging by their performance in recent games. The army side has had a sterling season something that has seen them occupy the second position for a long time. They have only lost three games in the league. They went all the way to the finals of the Ingwenyama Cup only for them to lose 0-1 to Mbabane Swallows but gave out a brave performance on the day. The same sentiments cannot be said about Mbabane Highlanders who are at the brink of relegation in the league, managing only three wins in 18 matches. The stats alone give Buffaloes edge and advantage going into the match. Having won it in 2009 and defended

it the following year, Highlanders holds the record for being the only team to defend the title but that won't be much an enhancement as the two sides take to the field this afternoon.

YOUNG BUFFALOES

Head Coach: Dominic Kunene

Captain: Mphile 'Nyandoro' Tsabedze

Key players: Sandile Gamedze, Sihlangu Mkhwanazi, Samkeliso Lushaba

Match winner: Phiwa Dlamini

HIGHLANDERS

Head Coach: Rodney 'Stumbo' Charles.

Captain: Xolani 'Chocco' Sibandze.

Key Players: Sidumo Vilakati, Cosmas Kabaza, Menzi Sithole.

Match Winner: Mohhamed Sabela.



RSP THRASH MANZINI LADIES IN SBS LEAGUE

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

NETBALL - Police service side RSP kept their title hopes alive in the Swaziland Building Society E100 000 League when they thrashed Manzini Ladies 71-31 during a match played at the Zakhele Courts yesterday.

The police outfit has so far recorded a perfect start in the current cam-

paign having won all their previous five matches before adding the hub side into their 'hall of pain'.

Tormenting

The blue and white ensemble were in a class of their own with the likes of Hlengiwe Bhembe (Wing Attacker) and Sebenzile Nxumalo (Goal Scorer) tormenting the opposition inside the court. The first quarter ended on a score of 19-5.

Manzini Ladies tried to force their way back into the match in the second quarter with their goal scorer Bongekile Dlamini netting a few goals for her side.

Victorious

However, Dlamini's efforts were in vain as RSP continued to have an upper hand in the match and eventually emerged victorious. Defending champions Correctional

were handed points on a silver platter as their opponents Buhleni did not show up for the match. The Matsapha based side was declared the winners on a score of 75-0.

The last match of the day was a tricky affair between Mbabane Raiders who were up against USDF.

Full results

Manzini Ladies 31 RSP 71
Correctional 75 Buhleni 00

Chess Federation working on SOCGA affiliation

STORIES

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

CHESS - After successfully affiliating to the Swaziland National Sports and Recreation Council (SNSRC), the Swaziland Chess Federation (SCF) is now working on being recognised by the Swaziland Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association (SOCGA).

This was revealed by the federation's President Meluleki Mdluli during their Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at UNISWA yesterday.

"We are now recognised by the Sports and Recreation Council, and now want to affiliate to SOCGA.



SCF Secretary Nsmilo Mkhonto and SCF President Meluleki Mdluli following the proceedings.

It's time for the sport to spread its wings in the country and this is why this issue is one of our talking points today."

Quizzed on the ground that has been covered already, Mdluli said he was pleased with the way the sport was progressing.

"The sport has covered some ground. We have a strong command in certain areas. Unlike before where the sport was only played in the urban areas, there are clubs all over the country and those interested just need to contact us so we can show them a club nearest to them," he said. He also lauded the impact of sponsorships, which he said has gone a long way in the development of the sport.

"We can never forget the role that has been played by sponsors. Look at the impact of the schools championships. It has increased awareness significantly, because those in schools influence their peers and everyone around them. Sponsors such as the Kasparov Chess Foundation of Africa, and our government have really had a major impact."

Phela Live Challenge winner to walk away with E10 000

CHESS - One lucky chess winner will walk away with E10 000 cash prize.

The money will be won during the Phela Live Chess Challenge to be held at a date still to be confirmed.

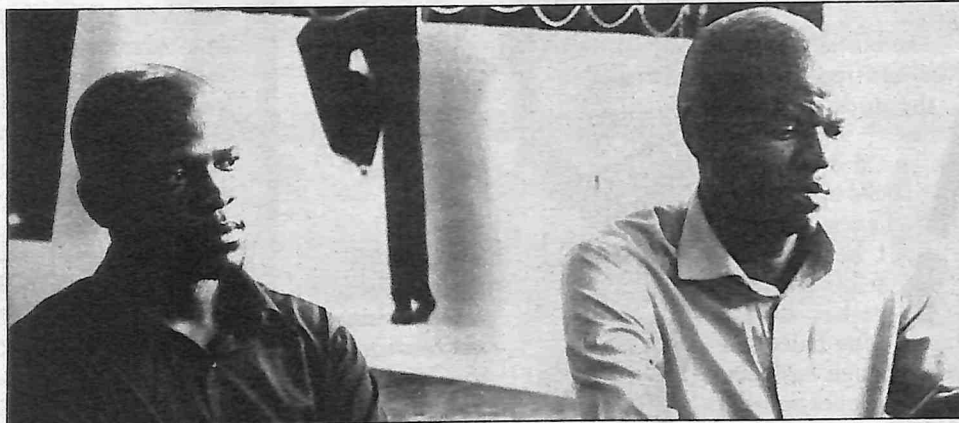
This was revealed by the Swaziland Chess Federation President Meluleki Mdluli yesterday.

He said the tournament would be sponsored by the Phela Live Gym.

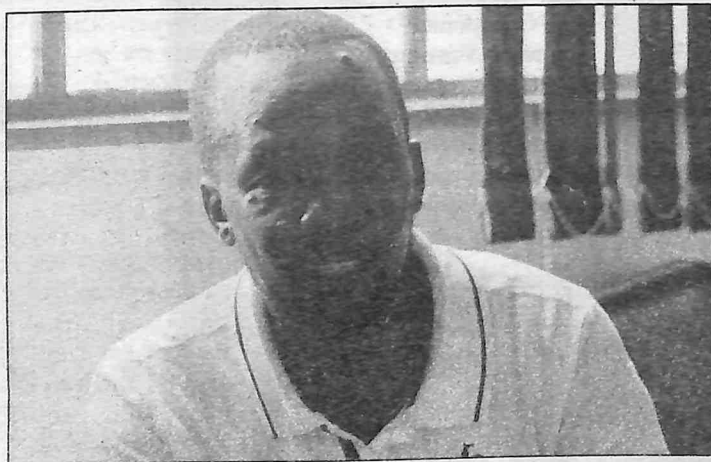
"We are preparing for the Phela Live Challenge, which will be bankrolled by the gym. The winner will walk away with a whopping E10 000 and we are looking forward to this event," he said.

He said more information on the competition would be communicated in due course. He however stated that the closest event on their calendar of activities for the year was the chess exhibition scheduled for May 13.

"We will be having the exhibition on the 13th May and we invite all lovers of the game to come in great numbers. They can also contact us for more details," he said.



Some of the chess players during the meeting.



SNRSC's Zama Tsabedze making his remarks. This was during the Swaziland Chess Federation Annual General Meeting held at UNISWA yesterday. (Pics: Sibusiso Dlamini)

Bright start for big guns in King's Cup

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

VOLLEYBALL - Volleyball big guns were off to a bright start in the 2017 King's Cup opening games played at the Bosco Skills Centre yesterday.

Giants such as RSP boosted their chances of making it through to the quarterfinal of the annual knock-out tournament after beating their

security forces rivals USDF 2-0.

The police side won the opening two sets of the match which was played under the best of five sets convincingly by 25-20 and 25-20, before being declared as winners.

They were joined by Correctional males, who managed to beat sugar belt side RSSC 2-0.

The ladies category saw Bob Ladies beat RSSC 2-0 and were joined by

Correctional Ladies that knocked sugar belt side out of the competition after the sugar belt side 2-0.

RSP were further handed free points after they were declared winners by 2-0, following USDF Ladies failure to show up for the match.

Swaziland National Volleyball Association Vice Secretary Eric Zwane said they were impressed with the standard of the opening matches.

"We are happy with the manner

Some of the results

Males			
RSP	2	USDF	0
Correctional	2	RSSC	0
Ladies			
Correctional	2	RSSC	0
RSP	2	USDF	0

in which the games proceeded today where teams displayed impressive performances. We are hoping to see more improved performances during the course of the tournament," he said.

CAF CONFEDERATION CUP PREVIEW:



Daring 'Birds' mammoth task

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

Following their success against Tanzania's Azam FC, the country's TOTAL CAF Confederation envoys Mbabane Swallows, dubbed the 'Van Damme' of local football, now face an uphill task to make history against Congo Brazzaville giants AC Leopards.

History is made by the brave. Yes, the 'Beautiful Birds' have been daring in both domestic and international football.

Heading into the Stade Denis Sassou Nguesso, Swallows have been nothing but excellence this season. They have won the MTN Premier League with about seven games remaining, have won the Ingwenyama Cup and are two games away from realising their dream - to reach the group stages in the Africa campaign.

They've walked under the Francistown Sports Ground, and triumphed, courtesy of a scorcher by the ever green Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko who unfortunately, is a notable absentee for the locals going into this game.

The Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati charges have on so many occasions shown that their character is their major strength. Well, some may debate and give it to fitness, but Swallows players play like their lives depend on the outcome of the game.

The workaholic Papy Kabamba will have to be on his absolute best as he commands the middle of the park, where he is up against a very experienced squad.

Speaking of experience, the 'Birds' have it in abundance. Captain fantastic, Tony 'TT' Tsabedze, with his 'educated' left foot, will look to torment the opposition on the left flank, and his experience will of course come in handy.

The gifted Banele 'Pupu' Sikhondze has matured like fine wine, and it is wonderful to see him play like a star at the international level. The prolific Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa will also be carrying the nations' hope as they represent the country in this very vital clash.

One thing is for sure though - Swallows know what they are up against in Congo. A stadium filled to capacity with hostile fans.

Will they have the heart to do that, and most importantly will they come to the party, triumph at the battlefield, and hoist the Swazi flag high?



Thabo 'Koki' Vilakati.

DRAMA CONTINUES AT WANDERERS CAMP

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER – It seems the ongoing drama between Manzini Wanderers directors and the task team is far from over as the latter has refused to hand over the team's playing kits.

The task team, which has been taken to court by the team's directors, has gone a step further and allegedly facilitated a secret camp for the players ahead of the Swazi Bank Cup semi-final clash against Matsapha United at the Somhlolo National Stadium this afternoon.

A source revealed to this publication that attempts by some of the team's leaders to get the branded Swazi Bank kits proved futile as the task team vehemently refused to give in.

"The leaders of the team tried to get the kit ahead of the game but were told by

some members of the task team that they would not give the kit to anyone but Wanderers before the game tomorrow.

"They also organised a secret camp for the players after getting a sponsor from someone said to be in high places. This is just how the situation is now at the Wanderers camp," said the source.

Sought for comment on the matter, Wanderers General Manager Patrick Gamedze said as Administration of the team they would not involve themselves in the politics of the club.

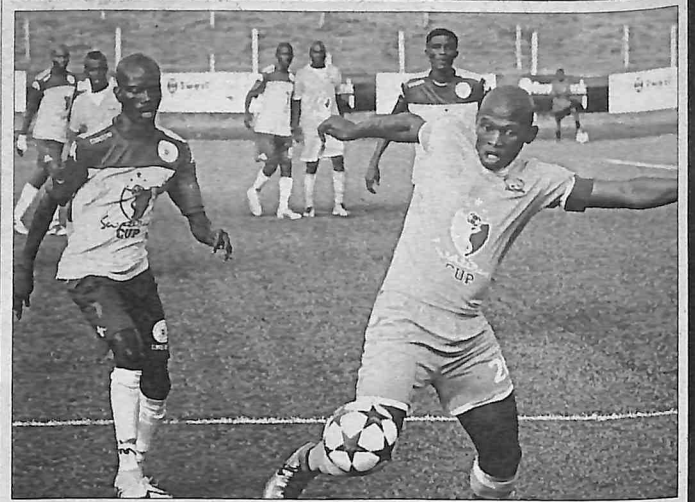
"This is a routine camp held prior to important games and it is funded by someone within the structures of the team. On the issue of the playing kit it is with me as General Manager and not what is being said," he said.

The two parties appeared before Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala at the High Court

on Friday after the team's directors filed an urgent seeking the task team to be restrained from attending and participating in the team's activities pending internal disciplinary proceedings. The matter was however postponed to Thursday to allow the task team, represented by attorney Zakhele Dlamini, to file their opposing papers.

In their papers filed before the court, the hub giants stated the respondents had 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.

An affidavit signed by one of the team's Directors Sandile Chief Dlamini stated that there was reasonable foreseeable apprehension of harm which the applicants stand to suffer if the orders are not granted. Wanderers Council of Elders Chairman Sipho Ntshalintshali was cited as the first respondent in the matter alongside Lucky Majavane Dlamini, Alphe Mngometulu, Mthunzi Dlamini, Steven Thwala and Mfankhona Lukhele, amongst others.



Matsapha United captain Vusumuzi Zungu winning the ball from Manzini Sundowns' Seto Tekwa during the Swazi Bank Cup quarterfinals at Somhlolo National Stadium in one of their games.

Leave us alone – Matsapha United tells Downs

STORIES BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER – National First Division outfit Matsapha United have told Manzini Sundowns to stop involving them in their business.

The Matsapha based ensemble was reacting to a statement by the 'Kappa Boys' where they announced that the team would be launching an enquiry following their loss to Matsapha United in the quarterfinals of the Swazi bank Cup.

Interviewed yesterday, the team's acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Victor 'Mavikane' Dlamini requested the team to stop tarnishing their name with what he termed defaming allegations.

"We are very disappointed by the manner in which Sundowns has been treating us since we beat them in the quarterfinals of the Swazi Bank Cup. They can continue with their investigations but we are pleading to them to stop

involving us in their affairs. We should not be persecuted for our success which we are working hard to achieve everyday. We deserve to be treated with respect just like any other Premier League team,"

"We do respect Sundowns as one of the oldest teams in the country and we expect the same from them by showing us the right way towards professionalism," he said.

Dlamini further stated they were considering legal action following the allegations made by Sundowns where they were accused of visiting the opposition's clubhouse before their quarterfinal encounter last weekend.

"We have since decided to take this matter to our lawyers in order to protect our brand and sponsors because we do not understand the meaning of these allegations. We have tried apologising to them on behalf of our coach (Saul Chaminuka) who made comments after our match against Sundowns. We also feel that the matter can be dealt with amicably by the two teams."

'Swazi Bolt' sets new 100m national record

BY QONDILE NTIWANE

ATHLETICS – The country's fastest sprinter Sibusiso 'Swazi Bolt' Matsenjwa has not only hoisted the country's flag high but has set a new national record in the 100m.

The RSP athlete snatched a silver medal Mauritius International hosted by the Mauritius Athletics association yesterday. He clocked 10.35 seconds to beat the previous record of 10.38 seconds.

Matsenjwa also bagged home a gold medal in the 200m and was unfortunate not set a new national record in this race despite recording a personal best of 20.45 seconds, which is one millisecond away from the world championships qualifying time of 20.44 seconds.

According to the rules of the sport, the time recorded by the athletes during the race will not be recognised as a national record as there was wind the assistance of +2.2 during the race when it should be less than that. This means the national

record stands at 20.61 seconds.

Interviewed yesterday, Matsenjwa said he was happy with his performance during the meet. He however stated it was unfortunate that his time could not stand as a national record.

"This is awesome. I am really proud of myself because I never thought I could do 20.4 seconds. My hard work is really paying off and I am happy that I am getting there. I will continue working hard so that I can qualify for the World Champs," he said.

Sihlangu's AFCON 2019 qualifiers opponents' fire coach

BY SABELO MAJOLA

SOCCER – The Tunisian Football Federation (TFF) announced on Friday the sacking of Henryk Kasperczak from his position as the national team manager.

Tunisia was drawn alongside Swaziland, Egypt and Niger in group J of the Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers 2019. This came at a time when Sihlangu's new head coach Pieter De Jongh has resumed his duties as the mentor of the team, having recently announced his provisional squad in preparation for international assignments including the AFCON qualifiers.

Kasperczak was appointed in mid- 2015 as he took over the job after Belgian manager Georges Leekens. In the time since, the Polish manager took Tunisia to the 2017 Africa Cup of Nations, but was eliminated in the quarter-finals by Burkina Faso.

According to a statement by the Tunisian Football Federation, a new coach will be appointed by the end of the month.

In the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifiers, Tunisia are currently level on six points with Group A leaders DR Congo, after beating their other group opponents, Libya and Guinea.

The upcoming period is crucial for Tunisia, as they will prepare for the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifiers, and the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers, in which they have been drawn alongside Egypt, Niger and Swaziland.

The Eagles of Carthage will face the Pharaohs in their first match in the AFCON qualifiers on June 9. The decision to relieve Kasperczak of his duties came less than two weeks after the Tunisian national team lost two friendlies against Morocco and Cameroon.



April monthly mug champion Kenneth Nkambule receiving his prizes from SRIC's Sizwe Shongwe and Ginous Sihlongonyane. (Pic: Sibusiso Dlamini)

Kenneth Nkambule wins SRIC monthly mug

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

GOLF – MBABANE golf club captain Kenneth Nkambule was yesterday crowned the champion of this month's SRIC Monthly Mug Tournament.

The captain beat a field of over 30 golfers that were part of the tournament played at Mbabane Golf Club yesterday.

Nkambule scored a net score of 68 to win the tournament. The captain was tied on 68 points with Andrew Mkhonta, but he triumphed on count backs. Frank Hlophe came third on 69 points while Ronnie Mkhombe

was fourth also on 69 points.

Taking the fifth position was Willard Mkhwanazi who was tied on 70 with three other golfers, namely; Sibusiso Shongwe, Zwelisha Dlamini and Nicholas Vilakati, but Mkhwanazi conquered them on count backs.

Winners

Gordon Bennet, Gift Zulu and Dumsani Msibi were also winners with 72 points.

In the novelties section, Willard Mkhwanazi was nearest the pin on hole 2/11, Sibusiso Shongwe on hole 8/17 and Tata Dlamini on 9/18. Lady golfer Nokuthula Dlamini walked away with the longest drive award.

THE RESULTS

Kenneth Nkambule	68 CB
Andrew Mkhonta	68
Frank Hlophe	69
Ronnie Mkhombe	69
Willard Mkhwanazi	70 CB
Sibusiso Shongwe	70
Zwelisha Dlamini	70
Nicholas Vilakati	70

Gordon Bennet	72 CB
Gift Zulu	72
Dumsani Msibi	72
Best Gross	Valentine Maziya 72
Novelties section	
Willard Mkhwanazi	nearest hole 2/11
Sibusiso Shongwe	nearest hole 8/17
Tata Dlamini	nearest hole 9/18
Nokuthula Dlamini	longest drive

Ncanywa could be out for the rest of the season

SOCCER – Swazi Bank Cup 2017 semi-finalists Matsapha United's striker Msimisi Ncanywa could be out of action until the end of the current campaign.

The former Mbabane Highlanders and Umbelebele player is still struggling to recuperate from the knee injury he sustained during a league match against Sikhalo Se Africa played two weeks ago.

The team's Acting Chief Executive Officer Victor 'Mavikane' Dlamini confirmed that the player was struggling with the injury.

"Ncanywa is still out injured but is under the close eye of our medical team which is nursing him around the clock. We will not rush him back but will wait for him to heal completely," he said.

Dlamini then invited the team's supporters to come and rally



Acting Chief Executive Officer Victor 'Mavikane' Dlamini.

behind the team when they take on Manzini Wanderers in the semi-finals of the Swazi Bank Cup at the Somhlolo National Stadium this afternoon.

RESULTS

NEDBANK CUP		
Mamelodi Sundowns	0-1	Golden Arrows
Chippa United	2-0	Polokwane City


PREMIER LEAGUE		
Tottenham Hotspur	4-0	Watford
Manchester City	3-1	Hull City
Middlesbrough	0-0	Burnley
West Brom	0-1	Southampton
West Ham United	1-0	Swansea City
Stoke City	1-2	Liverpool

FIXTURES


TODAY		
NEDBANK CUP		
15:00 Bloemfontein Celtic	vs	Mbombela United
15:00 Acombush	vs	Kaizer Chiefs
PREMIER LEAGUE		
14:30 Sunderland	vs	Manchester United
17:00 Everton	vs	Leicester City

SundayObserverSPORTING

April 9, 2017

'WESELI' DRAMA!



- Task team refuses to handover Swazi Bank kits
- Organises secret camp for players ahead of game against Matsapha United today

#Yelele

PAGE 39

NEDBANK CUP

Makola, Manyisa lead Bucs into Nedbank quarters

BETHLEHEM - Mpho Makola and Oupa Manyisa were among the goal scorers as Orlando Pirates defeated Free State Stars 4-1 to advance in the Nedbank Cup.

The Buccaneers enjoyed an encouraging start to the encounter, while Stars' Goodman Dlamini forced Siyabonaga Mpontshane into a good save inside the opening 15 minutes.

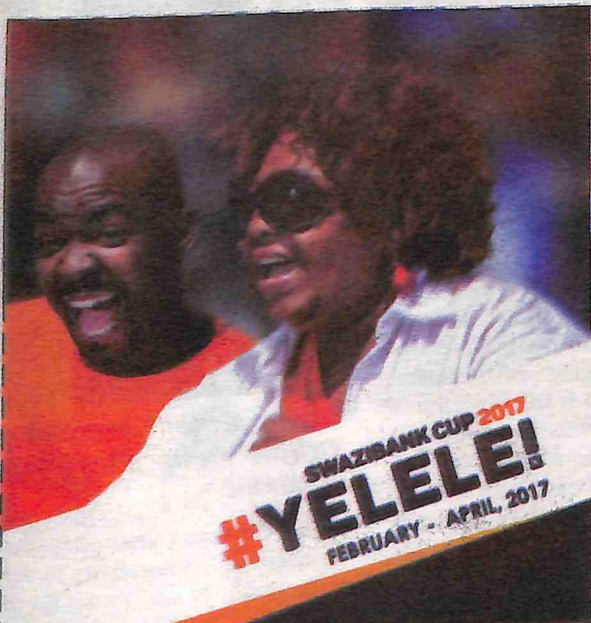
Pirates were rewarded for a fine start, as Mpho Makola collected a pass from Happy Jele before rifling the ball into the far corner from 25-yards out in the 20th minute.

Stars, meanwhile, still posed a threat to the Pirates defence, with Sinethemba Jantjie causing a few problems down the left flank.

Pirates had a chance to extend their lead in the 39th minute when Makola picked out Thabo Matlaba in the box, but the full-back could only head over from close range.

Levelled

However, Stars levelled matters five minutes before the haltime break as Sifiso Mbhele rose well and sent a towering header into the far corner. Pirates restored their lead shortly after the haltime break when Okumo headed Makola's cross into his own net, with Mafoumbi left stranded. Stars responded by introducing Danny Venter for Goodman Dlamini in the 55th minute, as they pushed for an equaliser. However, the Buccaneers grabbed their third goal in the 62nd minute as Manyisa calmly lifted the ball over the on-rushing Mafoumbi, after some fine build-up play. Kjell Jonevret opted for a change on 70 minutes as Tendai Ndoro made way for Thamsanqa Gabuza, who scored in the previous round. It went from bad to worse for Stars in the 76th minute when Makhehlene Makhaula was sent off for picking up his second yellow card of the game. *Soccerladuma*



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