

O SUNDAY bserver observer.org.sz



The Right Place

The Right Sunday



JULY 9, 2017

PRICE: E6.00 (VAT INCLUSIVE)

ZAZA-VOOM!



Local artist Nomzamo Dlamini, who is also popularly known as 'Zaza', performs with the MTN Joyous Celebration Choir in last night's Heal Our Land Concert, which packed thousands of gospel music lovers. (Pic: Simon Shabangu)

See more
pics on
Page 4

'CUT THEIR PAY'

PAGES 2-3

● Textile workers complain
politicians don't know what it is
like to live below poverty line

PULL OUT

Scene



SASSY SASHA

HIPNOTIK FESTIVAL PAGES 8-13

JAN CALLS FOR NATIONAL DIALOGUE

PAGE 2

'WOMEN SHOULD WORK HARD FOR THEIR POSITIONS'



PAGE 5

Lodge your claim with the MVA Fund a.s.a.p!

Been in an accident?

website: www.mva.org.sz tel: 2408 6800 call centre: 800 7005



DOC13911

CLARIFICATION

CUT POLITICIANS'

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

...to below E3 000 per month for country to reach First World status

Employees earning less than E3 000 a month based at the Matsapha Industrial Site are calling for a review of politicians salaries in order for them to appreciate how it feels to live below the poverty line.

This they said during interviews at Akunalutfo Shopping Complex when textile workers were asked about their feelings about the findings of a study conducted by SER-PAC that the living wage for a family of three in the rural areas is E3 076 per month while pegged at E5 148 for the urban areas.

"We have been calling for increased wages for years and these have fallen on deaf ears because the people who could be able to make a change are living comfortable lives," an employee of Union Textile Factory said.

Stating that their wages were less than ideal, the employee pleaded to speak on condition of anonymity stating that she could be fired for talking while employed at the factory.

"We are tired of hearing how the situation should be and want every-



The price of bread is slashed to E6 00 every Thursday at Mashayitafula Pick n Pay and textile workers scramble to buy it on this day as this is the only time they can afford its price. (Pics: Thembeke Dlamini)

thing enacted really fast. How are we expected to live with such meagre salaries," she asked, adding how she has worked as a mechanist in different factories for over 15 years.

"I have nothing to show for it. No job security because the minute I get sick, someone will take my place," she said.

She said seeing as their unionists

have been over the last years calling for improved wages with the minimum pegged at E3 500 per month, "I have not seen anything change because I only get E1 800 per month and I am supposed to feed my two children and educate them."

She said she was lucky that their father was supportive.

"Imagine if he did not pay for their school fees or buy them clothes. What would I do with them," she asked rhetorically.

She was found waiting along the boundary of the complex for a colleague who was inside Pick n Pay buying bread with three workers from Knitwear and New Life Garments. "I don't want to get into the shop because all I have is the E24 which will be used to buy bread for the whole week," she said.

Every Thursday, hundreds of textile workers rush to the retailer to buy fresh bread which is marked down at E6 each instead of the usual E9.50 per loaf.

"This is the only day I buy bread otherwise my children would not eat it," she said, adding how she feared going into the shop as she

HOW TO FIND US:

#Swaziobserver
Swaziobserver

MANAGING EDITOR:

Mbongeni Mbingo
email: mbingo@observer.org.sz
Cell: 7602 9564
P.O. Box A385, Swazi Plajza
Mbabane, Bettusile Street
Tel: 2404 4437, 2404 4436,
2404 9600, 2404 9707
2404 0706
email: info@observer.org.sz
website: www.observer.org.sz

ACTING SUNDAY EDITOR:

Mbongeni Mbingo

EDITORIAL CONTACTS

News Reporters
Thembeke Dlamini
Mlondi Mpanza
Zwelethu Dlamini
Email: Sunday@observer.org.sz

Scene Editor

scene@observer.org.sz

Sports Editor:

Qondile Ntiwame

Sports Reporters:

Sibusiso Masilela
Sabelo Majola
Sibusiso Dlamini

Senior Subeditor:

Futhi Dlamini

MARKETING MANAGER

Siphesihle Mkhonta - 76052296
2404 8671 / 404 8699
smm@observer.org.sz

CIRCULATION OFFICER

Bongani Simelane - 7605 3707
circulation@observer.org.sz

MANZINI OFFICE

Makhaya Convinient Centre No.25
Sifiso Nhlabatsi - 7674 6378
Tel: 505 2320, Fax: 2505 7220

SITEKI OFFICE

Siteki market offices, Office No:15
Wonderboy Dlamini - 2343 5779
Cell: 7643 6549

PIGG'S PEAK OFFICE

Kai Kai Building opposite Shoprite,
Office No:3 Tel: 2437 1083
Sizwe Dlamini Cell: 760 0678
Email: observersipiki@realnet.co.sz

NHLANGANO OFFICE

Tobacco Company Complex
Cnr King George, Masengule
Street Opposite SEDCO Premises,
Tel: 2207 5159
Starsky Mkhonta
Cell: 7621 5081

National dialogue needed – Jan

Former trade unionist turned politician Manzini North Member of Parliament Jan Sithole says sentiments about reviewing politicians pay are borne out of dissatisfaction over wealth distribution in the country.

Stating that he cannot say the call for reduced wages of lawmakers by a small group of textile workers is wrong as they were sharing their own opinion, he said it was, however, folly to think that such an exercise would tackle inequalities adequately.

"Every Swazi has a right to state their opinion and as such I cannot say it is a wrong opinion. However, it is important to note that every leader of an institution and country has a right to

have a vision on where he wishes the country to be," Sithole said.

He said he was once an employee and was now politician and his experience showed that wages and salaries did not determine the direction of the economy.

Instead, utilisation of natural resources to the fullest would enable the economy to improve. He said there was need to transform economic and investor policies in order to change the country's economic outlook and make more attractive.

The Manzini North MP said it was only in the event that the country utilises all its natural resources that there will be adequate employment with properly pegged minimum wages. He said there was need for national



Manzini North Member of Parliament Jan Sithole.

dialogue where people could say what they foresee as solutions because calls to decrease politicians salaries showed that there was a huge problem that needed to be addressed.

'WE LIVE ON SHYLOCKS'

In the event there is an emergency that needs money, textile workers revealed that they live off their peers who operate informal lending services.

"We live off shylocks who make a killing off us," Phindile Simelane said.

Explaining who these shylocks are, she said there was always a colleague within their ranks who has better finances and able to lend out money.

"We are charged 20 per cent per fortnight because we get paid twice a month," she alleged.

She said it called for one to pay the loan on the next pay day otherwise it attracts another 20 per cent. "Shylocking is rife in the textile factories because it is difficult to manage the little money

we get," she said.

Explaining, she said seeing as she gets E750 per fortnight, she has to pay rent, which is E420 per month, and is only left with E300 to use during the next two weeks as there are usually bank charges on their accounts.

"The fortnight I pay rent on is usually the worst one to manage because I have to make do with the E300 for food and transportation," Simelane said.

Adding, she said should anything arise, she is forced to then take a loan.

"I once took a loan of E300 to send home to my children who needed school shoes whereas I had not budgeted for them. It took me three months to settle it and by then it had accumulated

to over E500 as well as threats of assault which I had no way of deterring since I am the one who went and asked for the loan," she said.

She alleged that she once witnessed a shylock taking groceries from a colleague after she had failed to repay E120. "The groceries were worth E200 but because there was no way of asking for some of them back, she lost all her food," Simelane said.

"We know that the shylocks are operating illegally, but they use intimidation to make us repay and if you owe a person, it is difficult to report it at the police station because it is time consuming and will result in docked pay in the event you have to appear in court," she said.

Reaching First World status not an event - ATUSWA

Amalgamated Trade Union of Swaziland (ATUSWA) Secretary General Wonder Mkhonza says the country is not headed in the direction of First World status.

"I don't see anything being done that will enable all citizens to reach the status by 2022," Mkhonza said. He said politicians should note that reaching such was not an event that can suddenly be attainable when the time comes. "It is a process that has not started in the event workers are not taken care of."

There is too much backlog," he said, further affirming that remuneration for work done equated to slave wages.

"Workers are important, they are the backbone of the country. In the event their issues are not addressed, there will never be unity that can drive the country to 2022," he said.

He said he fears that the situation was getting volatile, "People who earn very little have nothing, so they have nothing to lose," he said adding that such caused discord which threatens unity. "It is important for workers to unite and fight for better wages," he said as though in reference to unions fighting for each other which has seen ATUSWA and the Swaziland Manufacturing and Allied Workers Union (SMAWU) in court over various allegations of interference.

"Our main focus should be on increasing wages for our membership and a united front will enable employees and government to hear us better," he said. He said with textile employees estimated to be around 16 000, this was too high a number to remain ignored with such wages. He said one of the biggest threat to textile workers was the fact that they are expandable and get replaced easily.

"There are a lot of experienced textile workers who can be found at the gates of factories making those who either get sick or call for better wages easy to replace."

PAY

would get depressed by other sales promotion as she does not have any money.

"My two children and I live on E600 groceries a month. Please calculate how much food one can buy on that. But I don't have a choice because this is all I can afford," she said.

Tallying how she spends her salary which she gets in two parts fortnightly, she said she pays rent at E550, transport for her eldest at E264 to travel to school, E100 for day-care for her youngest, E100 for clothes as she only buys second hand, E150 that she sends to her mother per month, E20 for airtime and the rest on toiletries and hair upkeep. "I struggle every single month to keep to this budget and I find myself having to borrow from shylocks," she said, adding how she is forced to borrow money when her children get sick or she has to go home.

"I hardly go home because it is disappointing to tell my mother that I don't have any money," she said.

She said she was not really happy about the study as it was irrelevant to their lives. She was joined by a colleague, Senteni Dlamini, who said she did not want to state which factory she worked for, "We are told that AGOA affected markets yet we are still producing clothing, where does it go then because it

does not stay in the factories."

Dlamini was referring to the loss of the United States of America Trade Act which enabled the country to supply goods to that country without duties. It was withdrawn by former President Barack Obama in 2015.

According to the office of the United States Trade Representative's website, withdrawing of the eligibility came after years of engaging with the government on concerns about its implementation of the AGOA eligibility criteria related to worker rights.

"After an extensive review, including through a USTR-led interagency trip in April (2014), the United States government concluded that Swaziland had not demonstrated progress on the protection of internationally recognised worker rights.

In particular, Swaziland has failed to make continual progress in protecting freedom of association and the right to organise. Of particular concern is Swaziland's use of security forces and arbitrary arrests to stifle peaceful demonstrations, and the lack of legal recognition for labour and employer federations." "The withdrawal of AGOA benefits is not a decision that is taken lightly," said US Trade Representative Michael Froman as quoted in the website, adding, "We have made our concerns very clear to Swaziland over the last several years and we engaged extensively on concrete steps that Swaziland could take to address the concerns. We hope to continue our engagement with the government of the Kingdom of Swaziland on steps it



Musa Charles Mkhweli said life was difficult as he is currently looking for employment.

can take so that worker and civil society groups can freely associate and assemble and AGOA eligibility can be restored."

Stating that she was not aware of what AGOA was, except that it is used to subdue them whenever they want to talk of increased salaries, Dlamini said her understanding was that the onus was on politicians to get it back.

"Since they have been failing, can they just get salary cuts for six months so that they know what we are feeling and maybe something can be done instead of them preaching that the country is headed for First World status," she said, adding that if the country was to be like the countries she sees on television, then everybody should be included in pay hikes and such other benefits.

'OUR CHILDREN WILL NEVER BE BETTER'

"We live from hand-to-mouth, our children drop out of school and if they are lucky, they join us in this industry," Fikile Dlamini (34) said with a forlorn expression.

The textile worker who originates from Ntontozi said it was disheartening to note that most of her colleagues' children dropped out of school as her daughter did.

"Free Primary Education ensures that our children complete the first phase but our wages stop them from getting into high school," she said.

Relating her own experience, she said she dropped out while doing Form I due to pregnancy.

"I had my daughter at 17," she said adding, how this caused her to later seek employment due to failure to maintain her daughter. "I tried to return to school but no one would pay for me because I would have to repeat the form as well," she said. Having stayed at home for five years, she said she first worked as a domestic worker for several years before going to Matsapha to seek employment. "I have been working at different factories for

(about) eight years while my daughter stayed with her paternal grandmother. I paid for her school fees for several years as it was before FPE, but she fell pregnant in Form II and now has a two-year-old who I also maintain along with her three siblings," she said.

She explained that due to her second born having completed her primary school education last year, "my first born has to find a job. I can't possibly pay for two children in high school because they both have fathers who are however failing to maintain them," she said. Dlamini said she had wished a better life for her children and now saw that they might all end up like her. "I pray every day that my second born does not fall into the same trap as my first, that she finishes school so that she can have a better life."

She said she felt blessed that the other children were boys, "They don't fall pregnant and I hope their fathers will take responsibility as they grow older because I intend taking them to their paternal grandparents as it is too much for me to maintain them."

Her sentiments were supported by

'SALES SAVE US FROM HUNGER'

Musa Charles Mkhweli, a labourer at the Matsapha Industrial Site said he was only assisted by sales, otherwise he would not survive.

"I have been looking for a job for quite some time and currently assist a friend for a meagre amount of money per month," he said. He said it was difficult to live while working in Matsapha as a casual labourer who gets paid according to work done. He was found carrying two litres of Emasi Emvelo sour milk brand after his purchasing spree at Pick n Pay. This was supported by Innocentia Ngwenya who

said she was looking for the Thursday specials otherwise she did not have money to buy anything extravagant. Siphephile Nhlabatsi said she kept her ear on the ground for sales in order to survive. "I buy vegetables off the street, buy live chickens and if there is anything I need from the shops, I wait until it is on sale or go to all retailers and compare prices," she said.

Philisiwe Dlamini said she was at a loss as she bought bread once week and that was the only time she ate it.

Busisiwe Dlamini, an employee at Mashayitafula Pick n Pay, said they had



Nomvuyo Dlamini said she was thankful that her employer pays her E1 000 for work done at the shop she works in.

Amalgamated Trade Union of Swaziland (ATUSWA) Secretary General Wonder Mkhonza who said it was unfortunate that most textile workers were single mothers who are unable to even go to court for maintenance as a day away means reduced wages.

"It is cyclical and very unfortunate," he said.

heightened activity whenever they had their sales promotions, especially their Thursday special where bread was sold at E6 as well as various other items.

"They are enticed by the bell which we ring near some of the marked down prices," she said while in the presence of her manager Seddy Louw who reiterated that they have many customers.

A visit to the bakery stand showed several people waiting for hot loaves of bread. As soon as a trolley laden with bread was seen coming out of the restricted bakery area, there was a mad rush for the loaves which were taken and finished before they could be packed on the shelves.

I steal food from employer - maid

A domestic worker who was found at Akunalutfo Shopping Complex in Matsapha admitted that she steals her employer's food to feed her children.

"I had E20, my last money, and all I could buy was two litres of Emasi Emvelo," she said. She said she had entered Pick n Pay to buy bread seeing as it is the only day she can buy it, when it costs E6 but resorted to buying the sour milk as her children will eat it longer.

There were several presumed textile workers who seemed to be making a choice between buying bread or the sour milk which were both on sale as they were noted turning back to leave the bread on seeing the E16 price on the latter. "I usually take small amounts of food for them from my employers stock, today I have an onion and a tin of baked beans which have been in the cupboard for a few months," she said.

The domestic worker said she had to make do with E800 per month while working at her employer's house and due to the fact that she eats there, she has to try make her salary go an extra mile.

She said she pays E100 for rent as she lives in a stick and mud hut without electricity.

"I pay E100 per month for day care for both of my children and they have to go with food. So I have to make sour porridge and a proper meal for lunch and still return

to cook them supper," she said. "In the morning, my children eat sour porridge and I cannot always buy the 3kg which now costs over E40. So what I do is take a little bit of sugar per day, at the most, five spoons, to make the sour porridge edible," she said.

She said she takes according to what her employer asks her to cook. "If I have to cook rice, I take a cup home and if it is meat, I cut off as little as I can to take home for my children and extend with soup. I have been fired before for stealing food but what can I do? I have two children waiting to be fed at home," she said.

She said the two litres of sour milk would last her three days as her children will have to eat it until it finishes, "Because I have no fridge." She said her monthly groceries comprised of 10kg rice and maize meal, chicken feet and offals which she buys randomly whenever she is unable to filch from her employer.

She said she at times quits her domestic work whenever there is employment at the textile factories.

"I have made friends with some of the supervisors who call me when there is an opening but I only get work as a casual and earn E450 per fortnight, it is better to work as a domestic because my meals are covered and all I have to do is make sure my kids have some food."

E1 000 is quite a good salary - cashier

A shop attendant had only glowing reviews for her boss who pays her E1 000 per month instead of the gazetted E1 700.

"I work in a shop and get paid well," Nomvuyo Dlamini said. This is despite the government gazette for cashiers stipulating they should be paid over E1 700 per month.

Smiling with pride, thought the interview, the cashier said she was happy with her pay as it was better than her peers.

"I walk to work and during lunch, I eat snacks," she said.

Dlamini said she was very happy about getting the job and the fact that she got paid well as she works

for a Swazi instead of an Asian national who she said are infamous for exploitation.

"I pay E120 rent because my flat does not have electricity and I send my granny E100 electricity every month.

I buy food worth E400 per month which comprises of tinned foods as well as rice and maize meal."

She said she was appreciative of her wages as they were better than most who have children and since she does not have any, she had more money to spend.

"I am able to lay-bye clothes and buy airtime with the rest of my money," she said.

WHAT E200 GETS YOU

Several textile and others were interviewed in Matsapha this past week to ascertain the value of E200. This was after some revealed how this is all they at times have to buy food to last a fortnight.

Sabelo Kunene, a Swaziland Fire and Emergency Services employee, said he would only buy 10kg of maize meal as well as chicken portions so as to have food in the event he only had E200 to spare and his shelves were empty.

Musa Mkhweli said he would also seek out the cheapest 10kg rice and maize meal as well as chicken portions which he says he hopes would be on sale.

Nomsa Dlamini said seeing as she lives on her own, E200 would take her a bit further than those who live with families as she needs small quantities. "I would buy 5kg rice, the smallest container of cooking oil, a small pocket of maize meal, sour milk,

soup as well as vegetables sold on the street and I might survive a whole week if I really save."

Businessman Hashim Hafeez said he would buy a live chicken for E35, onions for E9, a kilogram of basmati rice at E25, a kilogram of beef at E60 and a tray of eggs. He relented that some of the items would last him only a day.

Tengetile Tsabedze said she would use the money to buy maize meal at E35 which is sold along the streets of Matsapha near informal residential areas, a live chicken at E40, cooking oil at E20, sugar, tooth-paste worth E6 as well as vegetables at E5 each.

Precious Simelane said all she could buy was maize meal, rice and chicken and there would be nothing left over.

Nomvuyo Dlamini, a shop attendant, said she would buy food and toiletries only as she lives alone.

JOYOUS HEALS MAVUSO



Lynnzay leading the choir in 'Mighty God' yesterday during the MTN Joyous Celebration Heal our Land Concert held at the Mavuso Trade and Exhibition Centre. (Pics by Ayanda Dlamini and Simon Shabangu)



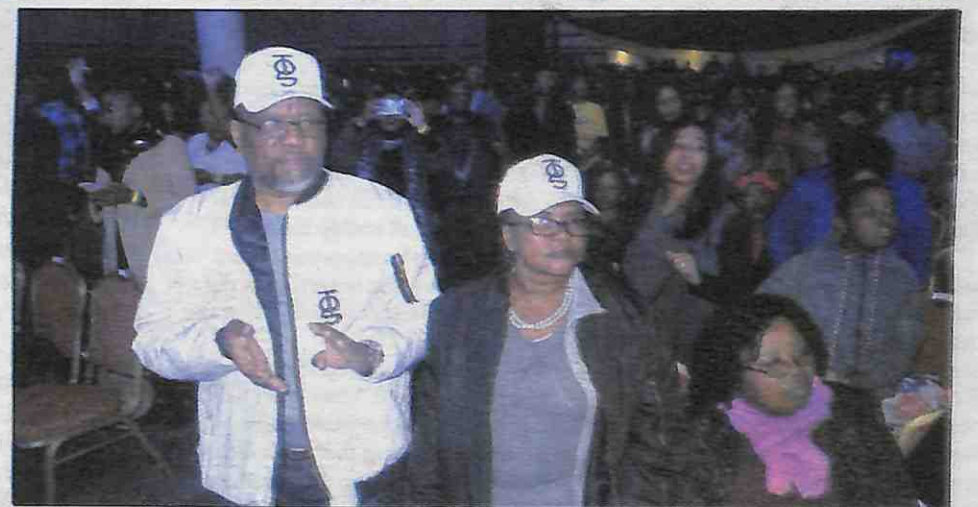
Joyous Celebration in full swing during their opening act.



Ministry of Health senior officials Dr Velephi Okello, Dr Gcinile Buthelezi and Rejoice Nkambule occupied the front row.



Thousands of people attended the MTN Joyous Celebration Heal our Land concert.



(R) Reverend Johannes Mazibuko and his wife Rose came dressed in Touch of Soul.

COFFEE SHOP

Primo Gato



Tulip Coffee Shop

TAKEAWAYS
WE DELIVER
AROUND TOWN-MBABANE

- We offer Great Breakfasts, Toasted Sandwiches, Cakes, Coffee
- We also do outside Catering

CONTACTS: Tel: 2404 0599
Cell: 7847 6427



WIN YOURSELF A SWSWATI BIBLE

WIN... WIN... WIN



THIS YEAR MARKS **20 YEARS** OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE SWSWATI BIBLE. THE SWAZILAND BIBLE SOCIETY HAS ALREADY MARKED THIS MILESTONE WITH A CELEBRATORY EVENT AND HAS RELAUNCHED THE SWSWATI BIBLE AS PART OF THE CELEBRATIONS THIS YEAR. THE SWAZI OBSERVER RECOGNISES THIS MILESTONE AND IS OFFERING YOU A CHANCE TO OWN YOUR OWN AS PART OF THE 20 YEARS ANNIVERSARY. WE HAVE 20 BIBLES TO GIVE AWAY TO OUR READERS OF THE SUNDAY OBSERVER. EVERY WEEK, WE WILL GIVE AWAY **5 BIBLES**. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION.

How old is the SWSwati Bible?

Name:

Address:

AND SEND AS MANY ENTRIES AS POSSIBLE.



5 SWSWATI BIBLE WINNERS

1. HENDRY MNDZEBELE - 121 EZULWINI
2. SIMANGELE DLAMINI - A505 SWAZI PLAZA
3. YENZOKUHLE DLAMINI - 113 SITEKI
4. NKOSIYAZILO DLAMINI - 6308 MBABANE
5. NANDIPHA MAVUSO - 194 MBABANE

MAIL YOUR ENTRIES TO:

SUNDAY OBSERVER
BIBLE COMPETITION
P.O. Box A385
SWAZI PLAZA

You can also drop off your entries at our offices



Lubombo RA, Sylvia Mthethwa, a former student of the Management College of Southern Africa (MANCOSA) pictured with some of the former students who have since formed an Alumni. This was during the first meeting at their offices above NANDOS on Friday. The meeting was also attended by a representative of the main office in Johannesburg Taelo Mokhabela. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

WOMEN SHOULD WORK HARD FOR THEIR POSITIONS

BY SIMON SHABANGU

LUBOMBO Regional Administrator Sylvia Mthethwa says women should be elected or appointed to positions of leadership by merit not by favour.

She said the call for women to be in positions like parliament and other key positions should not come as a pity-party born out of the need for gender equality. "Women must stand up and work hard to earn those positions."

She said the world's call for gender equality in positions of leadership was justified and in order, but it should be people who have done something meaningful for the community and deserving to be in those positions.

She was speaking at the Management College of Southern Africa (MANCOSA) inaugural alumni meeting on Friday where she was the guest speaker.

The interactive and networking meeting was held at the MANCOSA Swaziland Region offices above Nandos in Mbabane.

The country's first female Regional Administrator, and renowned businesswoman, who is a former King's Board of Trustees member, said she was in sup-

port of the gender equality that was being advocated for by the United Nations and other organisations. She, however, stated that she was against the notion that women should be appointed for the sake of balancing the scales.

She said education is important, especially for women, stating that it was the only tool that can make women stand out and deserve to take the lead.

"Often times, people say education is important, but I can assure you; the opposite is more expensive."

Dignity

Apart from the enlightenment you get here you also get self-confidence and dignity. Believe me, it is not only important in this day and era but it has become compulsory particularly for us women," she said. Adding, she said, "it does not help to rely on campaigns like 'vote for a woman' or mourn about equal opportunities when we know for a fact we have not done anything that warrants us to be recognised for those higher positions in society."

She said prioritising education was the surest way women can stand up and be counted. "Age is and should never be a factor particularly in our modern-day society. If you cannot read, you cannot lead and this applies at all spectrums of life" she said.

She said that she was a product of hard work and dedication, stressing that for anyone to be ahead in life they must work hard and more so equip themselves with relevant skills.

She said people must also align their lives to their Maker for them to realise the desires of their hearts. "I must hasten to say that if God was not on my side I wouldn't have made it this far, not only with regards to my studying here at MANCOSA but in life in general. I had to be like Ruth in the Bible and be loyal in all my relationships while walking the extra mile and telling myself I cannot quit just because it was getting tough. Instead, I had to get tougher with the hope that one day I will see why it was all worth the effort. Indeed, today I can safely say 'it wasn't easy but it was worth it' she said. She added that the MANCOSA qualification she acquired added a lot of value to her life which saw her climbing the ladders of success.

"Education was our ticket to a brighter and better world. And probably for most of us, education was the only way out. We thank MANCOSA that in their full agenda and busy schedule they have found time to provide a great bridge between the alumni and this respected college - connecting both students (previous and



Sylvia Mthethwa addressing members of the newly formed alumni.



Zanele Shongwe who is also a degree holder from the college making her remarks.

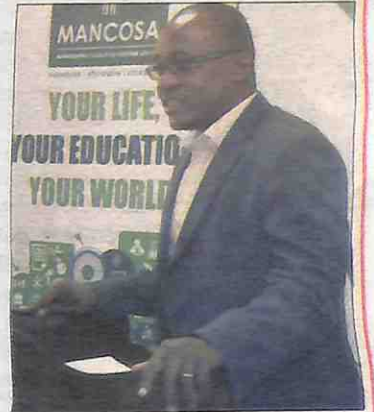
current) and Tutors and staff, allowing us to share with each other our experiences, challenges and opportunities that being part of this institution has unlocked for some of us" she said.

She said the idea of alumni for MANCOSA graduates was a perfect, stressing that it will offer them an opportunity to meet and share ideas and experiences professionally and life in general.

Members

Also speaking at the event was MANCOSA Senior Lecturer from Johannesburg, Taelo Mokhabela, who encouraged the members to always aim high and work towards achieving even better. She said the best way to achieve in life was to always do better. She said education was the key to many things stating that even if one comes from the poorest of poor, they can always be better people in future through education.

She urged people to continue to achieve even higher qualifications than what they already have. She said that acquiring more qualifications also placed one in a better position to be recommended for execu-



One of MANCOSA MBA graduates Bongani Chauke making his comments.

tive positions at their respective work places. She said those in business also get to do and understand business even better. "Once you are equipped with the skills you acquire from our institution you gain a lot on top of the qualification itself you gain self-confidence and also become a better leader" she added.

Other speakers on the day were Zanele Shongwe and Bongani Chauke who shared similar sentiments about the importance of education and empowering oneself. They both thanked MANCOSA for being a good platform for them to acquire skills that have helped them grow in their areas of employment.

MANCOSA Swaziland Region Administrator Nomile Dlamini-Simelane said this was the first alumni meeting. She said things will get better next year.

She stated that they are planning that the alumni meeting be an annual event, also adding, that they will try to time it in a manner that will allow more of their former students to attend. She thanked those who came through adding that she was hoping next year they will encourage others to attend.



Get more value on data, voice calls and SMSs with MTN Saver Combos.

You choose how to connect, when to connect and with whom to connect for less with these MTN Saver Combos. So, select your lifestyle pack and start connecting.

Monthly Bundles

Top Shayela Supa	Top Shayela Master	Scamtho Standard	Scamtho Mini
100 Minutes + 2GB + 100 SMSs	100 Minutes + 2GB + 100 SMSs	100 Minutes + 1GB + 100 SMSs	100 Minutes + 1GB + 100 SMSs
E650	E360	E250	E160

Dial *686# to buy a combo.

Prices & values include VAT. MTN Swaziland and MTN Service Provider Terms and Conditions apply. See mtn.co.sz. Customers can purchase MTN Saver Combos by dialing *686#. MTN Saver Combos will auto-renew, until customer opts out. MTN Saver Combo minutes can be used to make on-net calls only (MTN to MTN). If a customer depletes any service within a combo, they can purchase airtime and conveniently access that service. MTN Saver Combos can be used at any time of the day and week until depleted. MTN Saver Combos are valid for 30 days from purchase. E&OE.



'SRA WAS GRANTED TOO MUCH POWER'

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

...needs to be monitored by a tax tribunal

The Swaziland Revenue Authority Act seems to have been granted the agency too much power which has resulted in closure of several businesses in the country.

This is one of the observations made in the draft report of the review of country's 2017/18 national budget prepared for CANGO by consultant Enziwe Dube. The report recommends, among other things, that civic society should lobby for an amendment of the act establishing the Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA) to ensure that funds in people's accounts be seized through a court order.

The consultant cites that SRA has authority of instructing commercial banks to transfer funds from people's accounts including small businesses which leads to their closure. "This has resulted in a number of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) closing shop. While domestic revenue is encouraged, it remains the constitutional right of the alleged defaulter to defend himself in a

court of law," reads part of the recommendation on domestic revenue collection.

The consultant's observation and recommendation is also shared by the business community which is calling for the minister of finance to establish a tax tribunal which will monitor and resolve appeals and objections against SRA's policies and decisions. Federation of Swazi Business Community (FSBC) Vice President Hezekiel Mabuza said the organisation receives numerous complaints about SRA concerning value added tax (VAT) penalties which should be directed to the tax tribunal which is not yet formed.

Mabuza said "too much" power vested upon SRA, including the authority to instruct banks to transfer funds from their accounts is a thorny issue as businesses end up failing to pay for operating expenses such as wages and rent which subsequently leads to closure of businesses. He revealed that several businesses were at the verge of collapse while

others have already shut down due to failure to pay the accumulated interest and penalties and sadly they have nowhere to lodge complains. Mabuza said it would be difficult for SRA to reverse its decisions or adjudicate appeals and objections against the Authority but such cases would be better handled by a tax tribunal as indicated in the VAT Act.

Difficult

"Until such time we have this body it is difficult to have smooth ground as at the current situation business people are forced to register their complains and appeals with SRA which is not different from being judged by the same person or referee you are complaining about," he lamented.

He pointed out that the agency would in most cases justify their acts by stating that they are simply implementing the law, and therefore, would not see a need to reverse or issue a judgment against the law establishing SRA. He said it would be easier for the Tax tribunal to lobby for the amendment of

the SRA Act than the agency or the business community.

He also pointed out that the late payment from debtors and bad debts written off made it difficult for businesses to submit the tax in time which then attracts interest and penalties which accumulate beyond affordability and subsequently leads closure.

When asked about the measures taken by the federation taken to address this challenge, Mabuza said they are constantly engaging the minister of finance and SRA.

"All parties agree that the function of the authority is to collect tax not to close businesses and mutual relations have to be maintained if compliance with the law is to be achieved. We are getting a positive response from the minister and SRA we hope they will assist businesses," he said. Mabuza pointed out that if local businesses are closing, it means the country will make way for foreign as which also comes with challenges to the economy

Value Added Tax Regulations, 2012 provide the following:

A VAT return for each tax period and any VAT payable, must be submitted to the SRA not later than 20 days after the end of a tax period. For example, where a tax period ends on 31st July, the VAT return and payment should reach the SRA no later than 20th August. Failure to submit a VAT payment is an offence and additional tax at 2 per cent, per month will be payable. Furthermore the taxpayer may be liable, on conviction to fines or imprisonment or both.

Provisions for the tax tribunal in the Act state:

(1) A person dissatisfied with an objection decision may, within 30 days after being served with notice of the objection decision, submit a notice of appeal with the Tax Tribunal and serve a copy of the notice of appeal on the Commissioner-General.

(2) The Tribunal may admit an appeal after the expiration of 30 days if it is satisfied that the appellant has a good and sufficient reason for not submitting the notice of appeal within the time specified in subsection (1).

(3) In an appeal to the Tax Tribunal against an objection decision, a person is limited to the grounds set out in the objection, unless the Tribunal grants the person leave to add new grounds.

(4) In deciding an appeal, the Tribunal may make a decision-

(a) affirming, reducing, increasing, or varying the assessment under appeal; or,

(b) remitting the assessment for reconsideration by the Commissioner General in accordance with the directions of the Tribunal.

Power shortages impacting SACU economy negatively

BY ZWELETHU DLAMINI

Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Senator Jabulile Mashwama has urged SADC member states to work together to implement projects planned and prioritised under the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) as this would address the power shortages in the region and enhance economic growth.

The minister, who was represented by the Principal Secretary Winnie Stewart in the official opening of the 36th SADC energy senior officials meeting held at Royal Swazi Sun said energy is the cornerstone for economic growth.

"The shortage of power has a massive impact on the SADC economic growth and the projected regional economic growth will not be realised if power problems are not resolved in the next few years," she said.

Experience

The minister said the region will continue to experience power shortages unless the planned generation projects are accelerated and implemented by SAPP. She pointed out that energy shortage is a challenge to the region and as such member states should work together and avert any looming power shortages by implementing the pool plan. Mashwama also noted that the region has a wealth of energy resources but the energy access rates are still significantly low while energy prices continue to rise. "Recognising the role that energy plays in our economies we will all agree that the region needs to make great strides in attracting sustainable investment into the SADC energy sector," she said.

The event was attended by among



Natural Resources and Energy PS Winnie Stewart delivering her speech on behalf of the minister. 2. Energy officials from member states including South Africa, Seychelles and Namibia were also present.



Lindiwe Dlamini, Henry Shongwe, SEC Managing Director Meshack Kunene, SERA CEO Vusimuzi Mkhumane and SEC General Operations Manager Ernest Mkhonta.

others the SADC Secretariat, representatives of SAPP, managing directors of energy regulators and senior energy officials from SADC member states who are preparing for the 36th SADC joint meeting of the minister responsible for energy and water which

is scheduled to end on 11 July.

Revealed

The minister revealed that in the ministers meeting, they would look at status reports as well as having robust discussions on several critical matters of importance in areas of electricity gen-

eration, renewable energy, energy efficiency, petroleum and gas.

"Over the next few days, your meeting needs to take stock of progress made to date, identify and address bottlenecks and thereafter propose matters for the implementation of the SADC

energy programme.

Most importantly, it is important to state that member states should endeavour to implement decisions and meet their obligations and commitments made at SADC energy ministers meetings," she added.

SCHOOLS FOOD CRISES:

PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS PROTEST, BEG FOR FOOD

STORIES BY LUSITO TSELA

Pupils at Mnyokane Anglican Primary School have for the past two months been protesting against the lack of food which is usually served in the form of two meals.

Most of the children are orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC) and they come to school on an empty stomach with the expectation that they will get at the very least—two meals per day.

The school's storage and bank account ran dry when it closed for the first term which now makes life difficult even for them to cope as a school.

"I cannot even call a parents meeting to discuss the issue with them because they will want to help and that will be topping up, which is against the FPE policy, so my hands are tied," said Principal Celucolo Mndzebele.

Simphiwe Maseko, a grade three pupil, narrated his story with tears in his eyes that his life was now hard as he lives with his grandmother and in most cases arrives at school with the hope of a proper meal.

Asked how he copes with the prevailing situation which has seen schools across the country without food, he said, "I ask from other pupils for something to eat at school and when I can't

get any, I go the whole day without (food)."

Mndzebele said they were still waiting for the Free Primary Education (FPE) grant, which has a provision of E150 for food for the whole year per pupil. Over and above the grant, they also get some foodstuff from government and the situation has been rendered dire by government's failure to deliver both.

"The problem is that there is no person we can contact directly about the matter for the FPE grants as we are only required to fill forms," he said, adding how it would have been a bit bearable if there was at the least, food

from government.

He said some of the pupils at the school were on medication which made the situation hard even for them as teachers, and as a school they feared that most pupils might drop out of school.

Mndzebele further added that the government was using the issue of transfer cards as a delaying tactic as they were told that their enrolment was not complete without the transfer cards of 27 pupils from the school before they release the grant.

"It's like having a father who instead of paying his children's school fees demands for a DNA test to prove that



A Mnyokane Primary School pupil. (Pics: Lusito Tsela)

the children are his," said Mndzebele.

Principals had a meeting at the Mfanyana hall with the minister of education. He said that he was not aware of the situation but would look into it, "which is always politician's escape plan," said.

School retrenches support staff due to late FPE grant

Mnyokane Anglican Primary School has since relieved three support staff of their duties due to the delay of the Free Primary School Education (FPE) grant which up to now has not been received from government.

"It is a very painful thing when one has to retrench staff who are bread winners in their families because there is no money to pay them," said Principal Celucolo Mndzebele after revealing that they had to ask the secretary, cook and groundsman to stay at home.

However, the secretary was recalled with a promise that she would only be paid once the grant has been allocated to the school.

Dlamini, the school's groundsman, confirmed that they were called to a meeting by the school committee where they were told sad news.

"We were called to attend a meeting individually by the committee and I had a premonition that they were hiding something," said Dlamini narrating how he got to know that he was to be without a job.

"The most painful part is that I am buried in debts which I incurred because I was working, now I am told to go home without pay till the government releases the Free Primary Education (FPE) grant to schools. It saddens me that I was not even given notice," said

Dlamini.

Dlamini revealed that he is the sole bread winner in his family with seven dependants; all who will be affected by his jobless state.

Dlamini said he had been working at the school as a groundsman and also reverted to being a security guard when schools were closed; something he said could have under normal circumstances been well paying had he been paid for both duties.

Shock

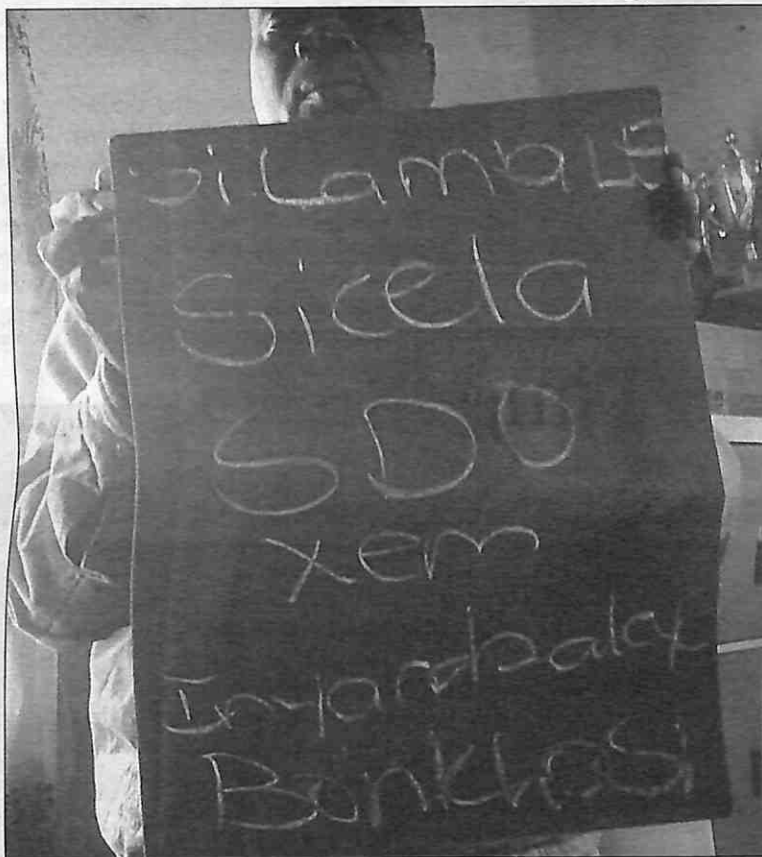
Make Mavuso, who used to work as a cook said she got the shock of her life when she went to cash her pay cheque only to be told there were no funds due to the school's current negative balance.

Mavuso said she was pained by the whole situation as she has a family to support as a sole bread winner supporting her whole family with the money she got from cooking.

"The situation is very painful because when you see children who are used to having something to eat hungry, as a parent that is the worst pain you can go through," she said.

Her joblessness was not only being caused by the late grant. The school's storage ran empty at the end of the first term and she not cooked anything since schools opened in May.

She said being at home pains her in



Mnyokane Principal Celucolo Mndzebele.

double fold because she now sees some of the pupils who made it to school in time for the first meal bunking because they were no longer drawn by the prospect of a warm meal before class.

"When I see some of the children bunking school, I see that both matters need to be sorted as early as possible," she said.

Mavuso said she was taking the sit-

uation one day at a time since the school had promised to recall her the minute they received the grant. The secretary, Futhi Mabuza, also revealed that she was twiddling her thumbs at home.

Manner

She also confirmed the manner in which they were alerted of their employment status. "I was, however, asked to continue with my duties but I will only be paid when the school receives the grant from government."

Mabuza said she was aware that the school was facing hard times but was not yet worried. "In my recollection, this is the first time things have gone so bad and I will really start worrying when I remain unpaid for a prolonged period."

Confirming the plight of the workers, Principal Mndzebele said, "it is a very difficult thing even me because I have worked with the support staff for some years and they are good people who have families to take care of, but for now all is not lost since the situation might change."

When asked about reasons given for the late grant, he said it was confusing because the ministry was telling them that they had failed to give particulars of transferred students on time, hence the delay, whereas he heard that the delay was for the whole country.

MQOLO PRIMARY ON ITS KNEES

In a case synonymous with other primary schools across the country, Mqolo Primary Principal Archie Thwala confirmed that his school was buckling under the pressure of operating without funds.

This is due to the delayed Free Primary Education (FPE) grant which makes things harder for the school to run on a day-to-day basis as well as the failure by government to deliver food for the pupils.

The principal said the last time the school received any food from government was last year.

"When schools opened this year,

we used the food we had on our reserves which lasted us only part of the first term, and if it was not for the first instalment of the Free Primary Education (FPE) grant we would have ended the first term without food," said Thwala.

The Principal further mentioned that there had been cases where some of the children were reported to not coming to school because there was no food to entice them. The principal said the situation was harder due to the high numbers of orphaned and vulnerable children.

"Because most of the children are

OVCs, they come to school without having eaten anything at home, which makes it hard for them to concentrate in class on an empty stomach," he said, adding how some of the children have been reported sick with some not coming to school at all.

Situation

He pleaded that while the situation prevailed, parents should make means of providing their children with breakfast in the morning as the school had nothing to give them at the moment. "It is very difficult for teachers to teach under these circumstances because in most cases the children

sleep during classes, and their span of concentration is very low. In most cases, half of the class is missing. That compromises learning and derails the teachers in their job."

Thwala said should the current situation prevail, there might be a high rate of failures in school if the issues are not sorted in time by government.

He said he was relieved about reports that food would be delivered to schools by Tuesday.

He said extra curriculum activities, such as sports, had been halted because children could not be expected to participate well on empty stomachs.

The Principal said the Regional Education Office (REO) told them

that FPE grant will be released once the school has submitted all the transfer cards of new students at the school.

Received

Swaziland Principal's Association (SWAPA) is still in the dark about when government will release the Free Primary Education (FPE) grant. President Welcome Mhlanga confirmed that schools have not received the second trench and that he did not know why exactly it had taken this long, but said that they will be having a meeting on Monday to discuss the issue (both the food crisis and the Free Primary Education (FPE) grant) with the relevant parties so they get informed of the latest developments.



General ticket holders invading the VIP section on Cassper Nyovest's invitation as he promised to pay the expenses if necessary. This was during the first night of Hipnotik festival on Friday night at Ezulwini by Royal Villas. (Pics: Ayanda Dlamini and Simon Shabangu)



Cassper Nyovest entertaining the audience at the Hipnotik Festival on Friday night.

CASSPER THROWS VIP IN DISARRAY AT

● He invited general ticket holders to invade the VIP section on his account

STORIES BY AYANDA DLAMINI

South African superstar, Cassper Nyovest, broke all the rules by doing what he called the right thing for his fans as he called for them to invade the VIP section.

This he did after noting that the general section was situated from a distance whereas there were not many people in the section situated closer.

The musician who is famed for several hits, including of *Phumakim'* and *Tito Mboweni*, noted the unusually placed general section which was situated behind both the VVIP and VIP

whereas these did not have a lot of people.

In other shows, the general section is usually situated in front of the stage with the VIP and VVIP which are characterised by comfortable seating and service, situated off-centre in cordoned areas.

Party

"Wait guys, why are my people at the back? It's too far, I want them close so we can party. Is that the VVIP section," the artist who recently released his third studio album *Thuto*, said while pointing at the general section.

"Please let them in, they are too far.

Security let them in. I will talk to the promoter and I will pay, like you can't let my people stand there," he said on stage before he had even sang his first piece.

Expenses

He said he would pay the expenses if necessary.

Though the security guards looked reluctant to let revellers into the VIP section and continued to push fun lovers back, they were however overpowered by the milling throng who physically pushed and shoved to get closer.

By so doing, they had to break through makeshift fence and left the security



Hipnotik Festival organiser Sakhile Nkambule (centre) of Swazi Jive with friends at the show.




A view of the many young people who attended the show on Friday night.



The elation on the faces of fun lovers running to the VIP section after Nyovest called for them to move closer.

SA Hip Hop artist Cassper rendering his performance which thrilled the thousands of fans at the Hipnotik Festival on Friday night.



Public Service Pensions Fund

PUBLIC SERVICE PENSIONS FUND
P.O. BOX 4469, MBABANE
Tel: 2411 9000 / 2404 8740/3 www.pspf.co.sz
TOLL FREE: 800 2401

[/PSPFswaziland](#) [@PSPF_Swaziland](#)

INVITATION TO TENDER
JOB EVALUATION AND REMUNERATION REVIEW

- Requirement**
Tenders are requested from suitably qualified service providers for conducting a Job Evaluation and Remuneration Review for the Public Service Pensions Fund.
- Conditions and Scope**
Tender documents detailing the terms of reference of the exercise are available at a non-refundable fee of E100 from the Finance Department located on the 6th Floor, Ingcamu Building, Mhlambanyatsi Road, Mbabane.
- Submission**
Completed tenders are to be returned in sealed envelopes, clearly marked "Tender for Job Evaluation and Remuneration Review" and deposited in the tender box at PSPF Head Office, Ground Floor by the 18 July 2017 and addressed to:

The Chairman - Tender Committee
Public Service Pensions Fund
Mhlambanyatsi Road
Mbabane
- Enquiries**
Enquiries pertaining this tender must be directed to the Director Corporate Services at (+268) 2411 9000.

DOC:14003



Nyovest fans filled up the VIP section as they were thrilled by his performance.

HIPNOTIK FEST

guards to man the emptied general section.

Cassper gladly welcomed his fans shouting, "Yeah now we can party. Are you guys ready?"

He opened up his set with his hit *Phumakim* which sent revellers into a frenzy.

Scheduled

He had been scheduled to perform at 22:45 pm but due to late start of the festival, he took over the stage at 1:05 am.

He was the first international act to get on the Hipnotik stage following two locals.

Cassper, who is a Ciroc Vodka Brand Ambassador, would occasionally sip his drink and made

mention that he came to have fun with his fans.

During his performance, he invited two of his fans to join him on stage as they danced together.

He would occasionally appreciate the energy and love from his fans, "You guys are amazing, such a lovely crowd! You guys are amazing," he repeatedly said.

The artist previously appeared on the Hipnotik Festival in 2014 and 2015 and has never failed to deliver. After his invigorating performance, he seemed to enjoy other performances as he watched all the other acts, interacted with Hipnotik crew, other artists and fans. He left the place at around 5:30 am.



A delivery van with couches for the golden lounge section at 00:10am still setting up the place.

...New venue, late start, first leg not properly organised

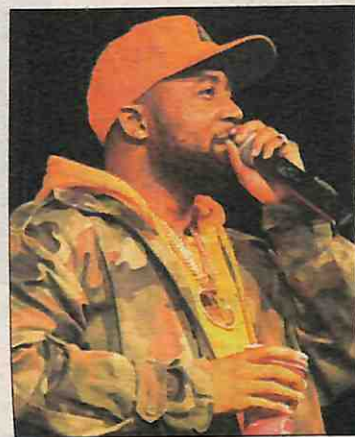
It was a case of a new venue, late start, disgruntled general ticket holders and Cassper Nyovest's saving grace.

As much as the line-up of the first-two day Hipnotik Festival was hailed as amazing by revellers, the show itself did not seem well organised as it started off very late, way after the initial starting time which was 6pm.

Around that time, the stage was still being set up and the sound system as well.

It took the organising team almost four hours to set up the stage and sound system.

Just after midnight, the arena was still quite empty while the VIP and golden lounge for the VVIP were being set up. Delivery vehicles were still moving around the furniture; white couches to the golden section and most fun



'Tito Mboweni' hit-maker making a request to the security guards.

lovers had lost hope that the event would start.

Most Hipnotik fans were disappointed with the VIP and general setting as most of them decided to spend the night outside the gate as it was more fun outside before Cassper made their night.

"If only I knew this would be the general section, I'd be in my bedroom sleeping. Like come on guys, we can't see anything from here," said Nombulelo Dlamini who looked not so happy at the general section before Cassper's performance.

"We don't mind the dust yes. We are used to it but the old place was way better or maybe next year it's going to be better, I'm such a huge Hipnotik fan," Dlamini said.

The show, which was not so well attended when compared with previous years, however heated up despite the late start and disgruntlement.

WIN a trip to watch Trevor Noah live

Swipe your card when making purchases of over **£100** and stand a chance to win an all expenses paid trip to watch a live comedy show by Trevor Noah.

The competition ends on
04 August 2017



For more information call our Customer Contact Center on +268 2517 5300

Standard Bank Moving Forward™

ARTISTS LIGHT UP HIPNOTIK FESTIVAL

STORIES BY AYANDA DLAMINI

The headliners of the first instalment of the Hipnotik Festival on Friday were on fire as they heated up the place with energetic performances, leaving the festival goers pleading for more.

The night started off with 'Tito Mboweni' hit-maker Cassper Nyovest with his performance.

He rendered hit songs from Phumakim to Tito Mboweni.

Crowd

He thrilled the crowd when he performed, Gemini Major's 'Ragga Ragga' a song by in which he features with various artists, Riky Rick and Nadia Nakai who was present but did not join him on stage. He was followed by Frank Casino who performed only for a moment in which he delivered

...Okamalumkoolkat, Cassper, Sjava, Nadia, Nasty C all thrillers

three songs. He took over the stage with 'Mayo', a song he features various artists.

He thrilled the crowd when he performed his hit which he usually sings with Riky Rick, 'Whole thing'.

This hit song saw a number of fans singing along to his set before he wrapped it up with Gemini Major's Bando, in which he features with Emtee.

At 3am, Sjava took over the stage with 'Washa' as his fans sang along to every single lyric of the song. He excited his fans when he did freestyle, mixing his hit songs.

He performed most of his hit songs from his two albums. He rendered 'Inhliziyo', 'Amafu', 'Thando lwangemphele', 'Zizophumelela'.



Nadia Nakai covering 'Ragga Ragga'.

...Nadia Nakai twerks up a storm

The rap queen Nadia Nakai who was in the country a few weeks ago for the Epic gig thrilled the crowd at Hipnotik Festival as she twerked up a storm.

She looked bootylicious and sexy in her denim bum shorts and knee length grey boots.

This time around, she was very energetic compared to her debut performance in the country during the Epic gig.

She twerked a storm when she rendered 'Squad Squad' taken from her latest album.

"You guys are the best," she said as she performed 'Money bag' which saw a number of fans

singing along to the song.

As she was closely followed by the Major League DJs as they dished out house mixes and the crowd sang along to every song they rendered from 'Pearl Thusi' to 'Sidlukotini'.

At 4 am, Nasty C took over the stage just after Gigi Lamayne as she introduced him on stage as the youngest best rapper. Nasty C took over the stage with the song 'NDN' as the crowd also sang along to the hit song.

He excited his fans when he played rendered 'Hell No' and later did a few songs from his latest album.



Sjava rendering 'Uthando' during his performance on Friday.



OKMALUMKOOLKAT thrilling the crowd with his hit song 'Gqi'.



Mabala noise artist Gigi Lamayne gave an exhilarating performance.

...OKMALUMKOOLKAT INCREDIBLE

One of the highlights of the night, after Cassper, was Okamalumkoolkat's performance. He took over the stage at 4:45am as he thrilled the crowd

with his hit song 'Gqi'. When he rendered that song, everyone from the golden circle section to every single corner of the place danced and sang along as they were pleased

to witness the hit maker himself performing it live as it has been a jamming song clubs in the country. He rendered a handful songs, from 'Amantombazane', 'Emalobolo',

'100 K makhasethi', to 'Umsheko'. He was introduced by Sho Nomadlozi on stage as she is featured on 'Gqi' hit song. Festival goers danced the night away till dawn.

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority (SIPA) Chairperson Sandile Simelane is the new president of the Rotary Club of Manzini. This was revealed during a ceremony attended by club members on Friday night last week at The George Hotel. He took over the presidency from Manzini businessman Harry Nxumalo. Handing over the Club Charter and the Chain of Office, Nxumalo recounted some of their highlights over the year, "We started the Rotary year with 17 members and we managed to recruit and induct three new members and that means we're 20 as at the end of June 2017. Efforts must continue to grow membership and the onus is on all us Rotarians to identify potential members in society."

He said the club was chartered 61 years ago in January 1956 and that four other clubs have since been established over the years. Nxumalo said, "At the onset

SIPA CHAIRPERSON INDUCTED ROTARY CLUB OF MANZINI PRESIDENT

of our Rotary year in July 2016, we received a team of Michelo Project from Virginia USA."

He recounted how the team of six people usually led by past President Dr. Lois Wilson, who is a dentist and Rotarian Meesh Peters, who is a special needs education teacher, paid a visit to St Joseph's as they have done over the past 10 years. "They offer dental hygiene intervention to the school children. They also offer special education coaching and support in music and extra curriculum activities. They purchase and bring along necessary medical apparatus and medicine as well as materials for special education, music and extra curriculum activities as generous donation," he said adding how the visit coincided with that of Matthew Paulson who is a school principal in Texas in the United States of America. This is where Khuphuka Primary School teacher,

Penelope Lulane, was attached during her six week training tour in management of village libraries.

"Paulson came to view the schools at which Lulane was teaching and assisting with her newly acquired librarianship training," he said. Added to this, during the year, the club launched a library at Usuthu Mission Primary School in Luyengo. "It was a very colourful function attended by the Business Woman of the winner in corporate sector, Nozizwe Mulela. She chose to help initiate an establishment or help equip libraries at primary schools," Nxumalo said adding how Macmillan Publishers, through the Managing Director, Busisiwe Simelane, sponsored Mulela while the club donated books.

Nxumalo confirmed that St Joseph's was their main focus of activities and they have identified the need to refurbish the roofing of their dining hall that

leaks terribly during summer rains.

He said the costs were estimated to be over E250 000 and their major fundraising event was a golf day which they were planning.

Over and above that, Nxumalo stated how Rotary Club of Taichung South East in the Republic of Taiwan, Dr Rockey Chao, pledged to donate 10 high definition magnifiers for children with seeing disabilities at St Joseph's school when they return to Swaziland in end of this month or early August.

The club further received cargo containers from Second Wind Foundation from Texas USA, "As a result we have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with His Majesty's Correctional Service to who we have donated some containers that they have converted into libraries and we donated books to fill them all." Nxumalo revealed that other benefactors of the club such as Select

Management Services (SMS) made a generous donation of E100 000. "This amount will cover costs of converting at four containers and transportation to beneficiary schools such as one in Siteki and another in Bulunga as well as Masundwini Primary School."

Calling all rotarians to support the cause, he said there are currently five members from the Michelo Project team who are in the country for two weeks, "During their stay, they will embark on refurbishing St Joseph's boarding House."

He further implored the club members to assist the Rotary Club of Mbabane during their health intervention week along outreach at Salukuzi. "The doctors and teams will be based here in Manzini. So it's time to roll up our sleeves and do what will benefit those less fortunate than ourselves in society. Remember Rotary International's motto is 'Service Above Self'."

E6M TRANSFORMERS STOLEN IN 2 MONTHS AT MPOLONJENI

STORIES BY LUSITO TSELA

Residents of Mpolonjeni are at pains trying to find a solution to the rife theft of copper wire and electricity transformers which see them going without electricity for days on end.

If the thieving does not end, they will have to find ways of providing their own for uninterrupted electricity supply since Swaziland Electricity Company (SEC) through Corporate Communications Manager Sifiso Dhlamini said they would not replace transformers anymore.

This was revealed during a community meeting held yesterday.

He said, "after losing six transformers in two months from the same community, the company has taken a stand not to replace them until the police and community come up with a solution."

He was interviewed after a well-attended meeting where the issue of stolen copper wire and transformers was delved into.

He said each transformer cost over E70 000 each, hence their loss was about E500 000.

"It is unprecedented! Nothing like this has ever happened," he said, adding how this called for the company to take a stand and not replace those transformers because the cost weighed heavily on it. He said in the event the police, community police and residents failed to come up with a solution, the affected areas should be con-

Write wills for your heir's security - Chief

Chief Petros Dube of Mpolonjeni yesterday urged members of the community to write wills to avoid families fighting over the things they leave behind because that tears them apart.

"Men with more than one wife should make sure they have a will when they die accommodating all the wives and children to avoid fighting over inheritance," he said, adding how some children were being left

homeless due to being born out of wedlock.

He said it was unfortunate that the wife who has all documents in her possession takes the home they live in and sells it, leaving them homeless. The chief also warned members of the community on taking community related matters that need to be sorted out by the community to government offices.

The chief said, "all matters related

to the community should be brought to the community leaders before they can be taken elsewhere."

Delving on developmental issues, he said some of the projects have been finalised, making an example of the road from Nkoyoyo Butchery to Msandi Grocery which was funded by Tinkhundla through the World Bank funding Swaziland Local Government Project (SLGP) and the electricity at Ntambande.



SEC through Corporate Communications Manager Sifiso Dhlamini said they would not replace transformers any more.

POLICE TO THE RESCUE

Police officers in the Crime Prevention Unit, together with the community police, came to the rescue when a fight ensued during the meeting at Mpolonjeni.

A group of residents who wanted to leave during Chief Petros Dube's

speech forced their way out of the *umphakatsi* saying they had chores to do at home and the meeting was taking too long. They were, however, blocked by some members of the community who said they were being rude to leave before being addressed. A near scuffle at the gate was stopped by police officers who pulled residents

Mbabane Municipal not welcomed at Mpolonjeni

Residents of Mpolonjeni said they do not want the Municipal Council of Mbabane to provide services to them.

The residents were responding to a comment by a member of the community who identified himself as Zwane who said they needed services which are provided by the Mbabane Municipal Council. Zwane said, "they need a public toilet at Nkoyoyo, over and above the area is very dirty."

The residents responded that they do not want the municipal council, saying they would rather create a fund and hire their own people to clean the area.

who nearly came to blows.

Sikhumbuzo Khumalo, one of the community police at Mpolonjeni under group five who tried to stop the residents who wanted to leave during the chief's speech said, "It shows lack of respect when residents want to leave during the Chief's speech."

Khumalo alleged that the residents who forced their way out of the meeting were not in their right state of mind as they were drunk and wanted to cause a scene.

Khumalo said, "It is hard to reason with people who are drunk because they always see fighting as their only solution to sort problems."

Conference of Churches launches charity fund

STORIES BY NJABULO DLAMINI

A revolving fund amounting to E100 000 to assist community self-help groups served by Swaziland Conference of Churches (SCC) has been launched.

This fund will also assist mitigate interest rates for low income members of the organisation as confirmed by SCC President Bishop Stephen Masilela.

Delivering his speech at Mahlahlekhuwini House during the organisation's AGM last Thursday, Masilela said this fund was availed to them by a donor based overseas - Team Hope from Ireland.

"With good governance and proper management, this fund is expected to grow into millions of Emalangeni in order to serve more people in the coming years. We take it as a very good seed to the vision we have of a Christian bank in this country. This fund will be accessed through our newly established microfinance provider," he said.

Bishop Masilela highlighted this as one of the achievements by his outgoing board.

It must be noted that at this AGM, Masilela was re-elected as President of SCC whilst his vice is now Apostle Robert Kasaro of Jesus Calls Worship Centre International.

Another achievement Masilela spoke

Conference to raise E1m in membership fees

To boost the coffers of SCC and address the cash flow challenges of the organisation, the 213 member churches have resolved to contribute E5 000 each.

This means if all were to contribute this amount, at least E1 065 000 (about E1.7 million) will be raised.

This contribution has been termed membership renewal and or once off subscription.

Outgoing SCC Chief Executive Officer Reverend Winston Shongwe encouraged the members to contribute this amount as agreed during the last AGM for the organisation.

He said the resolution by the member churches was aimed at ensuring a predictable and sustainable way of operations for this oldest church body formed in 1929.

It was revealed at last week's AGM that only 43 members have contributed the E5 000 contribution.

But the E5 000 additional contribution does not mean member churches have been absolved from forking out the monthly subscrip-

tions as expected according to Shongwe. Starting in January this year, each member was expected to pay no less than E500 monthly subscription as another means to boost the coffers of SCC, inclusive of office operations and other obligations.

On the other hand, the SCC president said they were looking ahead with optimism owing to the positive developments made by the organisation over the years.

"Many strides have been taken in addressing the ailing cash flow that the organisation has been facing for all these years. The overdraft we had with Nedbank has been cleared, and that is one of the greatest achievements we made as an organisation. We are now only paying the bond for the E1.8 million loan we have. Creditors have also been reduced by 11 per cent and this is also a great achievement."

Much of these milestones have been possible because of the undying commitment towards the organisation demonstrated by some of our members. The contributions of the E5

Once again this will be through the partnership the organisation secured with Team Hope.

"Thousands of children will be posi-

itively impacted by SCC through these gifts every year. I am hopeful that the new board and management of SCC will endeavour to keep this donor for

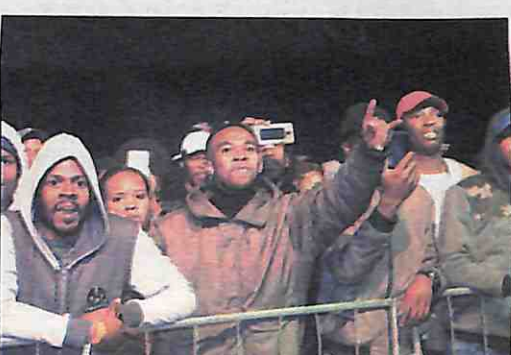
the benefit of SCC as a whole. This is one donor that has believed in us and bought into our vision and mission," he said.

Another notable achievement mentioned at the AGM is establishment of a bursary fund amounting to E102 000 for supporting OVC (orphaned and vulnerable children) to be identified during the distribution of the Christmas shoe boxes. "This fund is also expected to grow into helping more and more people in the future. At least 80 per cent of the fund shall be revolved through our microfinance provider, and only 20 per cent shall be used to sponsor people every year, courtesy of Team Hope, Ireland," the SCC president said. As part of SCC's social responsibility and also to have a voice in the nation, it was also revealed how this body had participated in the national drought which hit the country last year.

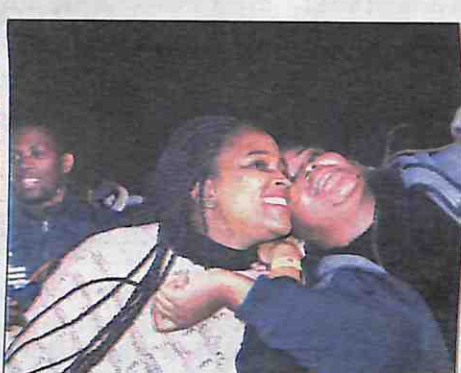
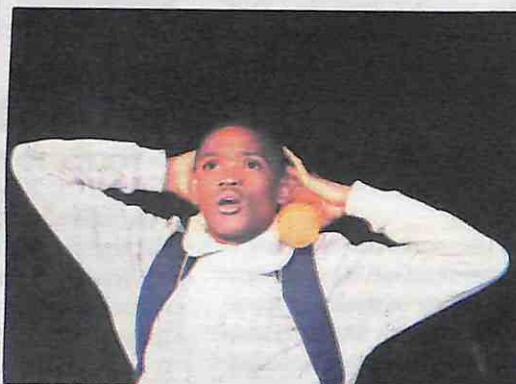
"We found it imperative to join hands with the National Disaster Management Agency during the national drought that had hit our country. The response we got from some of you was humbling and we want to commend those members for that. We were able to donate E148 999 towards drought stricken areas. Food parcels that included rice, vegetable oil, and sugar beans, amongst other things, were distributed to communities with the help of NDMA," Masilela said.

The SCC board shared how a title deed had been secured for their properties in Mbabane (Youth Centre) and Manzini.

HIPNOTIK



South African Hip-Hop Artist Refiloe Maele Phoolo aka Cassper Nyovest captured during his performance at the Hipnotik Festival on Friday night where he thrilled thousands of his fans. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



2017

HIPNOTIK

The annual Hip-Hop music festival dubbed Hipnotik started off on a rather low key due to technical delays according to the organisers but turned up to be an amazing night for youthful fun lovers who gathered at the open ground arena at Ezulwini.

The epic line-up was as promised with all the South African and local hip hop stars showing up and delivering the best of performances. Joy and excitement was written all over the faces of the young fans that came from all corners of the country to be part of the festival.

The likes of Cassper Nyovest, Nadia Nakai, Sjava and Frank Casino among others sent the young fans screaming and shouting top of their voices as they sang along and danced to the favourite tunes rendered by the artists.

The young fans were captured on camera reacting to the different tunes delivered by the artists during their different sets. Let the pictures tell the story.

By Simon Shabangu



Ministry of Public Works and Transport



A.G THOMAS

PUBLIC NOTICE

ROAD CLOSURE

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport - Road Department has embarked on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the road from, and including the traffic circle past Gwamile VOCTIM to Kwaluseni Junction. These works shall take three (3) months, and are being undertaken by A.G. Thomas (PTY) Ltd from 10 July 2017 to 9 October 2017.

This part of the road will be closed for the duration of the construction period as stated with limited access to residents. Motorists passing through this area are advised to take directions as indicated with extra caution.

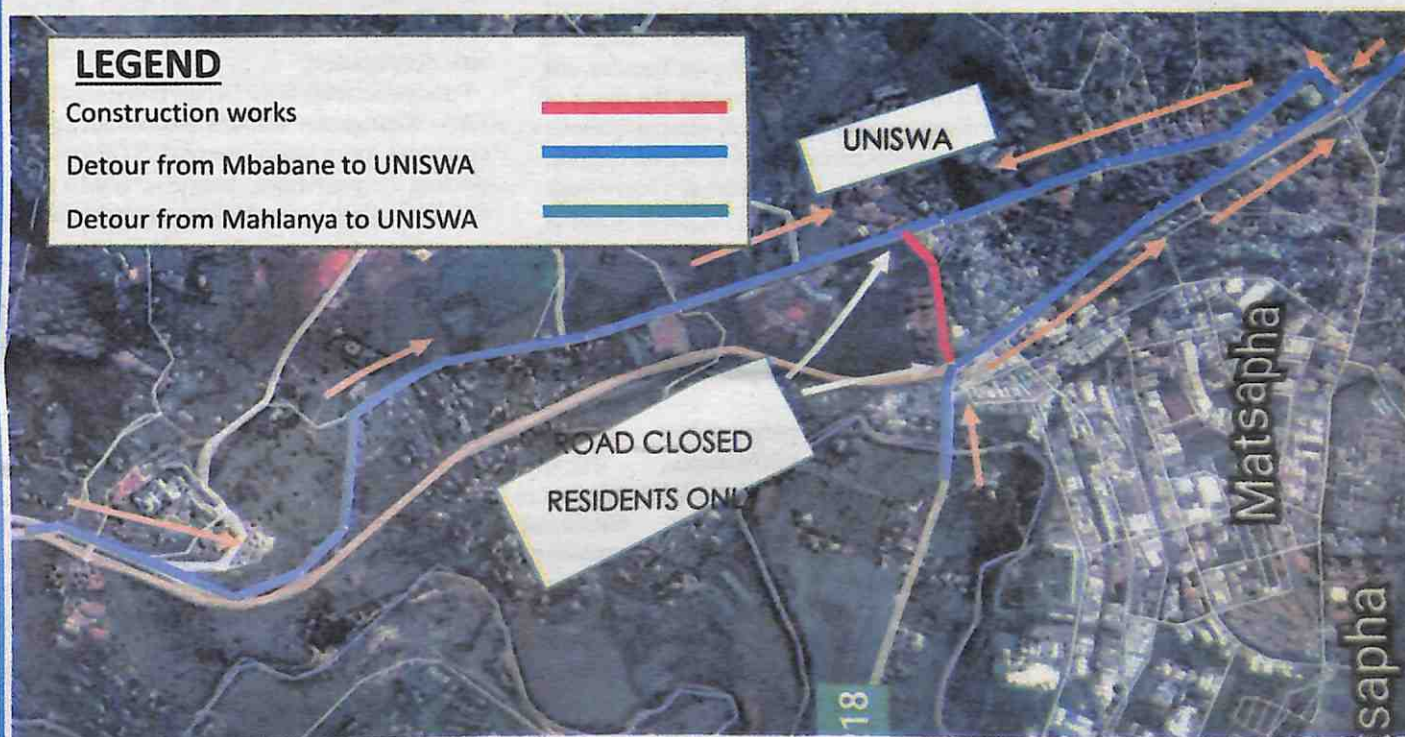
We regret the inconvenience caused.

LEGEND

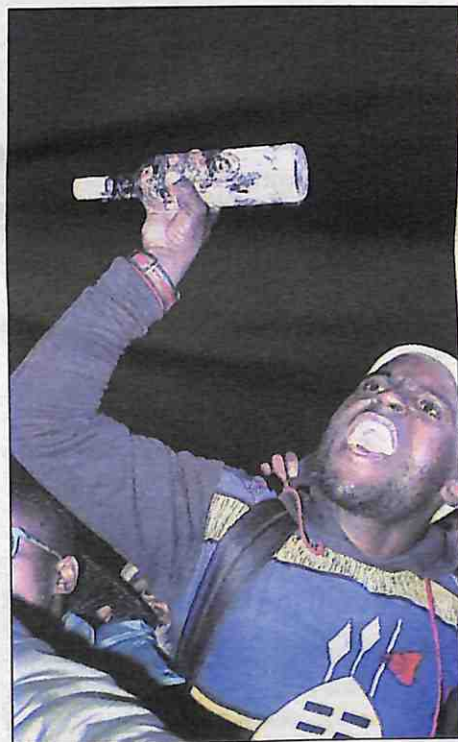
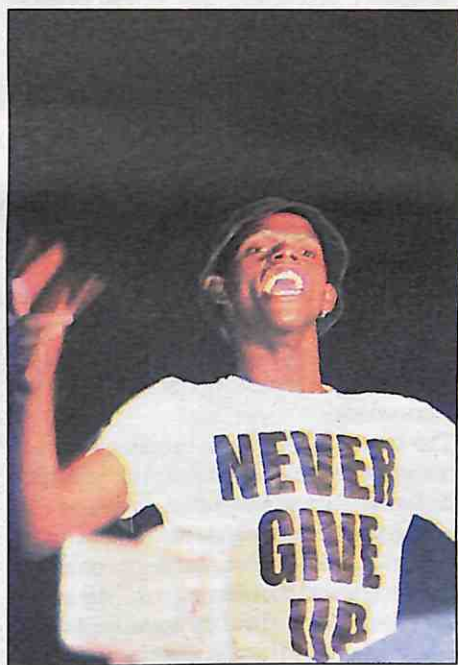
Construction works

Detour from Mbabane to UNISWA

Detour from Mahlanya to UNISWA



MAKHOSINI S. MNDawe
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY



STORIES BY THEMBEKA
DLAMINI

While Swaziland has very good policies on paper, implementation still remains a challenge, which needs to change if the country is to improve its preparedness, mitigation, adaptation and resilience to droughts and other disasters in future.

This is one of the recommendations made in 'The Socio-Economic Impacts of the 2015/16 El Niño Induced Drought in Swaziland' study conducted by the Swaziland Economic Policy Analysis and Research Centre (SEPARC) on behalf of the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The findings of the study were presented to stakeholders on Tuesday at the Royal Villas by SEPARC Research Fellow Mangaliso Mohammed. The study notes that the economic evaluation of drought impacts is essential in order to define efficient and sustainable management and mitigation strategies.

"Although the country's Disaster Risk Management Policy is comprehensive, drought-proofing Swaziland is still a question of time and investment in the programmes stipulated in the policy. Essentially, drought-proofing the country should focus on rehabilitating and strengthening the country's food production system so that it is not too dependent on direct rainfall," the study finds.

In order to eliminate systemic vulnerabilities, dependencies on food aid, and exposure to the adverse impacts of droughts, the study finds that encouraging employment and income generating activities across the country, particularly in agriculture, is necessary.

Even with the country's solid Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Policy 2010, the study finds that Swaziland is struggling to become drought proof because despite the experience and knowledge gained from previous droughts in 1992, 2001, 2007 and 2009/10, the country's economic backbone still rests on agriculture.

"On paper, the policy is solid and enshrined to the developmental process of the country; however, practical implementation needs serious firming up. The problem is not with the policy per se but an element of time and investment in the programmes stipulated in the policy," says researcher

GOOD DRM POLICIES ON PAPER, LAGGING IMPLEMENTATION

Mohammed.

The study further recommends that strategies for drought-proofing Swaziland should focus on rehabilitating and strengthening the food production system as well as the general agriculture sector so that is not too dependent on direct rainfall.

The study also notes that while government gave considerable priority to drought relief and mitigation measures, because of resource redirection, the country deflected the implementation of key development strategies, which means the economic consequences will linger long after the drought. The NDMA is advised to consider advocating for increased water harvesting, and storage capacities within households and at the national level. In addition, the NDMA is advised to focus on implementing



Principal Secretary at the Deputy Prime Minister Office Khangeziwe Mabuza delivering her remarks during the drought assessment report.

the programmes stipulated in the DRM Policy to address the endemic risks to drought in the country for improvements in preparedness, mitigation, adaptation and resilience at the household level and in all sectors of the econ-

omy. Also, since the NDMA's mandate is to make sure that every citizen in the country, regardless of income status, receives adequate protection in the event of a disaster, the study recommends the development of a

sustainable Disaster Management Budget and Funding Model in Swaziland. The country should also consider transferring disaster risk to appropriate insurance markets, drought, flood and cyclones.

More investment in policy research needed - UNDP

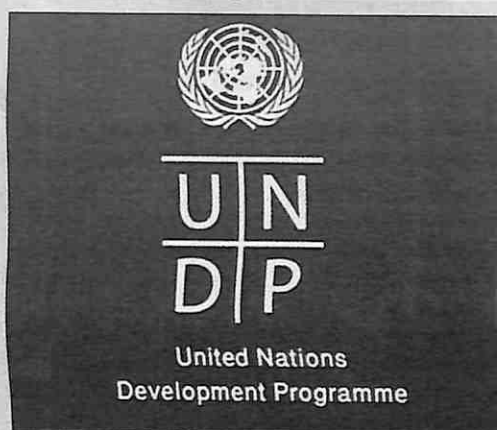
Swaziland Economic Policy Analysis and Research Centre (SEPARC) Executive Director Dr Thula Sizwe Dlamini has expressed gratitude towards the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for its support in developing and growing the knowledge economy in Swaziland.

He says without the support of UNDP and the government of Swaziland, the studies conducted by SEPARC would not be the success they were turning out to be. On the other hand, the UNDP acknowledges that investment in generating evidence for policy and programming decision making can provide better insights to sustainable development implications.

UNDP Programme Specialist Sithembiso Gina says policy research is indispensable for countries, given that it assists policymakers in formulating decisions that provide a conducive environment for knowledge production, technological development and innovation-led growth.

Speaking during the dissemination of the findings of a study on the 'Socioeconomic Impact of the 2015/16 El Niño Induced Drought in Swaziland' at the Royal Villas on Tuesday, she noted that the study interrogates the shock of the disaster social issues and macroeconomic stability for deepened sustainable path options.

"UNDP remains committed as a knowledge broker and to working with the government of



Swaziland, non-governmental organisations, and academia, including traditional authorities to help the kingdom build community resilience and invest in policy research and analysis for better informed sustainable development," added Gina.

Recommendations

"We look forward to the recommendations (of the study) informing reform in the various sectors for collective rebound towards sustainable development."

Principal Secretary in the Deputy Prime Minister's Office Khangeziwe Mabuza also extended government's appreciation towards UNDP for supporting the partnership between NDMA and SEPARC, which has enabled the country to iden-

tify and quantify the social and economic losses that were suffered as a result of the 2015/16 drought.

She noted that disaster losses were disproportionately higher in resource-strapped poorer countries such as Swaziland, hence countries across the globe have to be concerned about the potential losses and damages resulting from disasters.

Assessment

Mabuza said the findings of the study would significantly contribute to the country's future risk assessment and contingency planning endeavours. In addition, she said the study would further strengthen national efforts on building and enhancing resilience by specifically contributing to the improvement of disaster losses and risk knowledge.

"The study will help us in deciding how better to invest resources in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, as well as risk-proofing public and private investment on the above, and guiding national strategies on reducing, retaining and transferring risk," she added.

The PS further noted that the assessment should also help government and its agencies in strengthening the development of national disaster loss and damages databases, as well as enhance and influence risk informed policy options within the context of the national development framework.

Youth die in 72% of fatal road accidents— statistics

BY SIFISO NHLABATSI

Young people make up the larger portion of people who died in fatal road accidents.

According to statistics revealed yesterday during the annual National Accident Prayer Service Campaign, of all accidents which occur in the country, 72 per cent of them had the youth as fatalities.

The prayer service, which started with a march, was meant to raise awareness on the undesirability of road accidents and come up with strategies to mitigate against such.

It was also a campaign meant to seek divine intervention as the Royal Swaziland

Police (RSP) creates a wall against traffic accidents.

Speaking during the prayer service held at the Police College in Matsapha, National Commissioner (NatCom) of Police Isaac Memo Magagula stated that the prayer service was held against the backdrop of an alarming increase in road accidents impacting negatively on the socio-economic well-being of the country. NatCom stated that what was disturbing and unsettling was how demographically, the category of society that was predominantly involved in serious and fatal accidents was the youth of ages ranging between 15 to 45 years.

He added that statistics have shown

that from January 2017 to date, 58 out of 81 deaths included young people of this age category.

"The youth victims of road deaths translate to 72 per cent of the total number of people who died on the roads during this period," Magagula.

Protecting

He said this should worry the public as a nation because the youth was the embodiment of the future of any nation, and from a socio-economic perspective this was the most productive group in society.

He further stated that without prejudice to the older category, much effort should be focused in investing and protecting the youth so that the coun-

try could realise its potential and prosperity as articulated in vision 2022 National Development Agenda.

Magagula also pointed out that there were many causes of road traffic accidents in general and these he said included; drunken driving, over-speeding as well as reckless driving or driving without due care as well as negligence.

He said other causal factors may include the use of unroadworthy vehicles, overloading especially in public transport vehicles, stray animals on the roads, use of cellular phones and other gadgets whilst driving that distract the motorist as well as driver fatigue.

He went on to elaborate on the scale and extent of the road traffic accident situation in the country stating that the worrying trend was that in 2015 a total number of 793 serious and fatal accidents were recorded, translating to a 2.14 per cent increase.

Magagula said over a three-year period from 2015 to date a total of 433 fatal accidents were recorded which portrays a gloomy picture on the traffic situation for a small and developing country like Swaziland.

He said 70 per cent of these fatal accidents were recorded in the period January 2017 to date and if one would look into the end of this year by the look of things the road carnage situation could be worse, hence the need to come up with interdiction strategies to mitigate against road deaths.

KWASUKASUKELA-THE SWAZI STORY UNVEILS TOP EIGHT

BY NOMFUNDO SIFUNDZA

KWASUKASUKELA-The Swazi Story Project unveiled its top eight contestants after narrowing down from the top 16.

The selected 16 had to prove themselves during a week-long first phase of the project's workshop, led by Welile

Masuku and Samkeliso Nxumalo – prolific filmmakers themselves and the creators of Kwasukasukela.

Sacrifice

Between juggling coursework, tasks based on lessons learned and personal commitments, the sixteen participants soon also got to know of the sacrifice that goes into creating work of

which they could be genuinely proud of.

How they personally felt about their submission however, would not be enough to save half their places during the second phase of the workshop – the judge's scrutiny slicing quick and sharp through chapters, acts, and scenes to finally declare a top eight.

Emotions fraught, it would take a delicious lunch prepared and served by the Legends Backpackers catering team to convince those remaining to finally relax and look forward to the evenings' festivities planned.

Kwasukasukela/The Swazi Story Project is now at the second phase of their workshop, which will be followed

by a further elimination round to announce the top four.

These four will then go on for an extended round of professional screenplay writing, where two scripts will be fleshed out into one hour films.

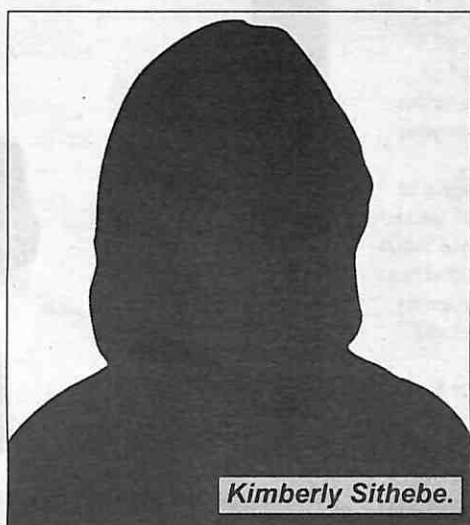
Signing off of these final screenplays will mark the end of Kwasukasukela/The Swazi Story Project 2017.

"The lion's version may never be heard and the hunter may tell all lies but when own conversations are started instead of simply joining existing ones, write stories, turn them into film, there remains the ardent hope that one day we go down in history as our truest selves," Masuku said.

MEET THE TOP EIGHT KWASUKASUKELA HOPEFULS



Ntombenhle Mahlalela.



Kimberly Sithebe.



Beko Dlamini.



Vusi Sithole.



Sizwe Mkhathwa.



Banele Mhlanga.

About Kwasukasukela/The Swazi Story Project

"Tell me facts and I will forget them. Tell me a story, and I will remember you forever"

Think of your favorite book, your favorite movie, your favorite anything of all time. What do they all have in common? They made you feel something. You couldn't wait to turn the page, you dared not blink for fear of missing a scene. Remember settling into 'tinganekwane' and drifting off to far of worlds where animals spoke and fables smudged wisdom into your vivid imagination?

Suffice to say, storytelling is the human narrative. More importantly, it is the Swati narrative. In our culture and custom, our greatness has always been passed down orally down from generations, in fin-tum. It defines who and why we are.

African proverbs are prone to remind us however, that, "until the lion learns

how to write, every story will glorify the hunter". So learn to write we must – modern, epic tales, inspired by the extra-ordinary we live daily. It is this very proverb that drives Kwasukasukela/The Swazi Story Project. Spurred by a belief that if properly nurtured, Swazi stories will have the potential to make significant contributions to the country's economic, social and cultural growth.

Unique

A valid and viable product of our time, film takes centre stage as the medium we must now use to best demonstrate our most unique and vibrant language and history. Inspired by this thought and the potential it holds, Kwasukasukela | The Swazi Story Project sparks to life.

Funded by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), Kwasuka-

sukela is determined to build the capacity of the Swazi filmmaking industry. Increasing the presence of quality Swati films, and in turn the quality of their creation will not only make them a welcome presence on local screens but also go far in promoting the incorporation of storytelling in nation-building as an effective empowerment tool.

Carries

Besides conscientiously up-skilling creatives of the written word into masters of the film script, Kwasukasukela's meticulously curated workshop material, carries out the project's goal to translate the best four screenplays into Hollywood-ready features that can proudly captivate both local and international audiences alike.

The initial impact The Swazi Story Project wishes to achieve will serve

as a stepping stone for other aspiring industry hopefuls. Shining such a bright spotlight on the process of filmmaking, particularly the writing of scripts is just one of many ways Kwasukasukela is determined to prove, locally and globally, that industry innovation need not be dismissed as an unobtainable goal, reserved only for the likes of Spielberg, Allen or Cameron. We can tell our own stories, from start to finish! We can applaud ourselves too. We can see ourselves reflected the way we want, and we can turn the conversation around by owning it.

The ripple effect of the project is anticipated to empower storytellers of today, instilling enough confidence in them to bring about a much needed positive change in our society.

What would make a difference?

Producing two of the screenplays into short feature films might conclude the initiative, but the success of this endeavor depends on the demonstration of creative and financial investment from major industry players throughout the production value chain.

Well-regarded

The launch of Kwasukasukela, saw 16 phenomenal writers selected to participate in the Swazi Story Project's workshop. A panel of well-regarded judges put their brilliant minds together to select successful candidates – an insurmountable feat considering the calibre of content received. Thembumenzi Mabuza, one of Swaziland's finest female producers, Kenneth Rowley, the Kingdom's most prominent playwright and scholastic contributor, and one of South Africa's most talented directors, Lehlohonolo King Shaft Maropane deliberated long and hard to reach their final decision.

Stop living beyond your means - Savannah Maziya

The biggest sin that parents can commit, according to Bunengi Group Chief Executive Officer Savannah Maziya is failure to equip their children not to be economic slaves.

"We all are living beyond our means; we are trying to buy a shoe we cannot afford, living in a home we cannot afford and driving cars that we cannot afford, so that we can show someone. When they have seen you what happens after? Do they pay for the privilege of seeing you or they just see you and say nice shoes, nice dress and nice car and then it's done?"

She said this was the most troubling mentality in the community.

"Colonisation finished 50 years ago plus, apartheid about 20 years plus, but yet my people; my communities are still slaves, because we are the consumers. We are the buyers of

products, we are not growers of wealth, we help other communities grow and have wealth and have no shame about it," she said.

"We don't own assets, we support assets and grow assets for other communities and then we are surprised why when the world sees us, we are only good for buying their goods," she further stated.

Sadly, she said parents were passing this bad behaviour to their children and making it generational, "and we have no shame that this is the biggest sin you can create as a parent, not to equip your children not to be economic slaves."

Change

She urged the summit attendees to be agents of change in their communities.

"The starting point for everyone to believe I am worth a good life," she said.

She said she pictured the life she wanted to live when she was very young, put it to the universe and then focused on it, "and now I have it. Not because I am clever than anyone of you, I just wanted it more."

She said though a lot of people were afraid to fail, the best lessons comes from failure.



Bunengi Group Chief Executive Officer Savannah Maziya during her presentation.



Matsapha Town Council CEO Gciniwe Fakudze reading a profile of one of the speakers during the function.



Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Jabulile Mashwama and Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Jabulani Mabuza.

THERE'S STILL PLENTY OPPORTUNITIES AMID GROWTH CONSTRAINTS

STORIES BY MANQOBA MAKHUBU

IN light of growth challenges facing the country, the continent and the global economy, Zipho Sikhakhane says there are still a lot of opportunities; the only problem is that they still remain untapped.

"We only need to ask ourselves, what is the next right thing for Africa and for Swaziland?"

She said though the country was small in size, it has a potential to achieve way beyond its size and its potential. You need to ask yourselves what is it that you can do to put your country on the global map."

Sikhakhane was one of the keynote speakers for this year's Achieve Success Summit (ACS) held at the Royal Swazi Sun Convention Centre in Ezulwini on Thursday. Sikhakhane is an international speaker, writer, and poet and business advisor.

She is also a columnist for the Sunday Times in South Africa and has travelled 31 countries and worked in 10 of them. She said it was a privilege for her to be a speaker during the summit; "I have been carrying a very powerful message and taking it to different parts of the world and the continent and today I have a privilege to bring it to you."

She said, however, that her message was around many elements, one of which is understanding the importance of leadership, 'especially because the continent comes from an age it was a forgotten part of the world'.

"Maybe people thought it is an area of poverty, an area without opportunities and they ignored it," she said.

"As we become more aware of such, we are now entering what we call the Africa rising era. The Africa rising era is actually the understanding that the opportunities are there for anyone interested in thinking about how can we tap into growth of the continent," she said.

Regrettably, she said most people still suffer from the backward mentality that growth was somewhere out there, "actually growth is here. Even when the world was going into its darkest recession, sub-Saharan Africa was still the second fastest growing region in the world. That tells a lot about the growth potential, it tells you a lot about opportunities. Yes growth has slowed

"As we become more aware of such, we are now entering what we call the Africa rising era. The Africa rising era is actually the understanding that the opportunities are there for anyone interested in thinking about how can we tap into growth of the continent,"



Artificial Intelligence and Statistical Science Professor Bheki Twala speaking at the summit.

down, but there opportunities have not dissipated, there opportunities are still there."

She said what could fuel change for the country and the continent, 'the next right thing,' was the understanding of how people could lead themselves as individuals.

"Let us shy away from starting to learn the leadership journey when we earn a position. Start learning to be a leader today."

Because we are all leaders in our own rights," she said.

Explaining on the kind of leaders that the continent requires going forward, Sikhakhane said, "we need to start getting out of conforming to how the rest of the world is and actually start thinking about what does it mean to lead in a way that make sense for our regio."

Unfortunately, she said most of the literature about leadership comes from other parts of the world and while those models could work, they might not work effectively for the continent's leaders.

"So the challenge we now face is, how do we actually stop conforming to the way things have been done and start

finding our own way of doing things because that is what our businesses need," she said.

Sadly, she said the conformity syndrome is difficult to be uprooted because it gets planted at early stages in schools, then at the tertiary level and later at the corporate environment.

"We are therefore prepared to get to the corporate environment to live and behave the same way. These are not the leaders of tomorrow. The leaders of tomorrow are the ones that understand that actually being unique and different is where your strength comes from and actually doing things differently and doing things your own way. That is what non-conformity is all about," she said.

Adding, Sikhakhane said most leaders were imposters and others were driven by inferiority complexes.

"If you think about doing the right thing going forward we need to kill those complexes altogether. That is what is stopping us to get to the next level. We cannot expect ourselves to be the leaders of this beautiful continent if we still have those limiting beliefs that exist on our heads," she said.

Reactions on the summit

Swaziland Railway Chief Executive Officer- Stephenson Ngubane

"The summit was excellent and the pool of the speakers was magnificent. I take home with me a lot of lessons as a leader. I lead a corporate entity, it has to be sustainable and it also has to grow wealth. So for me it was a double gain, I will apply it to the company that I lead and also to my personal life. There were so many valuable points and as a person you have to learn continuously,

especially from such experienced speakers. The summit was very inspirational."

Junior Achievement Swaziland Executive Director- Siboniso Madlopha

"Such presentations should be heard by almost every parent and teachers as well."

Because they are the ones who have to inspire the children, shape their future and break the financial slavery cycle."

Inyatsi Construction Group Holdings Acting Chief Executive Officer Tommy Strydom

"Tonight" was excellent.

We were able to bring some of our leaders that we identified in our company. We brought eight of them here tonight and it was amazing to see their reactions during the presentations. I am also happy to see that they also realised that coming from Swaziland is a good thing and they can make it anywhere in the world.

It was also great to learn from ladies who have made it in a man's world and it made us realise that anybody can be successful, it doesn't matter what your skin color or culture is, just carry on and you can be successful."



Inyatsi Construction Holdings (Pty) Ltd acting Chief Executive Officer Tommy Strydom and his team taking a group picture with Savannah Maziya.



KPMG's Mlondi Hloph and Construction Industry Council (CIC) Manager Research, Development and Training Winston Bhila also attended the summit.



Temalangen Dlamini and James Matsebula with Matsapha Town Council CEO Gciniwe Fakudze.

Lucky university student gets Savannah Maziya's scholarship

There is a proverb that says, 'diligence is the mother of good luck.'

This was verified when Mulelo Mweemba who travelled with his father all the way from Bloemfontein, South Africa and came into the country for the Achieve Success Summit (ACS) got a scholarship from Bunengi Group Chief Executive Officer Savannah Maziya.

He is son to well known Publishing Director Dr. Gift Mweemba.

The 20-year-old is currently enrolled at the Central University of Technology in Bloemfontein where he is studying Civil Engineering.

Asked what motivated him to attend the summit, Mweemba said, "I have been reading a lot about business and not relying on one source of income."

This motivated me to want to learn more. Then it so happened that my father heard about this summit and he asked if I wanted to come. At first he wasn't really so sure about it, but on Monday he said Wednesday at 15:00 we

leaving for Johannesburg, we will sleep there and next day drive to Swaziland. So that is how we got here." All he did was that, he asked a question during the workshop held on Thursday and then asked for a picture with the speakers. Matsapha Town Council Chief Executive Officer Gciniwe Fakudze who was the programme director agreed to organise a special photo opportunity for him since he came all the way from Bloemfontein for the summit.

Studies

"They called me to the front when Savannah Maziya came at the front and said we will take a picture with you since you came all the way from Bloemfontein. It was then that she asked me what I am studying. I told her I am studying Civil Engineering. She then asked me if I want an internship at WBHO, I said yes, she said fine. Afterwards when I went to talk to her about that she asked me who was paying for my studies, I told her that my father was paying for me. She told me that I have a

scholarship now then after that I can do an internship at WBHO," he said.

Maziya who is also Non-Executive Director at WBHO firmly believes and always advocates that the next opportunities are in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

Mweemba said even though he did not expect such, but he was happy that his efforts turned to such an opportunity. "This shows that if you put effort into something, at the end of the day there's a reward, because people reward effort," she said.

His dad's business partner also got a car accident on Sunday, but immediately when she was discharged in hospital she joined them and travelled to also attend the seminar.

His father said he was speechless for the scholarship gift for his son.

He said attending the seminar was a really a life changing experience.

"My life has changed. It will never be the same," he said.

SWAZI EXPORT, PROFESSOR BHEKIE MAMBA, AWARDED AT 'SCIENCE OSCARS'

BY THEMBEKA DLAMINI

A local has been awarded for his contributions to science, engineering, and technology (SET) and innovation in South Africa.

Professor Bhekhe Mamba, University of South Africa's Executive Dean of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology (CSET) and Director of the Nanotechnology and Water Sustainability Unit (NanoWS) was awarded during the NSTF-South32 Awards on June 29.

The awards are a collaboration between the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF), and South32, a spinout of Australian mining company BHP Billiton which are hosted annually to recognise, celebrate and reward excellence in science, engineering, technology and innovation in South Africa.

It has been 19 years since the award's inception.

According to UNISA's website, Mamba's recognition came about after his significant scientific and technological contributions to the fabrication of advanced nanostructured materials and systems for water treatment.

The awards are termed the 'Oscars of Science' as they are the largest, most comprehensive, and most sought-after national awards of their kind. The NSTF Awards were also the first science awards initiated in the country in 1998.

"Mamba received the NSTF-Water Research Commission Award towards achieving sustainable water management,



knowledge generation, and solutions; which is a new award," the article states.

Innovation

According to the article, Mamba said that it was an honour to be recognised and to be the first recipient of the water research and innovation award. "I wish to thank my colleagues, collaborators (local and international), and current and former postgraduate students who have worked hard on various aspects of the water quality research project."

It is also heart-warming to receive an award sponsored by the Water Research Commission, from whom the first research grant for this project was received, 15 years ago."

Science and Technology Minister Naledi Pandor, official Patron of the NSTF/South32

Awards, presented the prizes.

The winners were awarded with state-of-the-art trophies, representing a 'feather in the cap' of every NSTF Award winner. They are made by industrial 3D laser printing from titanium, and embody the NSTF Awards slogan: Today's research... tomorrow's innovation.

The NSTF-South32 Awards, formerly the NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards, are a collaborative effort to recognise outstanding contributions to SET and innovation in South Africa for researchers and other SET-related professionals. This includes experienced scientists, engineers, innovators, science communicators, research and engineering capacity builders, organisational managers/leaders, and research managers.

About Professor Mamba

According to the African Centre for Gene Technologies' website, Professor Bhekhe Mamba obtained his four year BSc degree in 1990 from the University of Swaziland (UNISWA) where he majored in Chemistry and Mathematics.

"Concurrently, he pursued the Diploma in Education which was also awarded in the same year," reads his biography of achievements.

He furthered his studies at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), Johannesburg, where he graduated with an MSc in Organic Chemistry and a PhD in Organometallic Chemistry and Homogeneous Catalysis in 1995 and 1999 respectively, the latter being obtained under the supervision of Prof Neil Coville.

As a PhD student at Wits, Prof Mamba received a number of scholarships and awards in recognition of academic excellence.

These awards included the Backeberg Merit Scholarship in Chemistry, DAAD (Germany) Scholarship, Wits Council Merit Scholarship, Polfin PhD Research Scholarship and the Wits Postgraduate Merit bursary.

After successfully submitting a pro-

posal for a nanotechnology centred water decontamination research project in 2007 which was in line with Department of Science and Technology's (DST's) National Strategy for Nanotechnology, Prof Mamba was appointed Director of the Nanotechnology Innovation Centre (NIC) (Water Research Platform) which receives even to date an average annual research grant of R2.5m from the Department of Science and Technology through Mintek.

Prof Mamba was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2002 followed by another promotion to Associate Professor in December 2007.

In 2009 he was promoted to Full Professor and in 2010 he was awarded the status of Chartered Chemist (CChem) and Chartered Scientist (CSci) by the British Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) and the British Science Council, respectively, the same year he received a C-rating from the National Research Foundation (NRF). In 2011, Prof Mamba was the recipient of the Distinguished Vice Chancellors Research award and in 2012 he was awarded the NRF Research Chair in Nanotechnology for Water.

While Head of the Department of

Chemical Technology, now known as the Department of Applied Chemistry, apart from its demonstrated excellence in teaching and learning, proved competency in Nanotechnology based research where the focus is on the synthesis, functionalisation and characterization of nanomaterials for water treatment and the formulation of nanotechnology based drug delivery systems.

The research effort in water purification included the synthesis of nanocomposites, molecular imprinted polymers, cyclodextrin based polymers incorporating carbon nanotubes and calixarenes for the removal of contaminants in water while the fabrication of electrochemical sensors and biosensors enables the detection of inorganics, organics and pathogens that may be present in water. Collaboration with the University of California, Los Angeles (USA) and Gent University (Belgium) entailed the fabrication of so-called new generation nanostructured membranes which integrates the strengths of nanotechnology and membrane technology.

He continued his research after joining UNISA.

Focus on SA scene

ANC HAS EMERGED FROM CONFERENCE WITH RENEWED VIGOUR - RAMAPHOSA

JOHANNESBURG - The ANC has emerged from its recent national policy conference with renewed vigour and a clear message that it is now time to get back work and attend to the business of building a non-racial, non-sexist, just and prosperous society, says Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Addressing a United Methodist Church of southern Africa fundraising gala dinner on Friday evening, he said the outcomes of the conference should give South Africans hope that progress is being made in correcting many of the mistakes that the movement has made in recent times.

"It should give South Africans hope that a platform has been established for the renewal and revitalisation of the movement that led our people to freedom. Although the conference deliberations were frank and robust, and occasionally heated, the basis has been laid for a stronger, more united and more purposeful ANC," Ramaphosa said. Significantly, it was the branch delegates who had demonstrated a firm commitment to confront the challenges facing the ANC.

"It was the people from the communities you serve who told the leadership of the organisation of their determina-



ANC President Jacob Zuma and his deputy, Cyril Ramaphosa.

tion to reclaim the ANC's true values, mores and traditions.

"These were delegates who reminded us of the true nature and character of the movement. They reminded all of us that the ANC was not founded for its own sake or for the pursuit of partisan interests. It was founded as a critical instrument in the liberation of our people from apartheid, colonialism, poverty and want," Ramaphosa added. He said the party had elevated its thinking, deepened debate and put forward proposals that, should

they be accepted at the ANC's 54th National Conference in December, would "measurably improve the lives of our people". "Through this conference, we have placed the needs of the people at the centre of our policies and programmes.

"Now that the foundation has been laid, we need to work hard to regain the moral force that justifies our own existence.

"We have to regain the lost ground that we have sacrificed by focusing too much on internal contestations and contradictions," Ramaphosa said. **TimesLIVE**

Former refugees win right to stay in South Africa

CAPE TOWN - Over 1 000 former Angolan refugees were this week granted the right by the department of home affairs to live and work in South Africa for a period of four years.

The former refugees, who arrived in South Africa during the 1990's as civil war ravaged in Angola, had been in danger of being deported when their status as refugees was revoked in 2013.

Their cause was taken up by refugee rights advocacy group the Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town, in partnership with the Legal Resource Centre, who argued they should be allowed to stay on in South Africa given their close business, family and social ties to the country. On Thursday, Home Affairs Minister Hlengiwe Mkhize announced that 1 364 of the 1 702 former refugees who had applied for residency under an exemption in the Immigration Act had been granted it, on condition they supplied biometric data.

The permanent residency status-

es of 106 applicants with criminal records will be decided on at a later date on a case-by-case basis, said Mkhize.

About 230 former refugees still need to supply police clearance certificates.

Miranda Madikane, the Director of the Scalabrini Centre, said she welcomed the decision.

"All parties involved have worked very hard on this case. We welcome the decision to grant these applicants rights of residency, especially in our national context where increasing numbers of migrants are falling into undocumented states." But Madikane said some former refugees were anxious about what would happen in 2021, when the four-year period that they had been granted permanent residency had expired.

Applicant Irene Boaventura, 26, a manager at an upscale Cape Town restaurant, said the outcome was a "dream, even if it's only for four years". **News24**

City to provide shelter for those displaced in Joburg fire

JOHANNESBURG - The City of Johannesburg said on Friday, it was aiding residents, that were displaced by a fire in the Cape York building in the inner city, with alternative accommodation.

The hijacked building on Jeppe and Nugget streets in central Johannesburg caught alight on Wednesday morning, killing seven people while 50 other people were rescued from the rooftop. The building has no electricity, water or any form of sanitation.

The Cape York building, also dubbed "Mnyamandawo", also harbours criminals who are involved in high-levels of

crime and muggings in downtown Johannesburg.

Joburg MMC for Health and Social Development, Mpho Phalatse, said the human tragedy witnessed at the Cape York building in the early hours of Wednesday was truly regrettable.

Phalatse said the City has over 85 abandoned and hijacked buildings, where crime lords have been allowed to reign supreme and undisturbed. "We would like to express our deepest condolences to the families of those who lost their lives, and wish a speedy recovery to all those who have been hospitalised. At present, we have provided alternative accommodation in tents on

land near Wembley Stadium, and have identified and confirmed shelters for those in need," Phalatse said.

"Almost 350 people have, as a result, been displaced, and although the City has limited resources, compounded by the historical housing backlog of 300 000 houses, we are making every effort to ensure that these residents are taken care of."

Phalatse said her department and the Disaster Management Unit have done an assessment of all the affected citizens, and had begun providing bread and soup, distributing blankets to mothers with children, and arranging counselling services.

EWN

ANC likens Bell Pottinger to 'vultures' - apology meaningless

JOHANNESBURG - The African National Congress (ANC) has dismissed UK public relations firm Bell Pottinger's apology for work it did for the Gupta family to apparently further divide South Africa along racial lines.

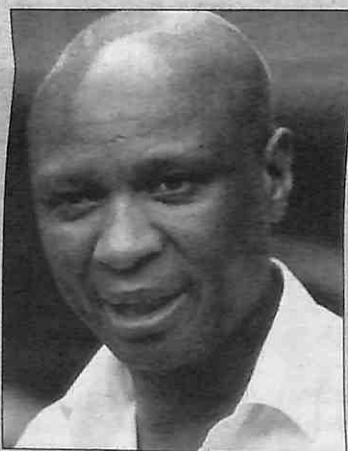
On Thursday, Bell Pottinger Chief Executive James Henderson apologised for work the company did on behalf of the Gupta family and Oakbay Investments.

"Vultures like Bell Pottinger will always scavenge on our failure to address inequality and to transform our economy," said ANC national Spokesperson Zizi Kodwa to News24 yesterday. He said the gov-

erning party had no option but to deracialise the country's economy. Kodwa added that failure to do so would allow some like the PR firm to continue "scavenging" on their failure.

Apology

"The so-called apology is a non-apology," Kodwa said the failure by Bell Pottinger should be used as inspiration to double up efforts to de-racialise South Africa's economy and address inequality. The Economic Freedom Fighters also rejected the apology and the Democratic Alliance wanted more to be done aside from the apology. **News24**



ANC spokesperson Zizi Kodwa.



Police Minister Fikile Mbalula.

Mbalula slams 'disgusting, distasteful' BLF's behaviour

VOSLOORUS - Police Minister Fikile Mbalula says the behaviour of the Black First Land First (BLF) organisation is disgusting and distasteful.

Mbalula has welcomed Friday's judgement by the High Court in Johannesburg in which the South African National Editors Forum (SANEF) was granted an interdict against the BLF and its leader Andile Mngxitama.

The minister was speaking on the sidelines of his visit to the home of Siphosethu Mthethwa, a policeman who was killed on duty this week.

Mbalula says intimidation or harassment should never be used by any South African during arguments.

He says members of the BLF movement who have gone to people's houses is the highest state of disorder.

Authority

"But it doesn't mean that I must go to their houses, that's the highest state of disorder and it undermines the rule of law. So, we will stamp our authority."

He says there is now an interdict and he expects the law to be upheld.

"And I want to reiterate; nobody has got the right to march to the houses of anybody. Because the houses are their private areas where they have children."

Mbalula says journalists cannot and must never be silenced.

EWN

BRIEFS

Electoral body disqualifies
three presidential hopefuls

KIGALI - Rwanda's electoral commission has disqualified three candidates for next month's presidential election, saying they didn't fulfill requirements such as collecting enough supporting signatures. Those disqualified on Friday are Diane Shima Rwigara, Gilbert Mwenenda and Fred Sekikubo Barafinda. Rwigara, who was running as an independent, said last week that local leaders threatened her supporters while they collected signatures. The electoral commission's announcement comes as Amnesty International charges that the election will be held under a "climate of fear" and repression. **AP**

Puntland journalist jailed
after criticising president

NAIROBI - Authorities in Puntland should immediately release journalist Ahmed Ali Kilwe, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) said yesterday. Security forces in Garowe, the administrative capital of the semi-autonomous region of Somalia, have detained Ahmed, the founder of the news website Puntlandone.com, since July 2, according to media reports. "Media reports and three journalists who cover Puntland who spoke to CPJ on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation said they believed Ahmed's arrest was linked to a June 23 Facebook post that Ahmed wrote criticising the president of Puntland and his use of public funds," the CPJ said. **AFP**

Kenya court cancels election
ballot contract for Dubai firm

NAIROBI - Kenya's High Court on Friday cancelled a contract for a Dubai-based firm to print ballot papers for next month's presidential election after the opposition, which claimed the firm is linked to President Uhuru Kenyatta, challenged the way it was issued. The three-judge panel said the claim of a Kenyatta link to the firm could not be proved. But it said there was no public participation in the choice of Al Ghurair Printing and Publishing and that the electoral commission did not follow procurement rules. **AP**

Al-Shabab beheads 9 civilians
in attack on Kenya village

NAIROBI - Al-Shabab extremists from neighboring Somalia beheaded nine civilians in an early-morning attack on a village in the southeast, Kenyan officials said yesterday, as concerns grew that the group had taken up a bloody new strategy. The attack occurred in Jima village in Lamu County, said James Ole Serian, who leads a task force of security agencies combating al-Shabab. Beheadings by al-Shabab have been rare in Kenya, where the extremist group has carried out dozens of deadly attacks over the years. **AP**

Nigeria court rejects
Shiite cleric's rights suit

KANO - A Nigerian court has thrown out a suit brought by a prominent pro-Iranian Shiite cleric against the military for human rights violations, lawyers in the case told **AFP** Friday. Ibrahim Zakzaky was seeking two \$5.6 million in damages over clashes with troops in 2015 that left some 350 of his followers dead in the northern city of Zaria. The cleric himself was injured and has been in custody ever since. Three of his children were killed and his house was destroyed. **AFP**



SUNDAYOBSERVER AFRICA NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday

ZIM IMPORTS MAIZE
WORTH \$82M DESPITE
'BUMPER HARVEST'

HARARE - Zimbabwe has imported maize worth \$82 million in the first five months of 2017, despite boasting a bumper harvest, **NewsDay** reports.

The report said that the latest trade data from Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (Zimstat) showed that the country imported maize worth \$82 million. This was, however, down from the comparative period in 2016 which was \$97 million.

Zimbabwe also imported durum wheat and rice worth \$46 million and \$41 million respectively within the same period under review, the report said.

The report added: "Overall imports in the first five months



Deputy Minister of agriculture Davis Marapira.

of the year stood at \$2.1 billion while exports amounted to \$1.1 billion, giving a trade deficit of \$1.01 billion.

This came just a few weeks after

the government indicated that it had banned the import of grain following a bumper harvest.

Deputy Minister of agriculture Davis Marapira said that the country had banned grain imports "to protect local farmers after producing enough to meet local demand".

"GMB will buy maize from local farmers from the funds they have and more money will be available to purchase locally produced maize," Marapira was quoted as saying at the time.

He added: "Government stopped issuing grain import permits about four months ago and no maize imports are allowed at our borders."

News24

Zim farm grabber 'immoral', church
must intervene - white ex-farmer

HARARE - A white former Zimbabwean farmer, Ben Freeth, has reportedly urged the International office of the Pentecostal Assemblies church in Canada to intervene, following fresh land grabs in the southern Africa country.

Freeth's colleague, white commercial farmer, Robert Smart, was forcefully removed from his property by armed police and a gang of President Robert Mugabe's ruling Zanu-PF party youths outside Rusape town last month.

The tobacco and maize grower was evicted from his Lesbury Farm, to reportedly pave the way for a presiding bishop of the Pentecostal Assemblies of

Zimbabwe church, Trevor Manhanga. Manhanga was said to have links with Mugabe's party.

According to New Zimbabwe, Freeth, who lost his own farm during the frosty land invasions in the early 2000s, said that the Smart family "bought the Lesbury farm and other farms in the Rusape district and developed them over the last 80 years".

Freeth said that during the sometimes violent land invasions, which started in 2000, the Smart family came to an agreement with the government to relinquish 90 per cent of their 8 000 hectares of land and retained 700 hectares - of which only 120 hectares were arable.

The family did not receive any compensation for the land they lost.

Freeth said Manhanga acted "immorally" after threatening the family with "Jambanja", a vicious strategy used throughout the 16 years of farm invasions to brutally evict farmers and their workers.

He said that the role of the church was "to be the moral conscience of the nation, and it needs to act immediately against Bishop Manhanga... We also call on the international office of the Pentecostal Assemblies church which is based in Canada to intervene in this crisis".

News24



The late Kenya's interior minister Joseph Nkaissery.

Kenya interior
minister dies
in hospital

NAIROBI - Kenya's interior minister has died in hospital, the government said yesterday, a month before the country is due to hold national elections.

"It is with deep sorrow and shock that we announce the sudden passing on of Interior CS Retired General Joseph Nkaissery," Joseph Kinyua, the chief of staff and head of the public service, said in a statement.

"Gen. Nkaissery passed on at Karen Hospital in Nairobi a few hours after being admitted for a check-up," he said.

No further details were released. Kenyans will choose their next president, legislators and local representatives on August 8.

Opposition

President Uhuru Kenyatta is running against his long-time rival, veteran opposition leader Raila Odinga.

Some citizens are worried there might be a repeat of violence that followed a disputed 2007 poll, when more than 1 200 people were killed in ethnic clashes and political demonstrations.

But 2013 polls passed relatively peacefully after Odinga challenged the results in court.

Nkaissery's death is unlikely to affect preparations for the elections.

Reuters

IS claims attack in Egypt's Sinai that killed 23 soldiers

EL-ARISH - The Islamic State (IS) group claimed responsibility for attacking a remote Egyptian army outpost in the Sinai Peninsula with a suicide car bomb and heavy machine gun fire. The assault killed at least 23 soldiers in the deadliest attack in the turbulent region in two years.

IS made the claim after nightfall Friday, saying in an online statement that it had carried out the attack as the Egyptian army was preparing an assault on IS positions in Sinai.

The coordinated attack suggested the Sinai-based militants are among the region's most resilient, after IS in Iraq and Syria, where the so-called caliphate is now witnessing its demise. And it underscored the struggles Egyptian forces face in trying to rein in the insurgency.

Egypt has for years battled militants in Sinai, where the jihadis have exploited the vast arid and underdeveloped



The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for attacking a remote Egyptian army outpost in the Sinai Peninsula with a suicide car bomb and heavy machine gun fire.

region and its disgruntled Bedouin population as an ideal incubator for Islamic militancy even before the IS affiliate has emerged at the forefront of the insurgency.

Friday's assault began in the early morning, when a suicide bomber

rammed his vehicle into a checkpoint at a military compound in the village of el-Barth, southwest of the border town of Rafah.

Dozens of masked militants then descended on the site in 24 Land Cruiser SUVs and opened fire on the

soldiers with machine guns, according to security officials.

The shooting lasted nearly half an hour, the officials added, speaking on condition of anonymity because of regulations. The troops at the compound were estimated to have numbered about 60.

When the attack subsided, the militants apparently looted the checkpoint, snatching weapons and ammunition before fleeing, the officials said. A number of militants were killed in the shootout, indicating the soldiers had fought back, and some of their vehicles were abandoned at the scene.

The suicide blast at the start of the attack likely disabled the checkpoint's military communications system, prompting one of the officers to use his own cellphone to record an audio message and send it to a colleague via WhatsApp, seeking help and asking for prayers.

African News Agency

BRIEFS

US, Russia agree on Syria ceasefire deal

HAMBURG - Russian President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart Donald Trump have agreed on a ceasefire deal covering south-western Syria during talks at the G20 summit, officials from both countries said. The deal was reached during the two leaders' meeting in Hamburg on the sidelines of the G-20 summit of industrialised and developing nations on Friday.

ALJAZEERA

Woman pleads guilty to voting twice for Donald Trump

WASHINGTON - An Iowa woman charged with voting twice for Donald Trump last fall has pleaded guilty to election misconduct. Court records show Terri Lynn Rote entered a plea on 27 June to the felony charge and a district court judge in Des Moines accepted the plea. Sentencing is set for 15 August. Rote, who is 56 and lives in Des Moines, told police she turned in two absentee ballots before the November election because she believed Trump's unsubstantiated claims that the election was rigged and that her first ballot would be changed to a vote for Hillary Clinton.

Independent

US officials aware of possible hacking at nuclear facilities

WASHINGTON - Nuclear and other energy providers have been advised by the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI that hackers may be trying to breach their computer systems.

DHS said in a statement Friday that there is no threat to public safety. The agency said hackers appear to have tried to breach the business and administrative networks of the facilities.

AFP

Former martial arts star Battulga wins presidential election

ULAANBAATAR - Populist former martial arts star and businessman Khaltmaa Battulga has won Mongolia's presidential run-off election, according to voter data from the General Election Commission released yesterday.

The poll was seen as a referendum on the government's economic recovery plans and the role of southern neighbour China in the landlocked but resource-rich country known as the birthplace of Mongol emperor Genghis Khan.

REUTERS

Ivanka Trump strikes a deal with the World Bank to help female entrepreneurs

WASHINGTON - The World Bank said it will start a fund to finance women entrepreneurs, an idea it developed in tandem with Ivanka Trump, the daughter of the US president.

The Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative will make more than \$1 billion available to improve access to capital for women, the Washington-based development institution said yesterday. The fund will provide technical assistance and invest in projects and programmes that support women and women-led small- and mid-size businesses, said the World Bank, which bankrolls development in poor countries.

AFP



SUNDAYOBSERVER WORLD NEWS

The right place | The right Sunday

TRUMP SAYS HE HAD A 'TREMENDOUS MEETING' WITH PUTIN

HAMBURG - Fresh from his lengthy head-to-head encounter with Russian President Vladimir Putin, US President Donald Trump yesterday was meeting with a long list of world leaders, including British Prime Minister Theresa May and President Xi Jinping of China, as he wraps up his second trip abroad.

Trump said he had a "tremendous meeting" with Putin as he sat alongside May for a morning exchange on the sidelines of an international summit in Germany. It marked Trump's first comments on his high-profile talks with Putin in which he raised the issue of Russia's meddling in the 2016 elections and discussed plans for a ceasefire agreement in Syria.

Trump was expected to focus on talks to counter North Korea's



US President Donald Trump and Russia's President Vladimir Putin.

push for ballistic missile and nuclear programmes, address international trade and ways to combat terrorism. The president was holding the meetings at the annual Group of 20 meetings, which have been marked by vio-

lent riots in the city between anti-globalization activists and police. Noting his "special relationship" with the British prime minister, the president said he and May were working on a trade agreement that he described as a "very,

very big deal, very powerful, great deal for both countries."

May was the first foreign leader to visit Trump at the White House and he told her he would soon "be going to London" once details were worked out.

Independent trade negotiations between the two countries are a possibility as Britain exists the European Union — a move Trump has supported.

Trump's long list of meetings with world leaders yesterday included Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, President Joko Widodo of Indonesia and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore. He also attended a women's entrepreneurial finance event with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and other leaders who were joined by his daughter, Ivanka Trump.

AP

Trump expects trade deal with UK to be completed 'very, very quickly'

HAMBURG - Donald Trump has promised to sign a trade deal with Britain "very very quickly" as he told Theresa May: "There is no country that could possibly be closer than our countries."

The US President said he had developed a "very special relationship" with May as the two leaders sat down for a one-on-one meeting at the G20 summit in Hamburg this morning.

Trump said: "We will do a very big deal, a very powerful deal. Trade will be a big factor between our two countries."

Meeting

He also told May he had "a tremendous meeting" with President Vladimir Putin of Russia on Friday, which lasted for two and a quarter hours.



US President Donald Trump and Theresa May.

The president's comments are a huge boost for May, and come a day after China's President Xi Jinping made hugely positive comments about Brexit. It means

May can leave Hamburg later today having made progress on trade with the leaders of the world's two biggest economies.

Telegraph

Qatar rejects latest threat of 'siege countries'

DOHA - Qatar hit back on Friday at a threat by four "siege countries" that they will impose further sanctions on the emirate, over its refusal to bow to their ultimatum for ending the Gulf crisis. In a statement attributed to a senior foreign ministry source, a defiant Qatar said the demands of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain were defamatory.

"The State of Qatar expressed regret over the con-

tent of the two statements issued in Cairo and Jeddah by the four siege countries and the false accusations included in them that amount to defamation in contradiction with the established foundations of international relations," read the statement.

"A senior foreign ministry source described the statements' claims about the State of Qatar's interference in internal affairs of countries and financing terrorism as baseless allegations."

Earlier on Friday, Saudi

Arabia and its three allies said Qatar's rejection of a list of 13 demands they set to lift sanctions on Doha "reflects its intention to continue its policy, aimed at destabilising security in the region," according to a statement on the official SPA news agency.

"All political, economic and legal measures will be taken in the manner and at the time deemed appropriate to preserve the four countries' rights, security and stability," the statement added, without elaborating. AP

G20: No agreement on climate

HAMBURG - Officials at the Group of 20 summit say leaders haven't reached an agreed statement on climate change - one of the most contentious topics at the talks after the US said it would withdraw from the Paris climate agreement.

European Union officials who briefed reporters on a draft final statement said the document contained a general commitment to fighting climate change, and then a separate paragraph that "took note" of the US decision to withdraw.

A third paragraph then affirmed the support of the 19 other members for the Paris deal. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the draft before it's agreed.

Officials debated language pushed by the US in which it proposed to help other countries use fossil fuels more cleanly. That ran into objections.

Meanwhile, European Union officials say the leaders of the Group of 20 countries have agreed to keep their markets open to foreign trade.

But the group's draft statement also says that trade needs to be mutually beneficial and that countries can take steps to protect their markets.

Trade has been a hotly discussed issue at the summit, as new President Donald Trump pushes his "American First" agenda.

AP



SASSY

SASHA

SCENE got an opportunity to talk to a young and upcoming photographer.

His name is Mbulelo Ndlovu, but goes by the name Mbulelo Photography on social media. He is currently doing his second year in Computer Science at the Christian University. He hopes to make it to third year, come the commencement of the next 2017/18 academic year.

We just wanted to know about him and this is what he said, "I have lived in Matsapha all my life. I am from a family of three, just my mother, my little brother and I." He explains that he started photography last year April, and what got him into it was his best friend, Yenzokuhle Dlamini. It also started with his friend who commended him for taking decent selfies for a guy and taking pretty good silhouettes with his phone (Samsung S3). As funny as the story began, a thought came to his mind as to why not try photography. All this happened in 2015, and then the idea stuck with him and spent the remainder of 2015 trying to convince his mom to get him a camera. "And nothing came up", he says laughing. So he asked his uncle to get him one and luckily, he gave him the money to buy his own professional camera. "I use two cameras, 700D (church) and 1200D (mine), which are both Canons. Initially, I wanted an expensive camera, but my uncle told me to start small, and in the year that I have been doing this, it is safe to say I have won my mother's interest in what I am doing," he said joyfully.

SCENE wanted to know the kind of tools he uses for post processing and just to explain his work flow. He explained that for post editing, there is not much to use, he just uses Adobe Photoshop Light room and VCSO Cam just to correct a bit of lighting. However, the availability of softwares have made it easy for post editing because they do all the work for you. All that one does is to import the pictures onto the softwares and it works on them.

When asked what exactly he does to educate himself on how to take better pictures he said, "I am forever on the net, googling and researching what types of settings are essential for each environment and I try them out and

MBULELO PHOTOGRAPHY; THROUGH THE LENS



then fine-tune them to suit me perfectly." He has also been lucky enough to meet Lulu (Liso Photography). "He's helped me quite a lot and I was just with him for like 10 minutes, but those minutes opened my eyes. I also got to meet Rodney Dlamini and I am thankful for their help" said Mbulelo.

When asked about his work, which picture was his favourite and why exactly, he had this to say;

"This is difficult, it is like asking a mother to point out her favourite child. Nonetheless, this is my favourite picture", showing off one of the pictures she has taken. "It is favourite because this is where I feel my photography started, and I realised how much I loved faces, and portraits are my strongest point" he explains.

This young photographer had a lot to say about his major influencers. "Firstly, it's Khalid Ramirez, a Kenyan photographer, his work is everything."

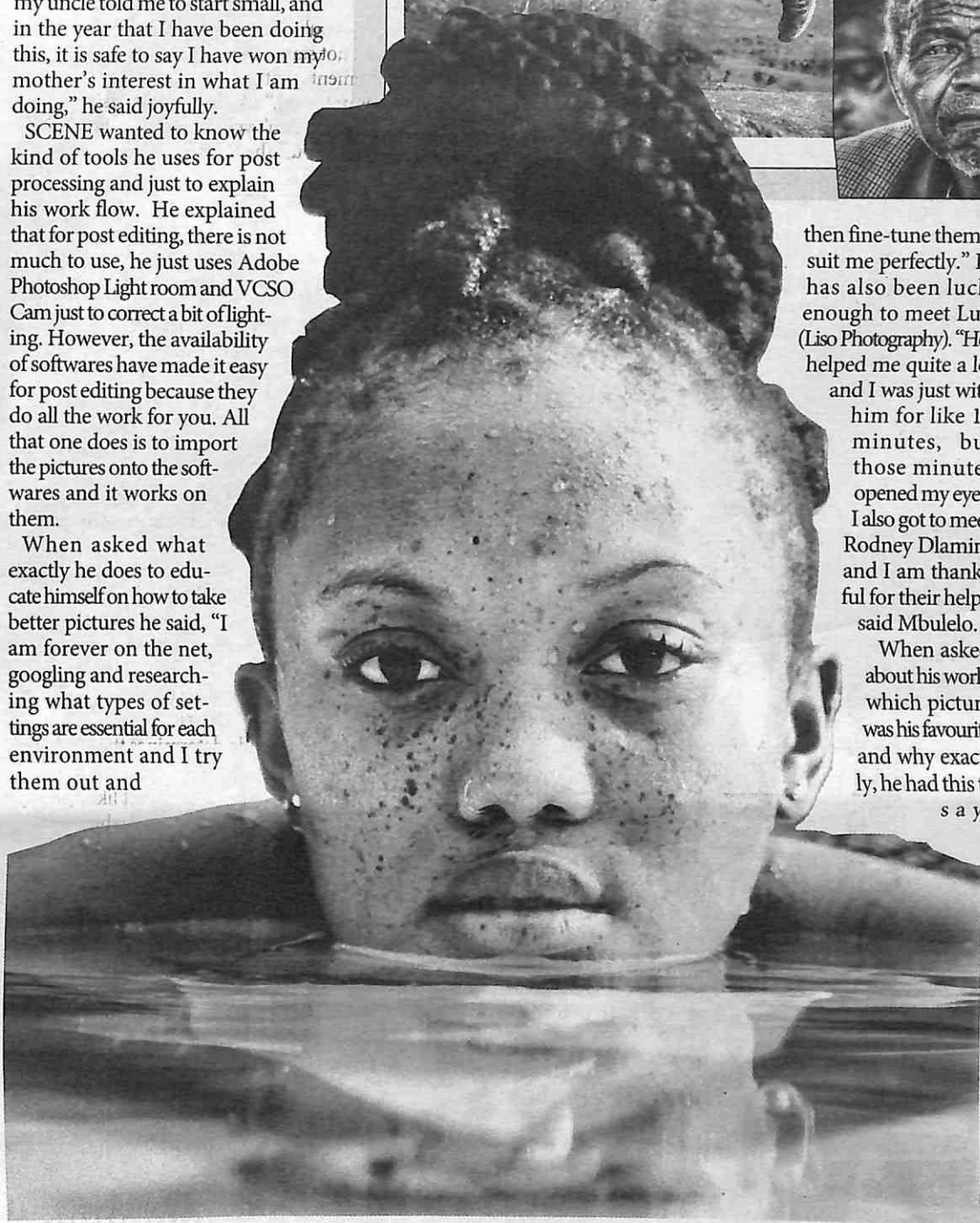
He evokes this imaginative side in his photography, something I think I ooze with. Imagination is good because you find myself playing with it" he stated. He also spoke of Cedric from South Africa, whom he also tries getting his work looking like his, at the same time also trying to be as authentic and true to himself by leaving his own print in his pictures as possible. As much as he often looks at other photographers' work, he still makes it a point to be unique as possible.

We enquired about the one thing that he wished he knew the first time he started taking photos. "Lol... quite a lot hey! The fact that cameras are expensive; actually, the whole equipment thing is expensive. Photography is an expensive hobby and the most painful part is that cameras have a life span. People always think photographers are selfish or do not want

to take pictures of them for free but actually, it is because a camera has a life span and when they die you need to replace them." the young fellow added. He went on to say that he really wished he knew about this shutter count first.

When asked how he thrived in this industry because there are so many photographers out there and what exactly sets him apart from the rest, he said he did not know, but he often heard people say 'that's a Mbulelo picture'. According to him, this makes him see that he is actually doing a good job. He said that he usually goes with flow, because he uses natural lighting (the sun), and shoots at specific times. "Maybe I'll shoot just after 3pm, when the sun is not so harsh on the object. But sometimes I do have something in mind, or have a mental idea of what I want to do, how the picture has to come out, and yeah sometimes it works in my favour", he beamed with confidence.

For him, he says photography is more of a passion than a job. He went ON to say that if it were a job, he would probably get tired of it easily and stop. "Basically, I tell stories with my pictures, I love to capture the 'perfect' moment. So I lean on the emotional side. I use the camera as an extension of my heart, so it's emotional, because if it is from your heart, then you know it is genuine" he concluded.



Lindokuhle Lukhele WRITER'S NOTE:

Moving around due to work kinda inspired this week's issue. Just seeing fresh and not so fresh faces on a daily bases especially on these companies' billboards.

It is so refreshing seeing familiar faces on all these different adverts, well can't really list them but hey I am seeing Smallz, Bianca, Ur Gal Zee and it's amazing that it took so many companies all this time to actually recognise the fact that Swazis are also talented. Now this week's issue SCENE got ahold of new faces in our entertainment industry that we hope you will find interesting and want to know better. On our Page 2 we have Esmah who was just completed her high school and waiting for the University of Swaziland to open this August. She is a model who takes us through her modelling and personal life.

Hipnotik brought about a lot of surprises; she just performed at both the Bushfire and Hipnotik festivals as a supporting act for Flame Boy.

What can we say; she is fresh in the music industry and so hungry for success. Read all about her music journey and what her next move is on our main pages. Otherwise SWAMAs are just around the corner and SCENE will dedicate Page 3 for brief profiles of our nominees, with that entire knowledge people should vote for their favourites tirelessly. Good luck to all the nominees.

Last but not least Mbulelo Ndlovu is an amazing photographer. Well everything is all about taking good pictures now thanks to Instagram.

Mbulelo talks about his love for photography and what inspires him and still shine even though the industry is full of photographers. Mdubasa is still holding it down on Page 7 while Master P is looking dapper on our back page. Here's to another productive week, have a good one!

Modelling is one of the careers to go by these days. SCENE had an opportunity to meet up with one young lady by the names Esmeralda Bathobile Khumalo AKA Esmah.

This is a young Swazi girl, who just completed high school at St Theresa's. She is the last born in a family of three, and according to her; born and raised by a prayerful woman. "I am self driven, competitive, determined, humble and respectful", she says.

SCENE wanted to know from this bubbly young lady how she came about choosing to pursue a career as a model. Just to understand why she is interested in this career path. She explained that she chose to endure in modelling because of being the adventurous person that she is. "I take chances and learn a lot from them. Modelling is my life. From an early age, I groomed myself to have the model attitude; which is not being concerned about what other people think about myself and focusing on my goals instead", she emphasised.

GOALS

"I am hoping to be the face of big companies; representing both my country and Africa at large. So far I am doing well in the career as much as I can, because I'm doing it part time for now; but it's really promising. And as young as I am I still have more time to flourish", she replenishes. When SCENE asked her how she would feel being brand ambassador, she says "Oh my... yes I would love that. Actually, I wish to be an ambassador of any clothing brand", she says.

SCENE also wanted to know how far she feels she will go in her career and how does she sees herself progress in this field. She explains that with models they are advertised based upon careful attention to brand awareness and brand attitude; that it is more than just a pretty face. Models advertise so to get more sales. "That's just my opinion though, so whatever you are advertising should be attractive and appealing", she adds.

"The best photos just don't show a pretty face, but they show the emotion behind the picture... the picture doesn't need a caption rather to explain the situation but whosoever takes a glance on the picture should just get the idea of what was happening."

Her personality allows her to communicate with people very well as she claims to be a people's person. "I respect everyone and treat everyone equally." However, she explains that she does not tolerate people taking advantage of her; she is one person who always stands up for herself. "Nonetheless, I treat my consumers very professionally, because that is my priority in the business category", she emphasised.

HEALTH MATTERS

As a model you have to look a

'NOT EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO YOU'

"I am hoping to be the face of big companies; representing both my country and Africa at large. So far I am doing well in the career as much as I can, because I'm doing it part time for now; but it's really promising. And as young as I am I still have more time to flourish", she replenishes. When SCENE asked her how she would feel being brand ambassador, she says "Oh my... yes I would love that. Actually, I wish to be an ambassador of any clothing brand",

certain way and carry yourself in a different light, she says health matters in such industries. "I jog, lift and do squats at least once a week", she says happily. She watches what she eats as well, but she has been told that no matter how much she eats she would not get fat. "I do not eat dark chocolate, but prefer the healthy nougat white chocolate." Her greatest accomplishments so far, she said ere being signed by the famous South African soapie The Queen, where she will be their background model.

The industry has so many models; Esmah plans to stand out through her attitude which makes one take note of her even whenever she's around people. Ideally Esmah's work environment has to be one that has no set working hours; the environment should be able to allow her to work remotely. She also mentioned that it should not be too formal as well, it should be able to rock the latest fashion trends to work and it should have friendly people who make work fun.

ROLE MODEL

When asked who her role model is, she was quick to say "Winnie Harlow. This girl is a true definition of pretty, regardless of her skin condition. Although, she never won America's Top Model, that didn't bring her down as now she is an ambassador for Levis."

PARENTS

We wanted to know her parents take of her being a model and if they are supportive. She was excited to explain that her mother is the best mother ever.

She explained that her mother at times worries about the ways other people use to be successful in this industry. However, she was quick to explain that her mother has been supportive and when she knows something is not right, she just tells her not to do it.

SIZE DEBATE IN THE INDUSTRY

There is a perception that a person has to be slim to be a good model. But she believes that regulation is neither desirable nor enforceable.

What will make a difference is the commitment of the fashion industry to change attitudes through behaviour and education. So the body size should not really matter, although models should stop forcing their body size. She further explained that being a size 28 should just be natural. A person should not starve themselves or take whatever supplements that burn fat to be slim because that is not good. "Like, we have oversized models why don't you embrace the body that God gave you," she further emphasised.

ACADEMIC WORK

SCENE wanted to know what other profession is she interested in. "I'm about to go to university this year and I'll be measuring in BSc, although my path is engineering and hopefully I will get there sometime," she said.

Concerning her guilty pleasures food wise, she said she loves cheese and jam sandwich, especially blackcurrant jam with Melrose spread."

BEAUTY TIPS

"A woman is most beautiful when she smiles hence you're never fully dressed without a smile." She does not believe in going a full day or night without washing her face, because she has to get that makeup out of her pores. "Shimmer your face so you glow and look alive. Put makeup on but don't look artificial as that's sexier", she stresses.

MODELLING ADVICE

"Your attitude determines the kind of model that you are and you want to be. If you want to be a model act like one. Act like you're famous even when you're not and that means 'not everyone should have access to you', she giggles.



SASSY MUSIC,



"My music is there to inspire people to do better in life; to better themselves in anything they set their minds on"

Music is one art that touches on the soul of every listener. Swaziland is blessed with a lot of talented young people.

This is one of those rare privileges where SCENE meet up with a young talented musician by the name of Sasha De Sousa.

We wanted to know how she got into the music industry.

Which she explained with great joy and eagerness. She started music in high school, as a subject, where she would be expected to perform at times at school concerts. So, basically, she has done music formerly and informally. Her style of music is a lot of different types of sounds, ranging from reggae, soul and Rn'B, so she said essentially it is everything. Sasha is a Waterford KaMahlaba product and isn't shy to give probes to her school for shaping her artistry.

BUSHFIRE EXPERIENCE

Sasha was one of the artists who performed at this world renowned festival, she came on as a supporting act for Flameboy

Universe and sharing how that was for her since it was her first time in such a huge and internationally acclaimed stage.

"I thought it would be too overwhelming...which it was but hey I managed. I really enjoyed it, people there were very welcoming and that made me able to perform, seeing that it was my first time performing in such a huge platform, even though I have performed in one of the Trade Fair shows as well." she added.

In terms of what her inspirations are either in music or life in general, Sasha stated that she started singing in church where she got her confidence.

She would sing along when her mother played gospel music in the car and whenever she needed to sing in church she would step her game up which inspired her to do more.

"I enjoy all the different types of genres in music and listen to them all believe it or not."



PASSION, STARDOM

"That is another side that people don't know about me. I love motivating people and try to leave everyone who gets to know me with a positive feeling about themselves"

PASSION

Seeing how unforgiving the music industry can be, SCENE wanted to know what has kept her this far; "So, I came back home after five years and I have been putting too much on music and haven't been focusing much on the money side. Maybe I will see this more now because I am back home," she says.

Sasha will be dropping a series of singles and covers before her actual E.P which will be dropping by the end of August.

She has made it known that she has a song that will be dropping by this coming week so the public can look out for that.

In a male dominated industry she isn't concerned about anybody but her goal which is music.

She went on to explain that she does music for the soul, she wants to relate to people and isn't about to sing about big bawling since she hasn't reached that far as of yet.

"My music is there to inspire peo-

ple to do better in life to better themselves in anything they set their minds on" she says.

FITNESS

We were not surprised to know that she is a fitness freak looking at her body one can tell she takes good care of herself. She explained that has always been into fitness and health too, not only the body but the mind as well. "That is another side that people don't know about me. I love motivating people and try to leave everyone who gets to know me with a positive feeling about themselves" she emphasised. In her Instagram account there will be video clips that she assures will leave one feeling like they were actually at a fitness centre so people should also

check her Instagram if they want to look just as good.

SONGWRITING

Regarding her first song that she first wrote as a songwriter, she says that it all started with poems. She once wrote one after a minor misunderstanding with a friend and afterwards she realised that it had the potential of being a song and she did exactly that, turned it into a song, called butterflies.

As a musician, she describes herself as anything which she wants to channel at that particular time. "I am hard-core and I can hang around guys and talk about cars while I can also hang out with the girls talking about make-ups as much as I can talk about cars. I can talk to old people as well and I enjoy hanging out with children, as

well as professionals." She wants everybody to relate to her music, such that it is not for a chosen few.

Sasha musically aspires to be a big artist at the same time as be humble and be relatable. "I would like to be in a plane too. New York and be in studio with people who have been in the industry for some time and have accomplished a lot in terms of music," she says smiling.

As a first timer in music, SCENE wanted to know how she handles publicity. Most musicians are known more for their personal lives and other things other than their music. So, how does she plan to let the world know Sasha the musician, not more on being a socialite.

"I believe you have control over your life. Don't expose your life in public and my world and my environment is completely different, because there is the artist and then there's me," she clarifies.

COLLABO

Collaborations are a big deal, most hits come through them. Sasha has her eyes set on rapper and producer Lucid. "He's a rapper and a brilliant song writer.

His music is good, and when I think

of what music should be in terms of rapping, I think of him because he could easily write a song for Rihanna without a problem. His music is amazing. He can write a good song in about 15" she says.

SUCCESS

"I wouldn't put it the traditional way of popularity, but I would say your music should touch people. Most people turn to music for help when they are down or going through something, so if your music can help people in that aspect, I would say you are successful. If people can relate to your music" she says.

BEGINNERS

"I would say stay true to your sound and to who you are as a person; because a lot of the time people get to music and turn to be what someone else wants them to be not what they are supposed to be.

With a strong mind, and a strong vision, and a person who will guide you to where you want to be, but never take away what you are destined to be. They must direct you into what you want to accomplish and allow you to keep your goals and image of who and what you truly are. Your personality should not be removed as well, because somehow, someone out there will relate to you. But if you become something that you are not, then nobody will relate to you and that's not what you would want as a musician" she highlighted.

Insta: [_i.am.sasha](#)
Twitter: [@sassy_sasha](#)



SWAMA NOMINEES PROFILES

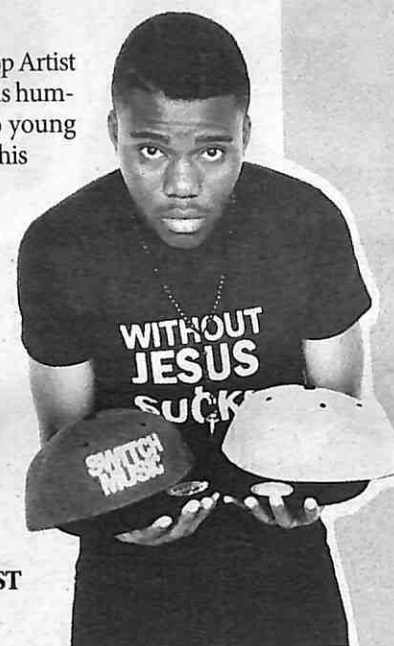
80 SCRIPT

In the year 2017, 80 Script have managed to go from strength to strength. The year began with an appearance on CNN's Inside Africa late in January. From then on, he went on to perform at Sibebe Friday Night Live as one of the headliners vying for a spot on the MTN Bushfire stage. 80 then went on to MC at Elite Season 2, an annual event hosted by Mark Swag and Rokaswazi which he helped get started. Thereafter, he won and secured a spot at the MTN Bushfire Festival 2017. All that has scored him the nominations for BEST HIP HOP ARTIST, and he bagged an official transport deal with Skyworld Travel & Tours. 80script further went on to release his official clothing imprint and philosophy Emulate the Great Athletes: The Sports Superstar merchandise, thus becoming a triple threat in the music industry with music, an event and a clothing label.



SWITCH

Mkhulisi "Switch" Khumalo is a Gospel Hip Hop Artist who has done incredibly well for himself. His humbleness has made him well known even to young children who look up to him. Famously known for his hit singles "God God hallelujah" and "Jesu uyang'sebentela", he surely has brought a different feel to Swaziland's hip hop and gospel industry. Switch has been rapping for 11 good years though it took him a while to find his spot in the industry. Under his belt he has released two albums; The Journey Begins and Walking In Faith, and a mixtape titled 300. Not only has he performed in various events in the country, but he was a guest performer in during the Just Gospel Finals in Botswana, Crown Gospel Awards 2016 in South Africa, and Trumpet Africa Gospel Awards 2016. He won the National Arts and Culture Awards in Swaziland for the Hip-Hop Artist Of the year (2013/15) and is presently nominated for MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR.



Hip Hop Festival performance. He is currently nominated for BEST HIP HOP ARTIST.

KING TERRY

King Terry, a Hip Hop artist with nine years of performance experience, the artist is currently preparing for his second Annual Independent showcase, After Dark: The Live Concert Experience, following the success of the first Edition held in 2015.

King Terry recently won the fifth Season of Sibebe Friday Night Live, a major platform given to artists to launch their career. This led to him performing at one of the largest and most successful festivals in the world, Bushfire '10. Terry has also appeared at the first and second Mpumalanga Hip Hop Festivals, World Cup Trophy

Tour, Crown Gospel Awards, Mcel Hip Hop Rules Maputo Festival, shared the stage with Brick n Lace (USA), Jadakiss (USA), Wizkid (Nigeria), The Parlotones(RSA), AKA (RSA), Kwesta(RSA), Emtee (RSA), Siyinqaba(SD), OutCry(SD) to name a few. He also performed in front of South African President Jacob Zuma at the Crown Gospel Awards. He went on to be featured on Hype Magazine for his Mpumalanga



TENDANESS

Winner of the National Arts & Culture Award (Tihlabani Award), two years in a row; 2010/2011 and 2011/2012, Tendaness has surely proven his worth as a DJ.

He has performed alongside hip hop legend Jadakiss and DJ Killatouch at a charity event hosted by The Prince Lindani Foundation (A Foundation whose patron is Prince Lindani Dlamini of Swaziland).

He went on to headline the Bush Fire 2011 music festival, won the "Sprite Urban Expressions DJ Championship" in Southern Africa. As the winner, Tendaness got the opportunity to tour London and attend the Barclays wireless concert headlined by David Guetta, Bruno Mars and the Black Eyed Peas. Tendaness became the first Swazi DJ to be featured on Africa's music channel; Channel O. In addition, Tendaness launched and hosted the first annual Grande Mansion Party NYE Party.

Last year, he first headlined a performance in Los Angeles, California ROAR ROOM and released his debut EP "Grande". He is nominated for DJ OF THE YEAR.

Amanda Mo is a talented artist who has been hailed by local print and television media for her vocal performance, stage presence and sound.

Her song writing and vocal talent has attracted her to South Africa's Soul Candy records where she appears on Dj Qness' "One Cue Vol. 4" album on the house track she penned called 'You'.

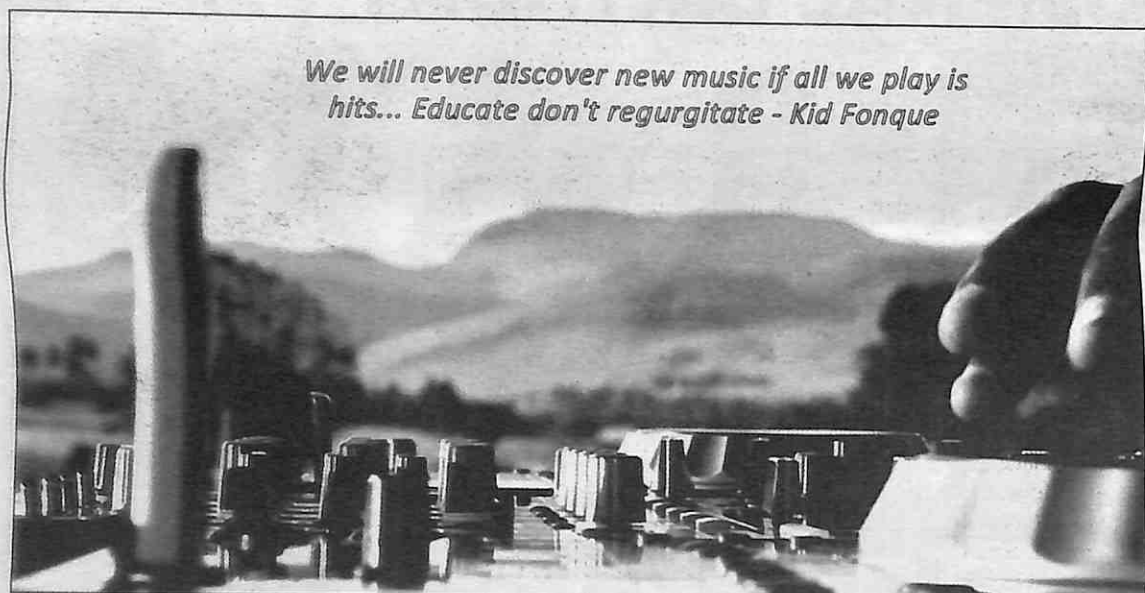
Her R&B ballad called 'This Promise' was picked by some internet radio channels and is getting rave reviews from music critics. Mo has shared the stage with top Swazi artists and South African music heavy weights such as Lira and Afrotraction and has showcased her talents in some events in Johannesburg, Nelspruit and Durban. Amanda Mo was crowned 2014's winning artist at the Sibebe Friday Night Live Series, the official annual musical competition in the country after headlining a successful show. She also gave her debut performance at Swaziland's most prestigious Bushfire International Festival the very same year. She is nominated for BEST R&B ARTIST.

AMANDA MO





BEAT ON BEATS WITH MDUBASA



We will never discover new music if all we play is hits... Educate don't regurgitate - Kid Fonque

'I'M AN UNDERGROUND MUSIC DJ, THAT IS WHAT IT IS...'

...Being recognised for my craft at huge international events such as the MTN Bushfire where I've been featured three times, the latest feature being at this year's event.

Tubuko Nxumalo aka DJ Tibza is an avid creative who always sets forth to deliver quality Soulful Grooves in all the sets he renders.

His music selection is largely influenced by Funk and Soul. Contrary to popular belief, his range of music goes well beyond Deep Soulful House, a genre of music that he is largely known and respected for.

Beat On Beats caught with the spinner to acquire more on his love and expedition in this beautiful genre.

"I play killer Old school sets of RnB/Soul, House Kwaito, plus mellow alternative grooves such as Nu-Jazz/Broken Beats as well.

I love music that connects me to my childhood as it was filled with so much good music'.

Being a DJ was natural progression as driven by my early influenced in this thing called HOUSE. Local acts such as DJ Snoop, Dr. P and Simza were and still are huge influence.

On the international scene, Louie Vega and Vinny Da Vinci have always tickled my fancy"

Tubuko was quick to point out the people behind his love for music. His love emerging from an early age, he singles out his elder brother and father as early music influencers as they always exposed him to quality grooves..

Thus far what have been your career highlights and pitfalls?

There have been many career highlights, the first one is obviously being seen and recognised for the variant of music I play, genres of music that are not necessarily what you'll see on TV or hear on radio, underground music at it were and the establishment of the Summer

Showdown. Secondly its the different underground stages I've spun quality Grooves in with amazing international acts such as Sean McCabe, Reelsoul, QB Smith and Vick Lavender just to name a few.

Thirdly, being recognised for my craft at huge international events such as the MTN Bushfire where I've been featured three times, the latest feature being at this year's event.

The only challenge I see is that Swaziland has a few open minded listeners of music especially when it comes to dance music. My experiences beyond the kingdom have always been memorable. Its always good to be given props for consistently playing music that I believe in by industry giants such as Christos and Vinny Da Vinci but most importantly it is always amazing to get the crowd warming up to the UNDERGROUND and the bookings thereof

How long has it been since you started your career and the growth up until now?

My path as a professional music player/DJ is on its 13th year but I've been collecting music since my mid primary school days. The tapes I brought through at our end of year parties even then had that 'THING' about

them.

You are a founding member of Urban Elements, notably known for the Summer Showdown. What is Urban Elements and the drive behind it?

On Urban Elements our quest has always been the core of expounding on all things that constitute the Urban Lifestyle; Music, Fashion and that overall 'free thinker experience' which is not limited by what is known to most.

The Summer Showdown serves as the longest running Urban Elements initiative.

Our Thursday in Mbabane at Café Lingo and World Café were also simply out of this PLANET!! It is here where Swaziland woke up to the ideals of the Thursday Boogie..

Our quest is to revive a weekly chill-out session preferably in the eZulwini - Mbabane corridor SOON!! We've grown to realise that our offering is quite



TIBZA'S TOP FIVE

1. **Zol Joj - Just Watcha Like (David Harness Vocal Mix):** The song oozes class and sophistication, killer bass line, amazing chords and solid vocals.
2. **Matthias Heilbron - Matty' Funk:** Amazing track, it takes me back to the late 90s deep house vibe when music was still played on Vinyl, very timeless and quite exclusive.
3. **Chez Daimer, Ron Trent - Mornin' Factory:** I don't know how Ron does it but he has a way of giving music that deep African/Tech House groove feel, perfect for morning sets.
4. **Angie Fisher - Queen (Terry Hunter Main Mix):** This one here screams classy women all round, I never play it when I don't see them in droves having a good time.
5. **Lebo Mathosa - Dede (DJ Christos Deeper Mix):** Officially still unreleased, slammin' jam fused into Lebo's piercing vocal prowess..magical!!

aligned to that corridor.

In as far the Summer Showdown is concerned, the successes have been many.

Top on the list is the fact that we were able to introduce an event that truly has a DNA of its own!!

Our quest was to attract an upwardly mobile niche of patrons that dare to be opinion leaders in all they do. We believe that this core objective was established and is upheld with each Summer event.

We are going for the 12th Edition this year - for crying out loud!! Also key to the ideals of this event is that all solid genres of music can co-exist effortlessly on one stage.

One must state however that our core challenge continues to be a permanent venue - well until we buy our own farm(giggles).

Mhlambanyatsi was a great home to us for nine years. It was after new management took over at the club that we suddenly found ourselves functioning as nomads in as far as our event venue is concerned.

Our events continue to be a success and we would love to thank our patrons for that..

We are glad to announce that the Summer Showdown 12th Edition will be held on the 23rd of December, 2017 at the Lidvuba Farm Lodge in Matsapha (below the Inyatsi Site - Old Road to Mbabane)

Everyone should gear themselves for this year's Edition. More details will roll out SOON.

What are your views on The Swazi entertainment Industry, taken from both perspectives as DJ and events organiser?

The Swazi Entertainment scene has made many strides but it still has a long way to GO.

One cannot underscore the levels of artistry that is abound in the kingdom.

Back in 2011 you were played during a crossover event, featuring

Brick N Lace, where your set received some unfavourable reviews. Your response to the criticism was in part similar to words spoken by Kid Fonque. Is this still a core element in your sets and how do you deal with criticism of such?

As a DJ that is an avid lover for Underground Vibes its quite obvious that making a living purely on spinning music is impossible given our small population, limited scope on dance music and our economy in the kingdom.

That is why I also have a 9-5 that assists in sorting out my core needs and desires!

I've always felt that the music I play need not be compromised.

DJs are artists too and must as such be given the ability to play music as they feel much like one cannot expect Sade to perform an Eryka Badu set. There is nothing wrong with commercial music, it has its DJs just like Underground music has its own.

I'm an Underground Music DJ and that is what it is.

To echo Kid Fonque's words, we cannot all play hits that are known by the greater populace. If we do so then what purpose will we serve as DJs seeing as everyone already has their 'hit tracks' on their USBs in their cars and their homes. The whole Lounging/Clubbing experience is about hearing something new and fresh.

Why would someone go on a shopping spree only to get items that he/she already owns? I feel the same rationale should apply to this DJing/Music thing. If not, then when will we ever get to hear new music again?

Your take on the work by Swazi House producers?

The Antidotes and their musical associates continue to put Swaziland on the international deep house Scene and were are thankful for their quest for quality House music.

What can we expect for the forthcoming Summer Showdown Experience?

The Summer Showdown 12th Edition is going to be the Funkiest by far. Beyond having a central venue it will usher an iconic Urban experience that will not be forgotten by all who will be attendance.

MASTER P'S RED HOT, DARING PHENOMENAL BIRTHDAY PARTY

BY AYANDA DLAMINI

So I attended DJ Master P's Red Hot and Daring Phenomenal party at Mitchell's Restro Pub on Thursday night, it was indeed a phenomenal party. It was a well-attended event so to speak.

Well attended by the allies of the spinner and mostly personalities such as Nqobile Simelani, Nqobile Magagula with her Nomcebo,



Entertainment gurus and allies of DJ Master P celebrating during his Red Hot and Daring Phenomenal party at Mitchell's Restro Pub on Thursday night. (Pics: Ayanda Dlamini)

Lindokuhle Mthupha, Thembeke Ndlangamandla, Comedian Dr Shakes, Nqobile the poet, Songstress Mandisa, KrTC, Mandla 'Cheeks' Nxumalo, King Terry who was the Programme Director of the night, Spinners DJ Ntombini, Mix Mash, Kharly B who serenaded the A-lis-

tas with house music and Mozaik the Producer who later performed a new single with the birthday which was realised on the same day before the celebration. Mandisa entertained the A-listas with a bit of her soulful music with her fur coat and blonde hair. Looking all sort of fine.

It was the moment when birthday boy and his friends dancing up the storm showing what they got. I mean, who ever thought Mozaik can dance?

On Thursday night he proved everyone wrong with the birthday boy as well.



Birthday boy's friends having a good time during the celebration.



Birthday boy Phinda 'Master P' Dlamini having a blast at his birthday celebration.



Nqobile Magagula, Nqobile Simelani and Nomcebo were guests at Master P red hot daring party.



Karly B during his thrilling set.



King Terry having a moment at Master P's red hot daring party.



'Hello America' and season songstress Mandisa serenading the A-listas at Master P birthday celebration.



Birthday boy getting inked on his birthday by Jojo.

SUNDAY COMMENT

Failing rape survivors

There is something incredibly wrong with the referral system for survivors of rape, which is so badly managed it is resulting in girls young as primary-school going resorting to not reporting their ordeals.

Rape is a difficult enough trauma to get over, bad enough to live through, and made even worse when the wheels of justice take forever to punish offenders.

But, it appears there is a new kind of trauma that survivors are being subjected to; dealing with uninterested and unprofessional officers both at the police station and at the hospitals. Because of the nature of the offense, rape survivors have to get clearance from the police to see a doctor. However, our story in last week's edition exposed how survivors are put through the most traumatic experiences at the hands of these officers who should be the first provide warmth and care.

Police officers, it has been alleged, treat rape survivors with such contempt they make reporting the crime. Once they have gone through this experience, survivors are dumped at hospitals, left alone to queue with all other patients to report that they had been raped. Sometimes they are made to wait for hours on end. At this point, the *Sunday Observer* understands that rape victims end up turning back, without going through the excruciating system and suffering in silence. "Children, even adults, leave after waiting for assistance for hours and I cannot say I blame them," a nurse told this newspaper.

This total disregard for the sensitivity of the trauma that survivors of sexual assault are put through will lead to an increase in unreported cases, while also giving rise to rape cases. It is even worse when it is an open secret that police officers will treat each survivor worse than the suspect; making all sorts of unsavoury comments that make reporting such cases very difficult.

We have to do better than making hospitals an uncomfortable place to seek medical attention. We have to deal with nurses who have no desire and passion for assisting patients who come to them seeking more than just medical attention.

The Swaziland Nurses Association needs to get to the bottom of such cases and make hospitals a welcoming place. The nurses who have adopted negative attitudes towards patients, let alone rape survivors, need to be rooted out of the system for they are failing in their core mandate. We need nurses who appreciate what we are dealing with internally and outwardly.

As for the police, no wonder that there is such a high number of rape cases. There is just no will on their part to stem this problem. No wonder that dockets grow legs—they are just not interested in putting rapists behind bars.

They are no worse than the rapists themselves.

Analysis & opinion



BY MBONGENI MBINGO

No method in Municipality's madness

It is obvious that there is a serious problem with parking in Mbabane; and that the municipality hasn't got a clue how to solve this headache. But in trying to solve it, the municipality only ends up showing how it treats the people who matter with serious contempt and disregard.

It is also becoming increasingly clear that there is no political will from the municipality to find a workable solution to the lack of parking space and managing it, except that its leadership and perhaps those who are its think tank have come up with a very complicated solution to the problem—some sort of zonal parking that makes it difficult for those who work in the city, who are the most frustrated by the new parking system.

Added to this, Lula Parking has resorted to charging motorists an arm and a leg for parking in town, in the belief that it will discourage people from parking for longer hours—except, of course, this hasn't solved the problem!

The municipality has instead succeeded in frustrating those who work in the city, and who are now being charged ridiculous fees and forced to park far away from where it is convenient for them.

System

This is partly what I find to be mindboggling with the newly-introduced system; that motorists have no say in where they would like to park, and they have not been consulted in the city council's quest to resolve this headache. Maybe here one should challenge the city council to offer its parking bays to the same people it is throwing out to 'Phezukwendlu'. Maybe Gideon Mhlongo and his executive, and management should be forced to park by the Methodist Church and walk to work. Maybe they should even consider coming to work on public transport.

The people who work in the city are the ones being made to feel the brunt of the new parking system, because they work in the same streets that need to be cleared, and own cars. Instead, everything is now being shoved down their throats, while the municipality boasts of empty streets! How about riding the city of the people who make it such a bustling place?

Of course it is understandable that the city is finding itself with too many cars than it can manage. However, to manage this crisis, the municipality should not anger the same people who make it economically viable, or are the working class. This is especially because the problem isn't caused by those who are working in the city, and own cars; how-



ever, it is believed to be caused by two different sets of people—those who work outside of Mbabane but park their cars in town to catch public transport to their destinations; and pirate taxi owners, this especially in Betfusile Street, which still isn't showing any signs of positive results by the way!

Municipality

In addressing this, however, the municipality has thought to push everyone away from the city centre, but without considering those whose offices are in these streets that are being emptied; and as well the business people who have no allocated parking bays. I find this detestable.

A business owner in the city can't park in the same premises he works, but most likely to be forced to park anywhere around 200m from his business. If not, he has to pay handsomely for the parking that is convenient to him. Of course one shouldn't be seen to be suggesting that the city council must provide everyone with parking bays, but it is common courtesy that the business in the city should be considered in this respect. It shows forward thinking and consideration.

Lula Parking, on the other hand, need not antagonise the people who come into the city but needs to find a way to make their stay as convenient as possible. One of the ways of doing so is obviously to have analysed the number of people who could be accommodated in their system before issuing a unilateral decision to throw everyone else at the SASCO building—

just because they can, and as if that area has been cleared and prepared for the demand for parking. Before forcing people to park in these designated areas, the municipality assumes these to have been inactive, yet there already was congestion.

This then hardly provides the solution, but causes further frustration if you are an employee in the city centre.

Transport

But, what can be the solution to parking in town? What can be the answer to the burgeoning working class who are not going to suddenly take public transport to town as a result of this frustration?

The answer lies in two areas. The city council obviously has failed to prioritise this area for decades; clearly, which exposes a lack of vision in this respect. The city has been showing signs of growth for years; and everyone now—especially those who work in the city—own cars. In this respect, there has been clear indications that parking bays will need to be provided if the city is to demonstrate that it is moving in tandem with its tag. In this respect, the municipality should have by now secured space for parking and invested in constructing one such area. Perhaps that is one area the abandoned SASCO building could have been put to good use, even if there are fears the structure that is sticking out like a sore thumb in the city is going to crash anytime soon. If one takes a quick look around the city, most buildings don't have

parking spaces; and that presents this current problem. So, a structure that offers parking is something the municipality should invest in.

Secondly, both the municipality and the agency are failing to deal with the real problem here—the people parking in the city and driving off to other areas (who in my view are the ones who should be forced to the new zones for parking); and the regular people who utilise the designated parking in their places of work. In this regard, charging by the hour hardly solves the problem and charging higher tariffs encourages people to beat the system.

In my view, for as long as Lula Parking is only providing a single agent along the busy streets, it is hardly going to solve this problem. Two is also not enough. The 30-minute charge also makes no sense both to the businesses that the municipality claims to be doing this in their interests, and managing the congestion. The reason obviously is that businesses obviously need customers to hang around longer, so as to spend more than they had intended. To force them to do their business in an hour simply says they must get what they want and go. I doubt that is what we want.

Park

If this is to work, then the system needs to accommodate those people who are genuinely in the streets for business and also that people need their freedom to park where they want—and be left to run their errands.

The solution however, that will allow give us peace of mind is the metre-parking. The fundamental problem about congestion in the streets is not how to charge and how to limit parking. It is simply that people are going to pay for the time they have spent in that bay. In this case, everyone who parks at the Malls and the Plaza knows very well they will pay, and that therefore solves the headache. In the city centre, most people don't pay—despite that there are agents here and there. People must park, and pay. And we must have the freedom to park *bekunene*.

Perhaps one must conclude by asking what Moses Motsa has in mind for that plot he has not developed. Perhaps he is the answer to this problem. Perhaps he needs to build a five-storey parking bay because that would solve this headache.

VOICE OF BUSINESS



THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE E-GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION STRATEGY TO BUSINESS

Has the Government put in place reliable and effective infrastructure to deliver these services; what measures are in place to monitor if indeed the services are delivered in an effective and efficient manner; has Government prioritised which of those services will benefit business and grow the economy of the country; how will duplications of efforts (manual and e-based) be managed; how will government ensure that the cost of doing business will not be transferred to business and the citizens.

The Voice of Business applauds the recently launched e-Government communication strategy by the Honourable Prime Minister Dr. Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini.

The strategy comes at a time when the quest for effective and efficient delivery of services by government to its citizenry and private sector is at the highest.

The 'information age' demands that conducting business, either in the public sector or private sector, must be done in an effective and efficient manner in order to remain relevant. This era demands that services be measured in terms of value for money, be it terms of time spent whilst accessing the service or the quality of the service being accessed. It is no longer tenable for citizens to endure service delivered through the traditional frequent physical visits to offices; citizens are no longer prepared to spend long hours waiting for services that are anchored on a paper-based system. The modern citizens want fast and efficient systems available at the click of a button. Today's businesses and citizens are no longer interested in the faces and names behind the bureaucratic structures and processes which deliver services that they are entitled to. There is a general common understanding that governments exist to deliver these services.

That the Government of Swaziland has woken up to this reality is highly commendable and applauded.

However, this comes with new challenges for the country:

Has the government put in place reliable and effective infrastructure to deliver these services; what measures are in place to monitor if indeed the services are delivered in an effective and efficient manner; has government prioritised which of those services will benefit business and grow the economy of the country; how will duplications of efforts (manual and e-based) be managed; how will government ensure that the cost of doing business will not be transferred to business and the citizens.

Many developed countries have leveraged on e-government service delivery modes to become competitive. Physical boundaries are no longer an impediment to national development; information and knowledge are no longer restricted to a few privileged people. Governments and the private sector in these countries provide customer-focused, cost effective, and easy-to-use services through electronic means. Internal gov-

ernment processes and workings of these countries are e-based.

Suffice to mention that to achieve the objectives of the e-government strategy, it is important that there is adequate investment in information technology infrastructure and skills; availability of the latest technology; readiness of individuals to use internet and other technology-based software; affordable of fixed and mobile broadband subscriptions; adequate and reliable internet bandwidth.

Competitiveness

The 2015-16 Global Competitiveness Index ranks Swaziland number 98 out of 140 countries, in the pillar of technological readiness. Granted, much has happened since 2016, but until the next Index is published, Swaziland remains at number 98.

It is for this reason that The Voice of Business strongly encourages and urges the government, the business community and citizenry at large to take seriously this initiative and work together to improve the country's ranking and the ease of doing business through electronic means.

The Voice of Business opines that access to internet and reliable connectivity thereto still remains a big challenge; the cost of using data to do business is still very high. The Global Competitiveness report 2015-16 ranks Swaziland at 131 in Internet access in school out of 140 countries, globally. This poor ranking is evidence enough that information technology (IT) skills development and knowledge transfer have not yet been prioritised in all the country's centres of learning.

Services

Lastly but not the least, changing the nature of government and the need for government ministries to view business and citizens as major stakeholder and 'clients' in the administration and delivering of public services is paramount for this strategy to be a success. This is highly critical taking into consideration the fact that the Global Competitiveness report asserts that inefficient government bureaucracy is the most problematic factor for doing business in Swaziland.

Going forward, and as a turning point in our economy, the adoption and inte-

gration of digital technology into our daily lives, at home, at work, at schools and at play should be the way to do things. e-government should not merely be about building websites and posting government's data/forms on these. It should be about re-organising government processes and services, promoting better relationships between government to government (G2G), government to business (G2B) and government to citizen (G2C), where technologies are an enabler to foster an information- and knowledge-based society.

The Voice of Business believes that with the appropriate regulatory framework, the e-government communication Strategy will enable a much easier, transparency and accountable government where public misinformation and anxieties will be minimized through effective interaction between the people, businesses and government. This in turn will help in building a more cohesive society; it will help in consolidating peace and in strengthening the country's security which is a vital factor in improving the ease of doing business in Swaziland.



SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES SWAZILAND
By Nontobeko Mbuyane
Fund Development and Communications Manager

As Swazis we are known to be a loving and peaceful nation, but sometimes I wonder how far we can go to show and give love to others especially to children who are orphaned, abandoned, neglected or vulnerable due to whatever circumstance.

In fact, I want you reading this article to take time and think of when was the last time you ever made a difference in a vulnerable child's life, how and when was it last you showed love to another child except your own biological child. Are you aware that while you and your children are living comfortably according to the Swaziland Demographic and Health Survey (SDHS), 23 per cent of children are orphaned and that 31 per cent of children are considered vulnerable. Actually there are about 130 000 orphans and vulnerable children in Swaziland. The saddest part is that these children have come to find themselves in such a situation or predicament through no fault of their own, hence we should all know that, "every child deserves a loving home and no child deserves to grow up alone". Every child has a right to adequate nutrition, a decent education and quality health care, and yes every child deserves to be safe, protected and loved. In a perfect world, every child would have and would be all of these things. But that is not today's world. So many children still go without the most basic necessities and still live in danger of violence and abuse. And how



this pains my heart is surely an understatement, in fact it kills my soul. But each morning I wake up with so much vigor and drive to make the life of children better, even if it's one child, at least I surely know I have made a difference, however it can never be me alone we need you and many more partners who will strive together to end the inequities and to give more and more children a fair shot at a bright, productive and happy future.

LOVE

Every child deserves affection, attention, positive reinforcement and unconditional love to develop a strong sense of self-worth. I believe that only then will they be able to see other human beings as worthy of their love and care as well. In fact, showing a child love and acceptance from her first year of life is actually the foundation of all ethical action. Children need to know that they are valuable. They need to know they are important enough for you to take time to be with them individually, to notice what they are doing, how they dress, what they have created, how they are growing. Such seemingly small

things are more important to a child's sense of sense than we can ever realize. William James once wrote, "The deepest principle of human nature is the craving to be appreciated." When children receive consistent, appropriate demonstrations of acceptance and approval from their parents, they inevitably interpret them as signifying, "I am worthwhile, valuable, and lovable." Every child deserves to feel loved, valued and wanted.

FAMILY

Every child has a right to a family and deserves to grow up in one. Frankly every child deserves to have a family with whom he can share his whole life with, after all a family is where a child develops his/her personality. His family will always be his "wonder wall" in every aspect of his life. Unfortunately, due to case of parental death, abandonment and neglect most children are often deprived this very key component of their lives. And this is where we all as citizens come in, surely we need to come in to actively play the role of the family and the child support structure. Our family roles can be played

out in different formats, indeed we all cannot be directing raising the child but we can indirectly financially, emotionally and psychologically play a role in raising the child. I know you are asking yourself, but how? Well, you could provide the child's "alternative family" with support that will enable the child to have opportunities for growth and development in that environment.

Institutions such as SOS Children's Villages help children without and those at risk of losing parental care through residential which we often refer as the villages that we are all familiar with, these villages provide long-term care of orphaned and abandoned children and through the family-strengthening programme, where these children are taken care in their families of origin. My question to you is, what role have you played in ensuring that those children do not go to bed hungry in these villages, have you shown love lately by merely spending a weekend with them, do you know how much they would appreciate to see your warm smiles, play with your children and build a relationship with you as an extension of their village.

Every child has...
...the right to be respected
...the right to dream
...the right to be loved and cared for
...gifts that should be recognized and valued
...the right to achieve their God-Given potential
...the need for unconditional love

CARE

Imagine a child you care about. Maybe it's your son or daughter, a niece, nephew or grandchild. Picture their smiling face looking up at you with all their innocence and beauty on display. Think of the wonderful qualities in this child. Maybe it's a talent or a physical feature, or the way they cuddle with you during a movie. Really do it. Close your eyes for a second and imagine this child. Now, imagine a child who was no one to call mother, father, or uncle wishing for all that care and happiness. One must be quick to thank the number of Swazi corporate institutions whose employees took time the past weekend to spend it with SOS Children's Villages in Mbabane, indeed this was a love filled and happy day for all the children. Our heartfelt gratitude also goes out to all the individuals who have committed themselves in supporting these children by bringing over any form of donations, we are eternally grateful and such gestures mean a lot. Truly you care. And yes I further implore all other individuals, institutions and companies to show us love, care and support by assisting us in any form, we are forever thankful.

For more information, please visit: www.sos-childrensvillages.org or visit our National Office in Manzini, Hlalakahle, Villiers Street, Tel: +268 2505 8470, email: nontobeko.mbuyane@sos-swaziland.org
(Extracts from Love Your Kids For Who They Are by Rabbi Steven Carr Reuben, Ph.D and <https://3dumplings.wordpress.com/2014/12/06/every-child-deserves-to-be-loved/>)

MIND THAT ERROR

ADIDI UYO



RED IN COLOUR

The title of this piece, "RED in colour," is a very apt example of the error we are reviewing today, for the word you see is not, as they say, what you get!

On this page, whenever you see RED, in capital letters, know that it is the clip of the word, "redundancy," which is why the title is an excellent example of the error we are interested in.

You see, you would be making a mistake if you were to say, "The lady wore a dress that is red in colour." That is because you have used two words that are unnecessary, to wit, "in colour," for the word, "red," means a certain colour. Such an expression is said to be pleonastic.

"Pleonasm" is the use of a word or words whose meaning is implied in another word in a sentence. To be sure, pleonasm is just one type of redundancy.

Redundancy is an error that we have featured on MIND THAT ERROR a number of times, but we cannot be tired of doing so, because reviewing it regularly might just reinforce our awareness of it and enable us to avoid it to the point of eradicating it, touché!

Redundancy

Besides pleonasm, redundancy comes in other forms. AVOID BEING CORRUPTED, KING WARNS POLICE RECRUITS is the headline of a news story in the Observer On Saturday, October 15, 2016. The following is the story's sixth paragraph. Read it and see if you can tell the form of redundancy that it bears. "The King further stated that it was not only the Swazi nation they were serving, but even visitors from outside the borders of the kingdom and foreign nationals currently staying in the country."

Well, you are a step away from naming the form of redundancy in that sentence if you agree that there are words that we need to excise from this portion of that sentence: "visitors from outside the borders of the kingdom and foreign nationals currently staying in the country."

Certainly, that phrase contains many unnecessary words. "We would lose nothing, but gain a lot by reducing the sixteen words of the phrase to just six, thus: "visitors and residents in the country."

Let us quickly explain how we have revised that phrase and why. There are two parts to the phrase, to wit, "visitors from outside the borders of the kingdom" and "foreign nationals currently staying in the country." Concerning the first part, it is obvious that visitors to any social entity come to it only from the outside; hence, the words, "from outside the borders of," are redundant. As to the second part of the phrase, we know that there is one word that is



To be sure, pleonasm is just one type of redundancy. Redundancy is an error that we have featured on MIND THAT ERROR a number of times, but we cannot be tired of doing so, because reviewing it regularly might just reinforce our awareness of it and enable us to avoid it to the point of eradicating it, touché!

customarily used to refer such people, to wit, "residents."

Taking care of one other kind of error in the sentence, we may revise it, thus: "The King further stated that it was not only the Swazi nation they were serving, but also visitors and residents in the country." What we have gained by weeding that phrase of sixteen words to six, of course, is conciseness, a great virtue of writing, generally, and of journalistic writing, particularly. And the form of redundancy which we have dealt with is called verbosity: the use of many words to express what could be said in a few, equally well, if not better.

What would you the following sentence has any element of redundancy in it? "With as many problems as we are all faced with in our work and life, it seems as if there is never enough time to solve each one without dealing with some adversity along the way." This is the opening sentence of the first of three editorials in the Times of Swaziland, July 7, 2017.

Compare the opening phrase of that sentence to this construction, or, should I say, reconstruction: "With the numerous problems we all face daily." This revision saves us five words. First, it cuts off one of the two prepositions, "with." And, second, it replaces the phrase, "in our work and life," with just one word,

"daily." This adverb, we may argue, suffices, because of what a day entails.

Invariably, the fat, that is, unnecessary words, of any sentence is burnt out by excising the needless words, thereby, tightening the sentence up. The sentence which we have just considered is redundant because of the same error as the one we found in the previous sentence: Verbosity.

Indeed, the sentence could be made tighter still, if you burn out more of the words towards its end, as we can see from this revised version: "With the numerous problems we face daily, there is never enough time to solve each one, especially, because of some adversity we encounter along the way."

Words

From thirty five words to twenty five: a saving of ten good words! As the saying goes, a good sentence is like an efficient engine: It has no unnecessary parts.

The top story in the Swazi Observer of November 22, 2016 was headlined, NO TV, RADIO BUSINESS FOR POLITICAL PARTIES. The last sentence of the news story reads, as follows: "In response, the Principal Secretary to the Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology Sikelela Dlamini, said the definition of what was meant by political group would be included in the Bill, before it was tabled to parliament."

Quickly, this is the reason the sen-

tence is redundant: the word, "definition." When we realise that definition refers to "a statement of the meaning of a word," we can easily see what is wrong with this phrase which we find in the sentence under our spotlight, that is, "the definition of what is meant by political group."

I am sure you can name that form of the redundancy, because we have encountered it earlier, here: It is pleonasm. Taking care of two other errors in the sentence, we may revise it, thus: "In response, the Principal Secretary to the Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology, Sikelela Dlamini, said the definition of political group would be included in the Bill, before it was tabled to Parliament." Four words saved!

Here is a simple and interesting example of redundancy: "During our time, when we were growing up, there was this notion or belief that Africa was a dark continent." The sentence is the opening of an opinion piece in the Times of Swaziland SUNDAY, June 25, 2017. It was titled, IS AFRICA A CURSED CONTINENT?

Remove the phrase that begins that sentence, "During our time," and you will see that the element of time exists in the adverb, "when," which continues the sentence. Nothing lost! Verdict: "During our time" is tautology.

"Businessman caught having sex at dump site" is the headline of a news story in the Times of Swaziland, March 3, 2015. Here is the first sentence of the second paragraph of the story: "This is the third sex incident to happen in this area, where community police members in that area have caught couples in the act."

Again, let us provide a clue to the form of redundancy in that sentence. One popular dictionary provides this definition of "incident": "something that happens, especially something unusual or unpleasant."

Well, as you can see, the phrase, "sex incident to happen," is plainly pleonastic: an "incident" is something that happens. For that reason,

the words, "to happen," are a waste.

Again, you can see the two phrases, "in this area" and "in that area." The sentence can do without one of them, and nothing would be lost. Putting all together, we may revise the sentence, as follows: "This is the third sex incident in this area, where community police officers have caught couples in the act." Did I hear you say we would be saving one word, besides making the sentence brighter, by replacing the phrase, "in the act," with "pants down"?

Tell me, exactly how many words can you consign to the waste bin from this sentence? "Pastor Joy, who was found as her place of work with her security detail, in her office, wondered what was so unique about her marriage and even wondered if people wanted to destroy it." To be sure, the sentence is the second paragraph of a news story in the Swazi News of February 27, 2016. Its headline read, WHO SAYS MY MARRIAGE IS IN TROUBLE - JOY.

Well, if you ask me, I will say that we can excise at least eight words from that sentence. First, let us reduce the two separate elements, "place of work" and "in her office," to just one element and one word, "office." Second, let us excise the word, "so" from the phrase, "so unique," because "unique" is an adjective needs no modifier. And, third, let us remove one of the two cases of the word, "wondered."

The sentence may now be revised, as follows: "Pastor Joy, who was found at her office with her security detail, wondered what was unique about her marriage and why people wanted to destroy it." And this is what we have done to it.

We have trimmed a sentence of 35 words down to 26, and the three excisions that we made were concerned essentially with one form of redundancy: verbosity. I cannot say outright whether verbosity is the most common form of redundancy or not. Maybe we can say so with a greater degree of confidence after we find and review more redundant sentences.

SECURE YOUR FAMILY WITH THE DIGNIFIED FUNERAL



It is a dark time at Dups as we mourn the passing of Mr Manuel De Sousa, a great, yet very humble man who was an integral part of Dups, and up to his death, continued to be very useful in its day 'to day' running.

He will be remembered for his expertise in construction, knowledge of herbal remedies, emphasis on eating well for good health and overall wisdom. Mzayoni, as he was popularly known, will be sorely missed by all of us at Dups. May he rest in eternal peace. Our thoughts and prayers go to the entire De Sousa fam-

ily.

Last week we discussed the Dignified Comprehensive Cover Plan, a product that offers a cash pay-out or benefits in the form of grocery, electricity, fuel and airtime vouchers, errands van with a driver, as well as tents, chairs, and mobile toilets. This plan can also serve as a complementary product for any other existing cover.

Plan

This week we will discuss one such cover - the Dignified Funeral Plan. This funeral insurance plan pays a lump sum of money to you or your family to cover funeral expenses in the event of the passing of a covered individual. It allows the policyholder to make small affordable payments over time.

Dups pays in accordance to the benefit cover chosen by the policy holder. One has the option to take a family cover

or an individual cover. The family cover option covers the policy holder, their spouse, and up to six children. The children can be biological, adopted, or step children who are not older than 22. The same children can be covered if they are over 22 but not older than 26 years of age if they are studying full time in a registered institution and are unmarried. Children who are physically or mentally disabled to the extent of being fully dependent on the policy holder are covered without limit on the age. It is possible to add additional spouses, children, parents, and parents-in-law, but individual rates would then apply.

The individual cover option only covers the main policy holder only. Children and parents can be added to the policy at a premium.

All our insurance cover plans have a 12-month waiting period. Should Dups

not receive any payments for a period of 12 consecutive months, the policy will be cancelled.

However, if premiums are not received for a shorted period, there shall be a waiting period of three months following the settlement of all arrears. To minimise, or eliminate altogether, chances of defaulting on premiums, we encourage our customers to pay their premiums in advance.

That is an option many Dups customers have found to be very foolproof. Equally safe are debit order and stop order payments. If you feel you can't pay the annual premium all at once, you can do so bi-annually or quarterly.

We have a number of clients that would have faithfully paid their premiums over a number, and then for some reason, just faltered and stopped making payment. When disaster strikes, some may

want to come and negotiate a claim, but unfortunately that would not work if 12 months have elapsed since the past payment.

It is also possible that the policy holder passes away and the family, in their confidence that everything regarding the policy is in order, present all the necessary documentation needed to lodge a claim only to be told that nothing can be done as there was a lapse in payment of premiums.

Then the nightmare begins.

It is, therefore, important to remind each other in families that premiums need to be paid on time to avoid distress at a critical time.

Please give us a call on 2505 2028 if you have any queries. You can also send mail to info@dupsgroup.com, www.facebook.com/dups or on Twitter @dupsinsurance, or pay us a visit at our offices in Manzini, Matata, Matsapha, Simunye, Nhlanguano, Mbabane, Piggs Peak and Siteki.



**NOKUKHANYA
GAMEDZE**

JA BOARD CHAIR

The most crucial catalyst for development especially for developing countries such as Swaziland is innovation and creativity.

In order for us as a nation to be better positioned to solve the socio-economic challenges that we are faced with, we constantly need creative and innovative ideas. This, therefore, gives JA Swaziland a mandate to cultivate a culture of innovation and creativity among in school youth while planting the entrepreneurial seed. Through our JA company program, we are constantly observing a growing trend among young entrepreneurs who are creatively and innovatively finding solutions for our socio-economic issues and turning them into business ideas. Today, we will take a look at how some students are inspired by the very environment they are in to come up with innovative and creative solutions.

As a country that is still considered a developing country, we therefore require our young people to find creative and innovative ways to drive us to developed status by year 2022 as per His Majesty's vision.

As leaders of the future, an investment towards ensuring that our young people are fully inspired to consider creativity and innovation in providing profitable solutions will ensure that we reach the intended goal.

We require our young people to be better equipped to take up the challenge of job creation through entrepreneurship and in order for them to rise to the occasion, they should be fully inspired and supported to think creatively and innovatively. This is the role that JA Swaziland actively plays in the lives of in school youth where they are challenged to scan their environment and come up with ideas that will be a direct solution to those issues. Let's briefly look at case studies from the JA company program and discuss the creative ideas that young people have come up with.

Can you possibly imagine a product that can be inspired by sand? I can definitely tell you that it was a first for me. Ntfontjeni National High School students found their inspiration from something overlooked, trampled on and regarded as nothing yet they managed to turn that into an inspiration for their breath-taking art pieces. The

INSPIRING INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY AMONG IN-SCHOOL YOUTH



The health and Beauty soap production stage from Manzini Nazarene High School

young people from Ntfontjeni make art drawings using sand. When engaging with the students, they explain that they saw something degraded, unnoticed and regarded useless and turned it into something beautiful. That is after all the beauty of art. It communicates a message through the use of something that in most cases people consider useless. The level of creativity, innovation, precision and accuracy that these young people put in in order to produce the desired art drawing is unimaginable. We need more of such ideas where even the raw material does not cost a cent yet it becomes a priced possession when sold.

JA Swaziland constantly strives to inspire young people to challenge their thinking into the field of science and technology. This is because as the world evolves, more science and technological-based solutions are required. In actual fact to attain development, science and technology becomes key aspects in your

thinking. I was specifically drawn to products I experience at Manzini Nazarene High School. These young people saw a business opportunity from left over cooking oil which in most cases can be thrown away if it has been overused. These young people developed a health and beauty soap from the left-over cooking oil. The science and research that goes into ensuring that the products have all the required benefits and is not harmful to the skin is so amazing.

They have to check even the PH balance of the products and basically so many aspects to ensure it meets the market required standards. One has to remember that they have entered a very competitive market in coming up with the product as there are already so many such products. They, therefore, had to work extremely hard to ensure that there is a cut above the rest.

One of the things that we teach our young people as they get

into business is to care for the environment as much as they care about the business. This is why we also encourage most of them to break into the green business. Young people at Herefords High School decide to find a solution for an environmental challenge that has been discussed even at parliament level.

This is the problem of diaper disposal.

These young people are in the process of comprehensive research whereby they are developing a chemical that will dissolve diapers making it a simple disposal solution. This could be a ground-breaking product that could not only provide a solution for Swaziland but could be a worldwide solution. Such innovation is sparked by the participation in the JA program whereby coordinators of the program ensure that young people are better positioned to produce ground breaking products.

Conclusion

As I conclude, I would like to emphasise on the fact that creativity and innovation are processes that we need to incorporate in the life style of our young people in order for them to provide the much-needed solutions to our socio-economic problems. The duty to do so does not only lie with JA Swaziland but even at home, we should challenge our children to think creatively about solutions to issues they are faced with. I often admire parents who develop the culture of ensuring that their kids understand that they have to work for their money. Some parents out there ensure that young people are responsible for certain household chores which intern they are provided with their pocket money for school. Such training will stick into the minds of our children challenging them to always look for possible entrepreneurial ideas that will assist them have more income. We all have to work collaboratively in developing a cutting-edge generation of

By Nduduzo Hlophe

GUEST WRITER

ROAD TO 2022

The nation should realise that this is not just for certain "people" as they make it seem like, but it is for everyone's benefit.

instead they go around saying we shall see "sitakesibone" quoting in Siswati. It is as if they doubting the King's vision and not only that but also upon themselves as well. Who ever said starting something is the hardest because, according to me and everything I have experienced maintaining something is the hardest through the whole process, as a lot of people will come in with business opportunities that would actually pose as competition/threat, and then you would have to keep up with those certain trends.

Government has been involved in many road construction projects, with the one going to the most famed KM111 airport also known as Sikhuphe airport. They also tarred

the Sicunusa, Gege, Nhlangano roads in which it shows how determined the government is towards making sure that this dream comes into reality. The nation should realise that this is not just for certain "people" as they make it seem like, but it is for everyone's benefit. Not supporting this dream means those certain individuals do not care about their future thus proving that some people just don't want to see change. Blaming the system won't change anything instead it will break us as a nation. People have become too comfortable living with nothing on their names, in terms of achievements. Instead they still want to tackle the same old industries we grew up knowing. Is

it because we do not have the resources or we just lazy to think? I personally feel like we sitting on a gold mine and as a nation we are lazy to work.

When you go out you often hear people talking on how we so behind with things as if they just come out of nowhere, yet there are people who work extra hard just to provide those kind of services or goods. Swazis only want to take they don't want to work for the things they own. Taking charge of your life mustn't be something we are afraid of as with success comes great loss, which at most is the loss of pride and being in the comfort zone.

A great man once said in order to gain you

It is almost five years away from the nation's vision, which is to be amongst the first world countries by the year 2022. Frankly speaking, I am disappointed by most Swazis as they seem not to understand how big of an opportunity this is, both for the nation and as individuals.

There's a lot of negativity amongst us in which it hinders our way to success, people should be all over the place thinking of new business ideas they want to launch and see the whole nation benefit from them but



TOURISM & TRAVEL

BONGANI DLAMINI

STA Marketing Manager

Email: mm@tourismauthority.org.sz



BLOGGER LISA RELIVES HER VISIT AND STAY IN SWAZILAND

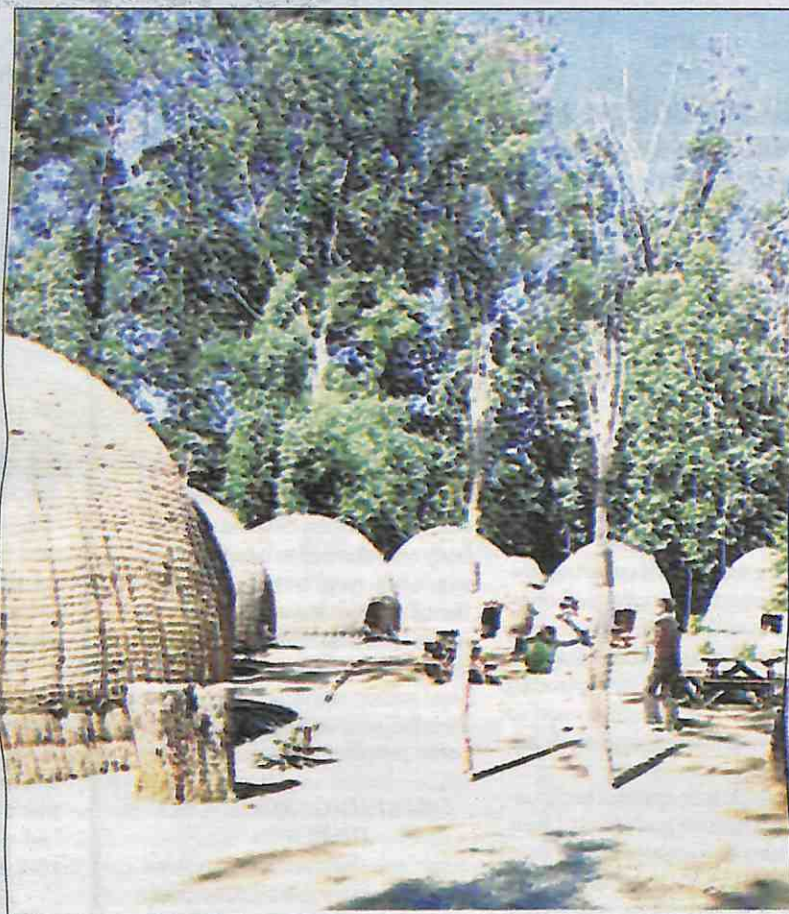
After her stay in Swaziland, Lisa Eldridge who runs 'Girl About The Globe', a travel resource website for solo female travellers promoting responsible and ethical travel, blogs about her experience. She had nothing but praises for our beautiful destination.

This is what she shared with tens of thousands who follow her blog:

"If you're thinking of travelling to Africa but unsure about going alone, then look no further than the Kingdom of Swaziland. Not only is it the safest country on the continent but with Swazis believing that greeting foreign guests is a way of gaining wisdom, it is definitely the friendliest.

The whole country is all about the people and their traditions but aside from traditional healers who can give you an intriguing insight into your future, this country is also known for its game parks and four of the big five. Head to Hlane Royal National Park to see lions, leopards, elephants and rhinos. Rhinos can also be spotted at the water hole in Ndlovu camp. Mahlindza water hole has two viewing places for bird-watching and other animals. A great way to see the animals is by foot or even a safari by horseback is a great way of getting up close and you may even catch a glimpse of Swaziland's national bird: the Purple-crested Lourie.

There is so much to do here so instead of spending a few nights at the capital, Mbabane, head to Mlilwane, Swaziland's oldest protected area and the most visited reserve which sits in a secluded sanctuary in the Ezulwini Valley. The country is teeming in tradition and staying in a traditional Swazi homestead watching traditional dancing per-



The blogger loved the overnight accommodation at Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary rest camp.

formed by the men of the tribe is an absolute must. If you visit between August and September you are in for a treat as this is when the traditional Reed Dance takes place and young maidens come from all over the country to take part in this colourful festival.

But if adventure is more your thing,

Swaziland certainly does not disappoint.

There are great walking trails, unlimited nature and gorges and lots for those who prefer adrenalin sports such as canopy zip lines, whitewater rafting, abseiling, paragliding and caving. They even have their own Ayres Rock; Sibebe Rock which claims to be the second



Canopy tour at Malolotja Nature Reserve



Blogger Lisa Eldridge of 'Girl about the globe' travel blogsite.

largest mound of exposed granite in the world. Arts and crafts are big here too, from mohair weaving, wax sculptures and soapstone carvers at the roadside, you'll definitely not go home empty handed.

An impressive mountain park is Malolotja Nature Reserve with as much tranquility or adventure as you need. The views here are stunning from high mountains to the deep river valley and the best way to explore this last unspoilt mountain wilderness is by zip wire or a canopy tour that crosses the Majolomba River (or along the

guided bike trails in you prefer the ground instead).

The best thing about Swaziland is that the country is untouched by mass tourism so you'll really be able to feel like you're travelling solo in some of the remote areas with just locals for company. However, if you do prefer the company of others then stick to the more popular towns.

With low crime levels and the freedom of a self-drive holiday, can there really be a friendlier country as the Kingdom of Swaziland - the perfect country for solo travellers."



have to suffer loss and it has to be pride, as it hinders a lot of opportunities for a lot of people. Who ever said we need huge buildings like the ones in Dubai in order to say we have reached the first world status/ or we

among the first world countries. What we actually need is to create more jobs for ourselves so we can live comfortable lives, be able to have electricity in every homestead plus water.

Being amongst the first world countries doesn't mean our police service must drive Ferrari as police cars, but means we have education of good standards and everyone can afford their own lives in terms of acquir-

ing the basic needs, which is food, shelter and clothing. And judging by the times we living in electricity has now become a "need" somehow.

As a nation let's all get up and work to better the near future. How about we stop being selfish and work together to achieve this goal in front of us, and maybe then we would get to learn how things work and be able to better ourselves in the process.

The government will not come to knock at our doors for help instead we should stand up and go help them where we can, we must also have in mind that the government is made up of people who are just like us, they make mistakes as well. Good citizens of this beautiful nation let's put everything behind us and start on a clean slate, focus on the future of this country and leave other things at rest.



BY Comfort Mabuza

As we watch the horror movie playing itself out in the hearings of how Regional Development Funds for poverty alleviation were looted, even though a noble initiative by the Head of State meant to address high levels of poverty, this is a great shock and embarrassing.

How have we become infested with such greed in this great nation? I am quite aware that we all want to earn a living and live well, but at the rate things are going with looting of state coffers by our own people, who are certainly against the King's kind-heartedness, we are doomed. How could those entrusted to handle such loans dish out money so recklessly? This defies all logic as it was just a free for all, *kamazitapele*.

If our system of governance was more accountable, the implicated whole lot at the ministry of economic and planning should have gone home or suspended already.

Watching how some recipients got loans so undeservingly, we surely are such a great shame and disgrace.

These high levels of greed will destroy this nation and such abuse and looting of national treasury period is an embarrassment honestly. The envisaged Vision 2022 cannot be realised if public funds meant to assist deserving people in our country are looted like this. What has become of us as a nation and citizens of this great nation? *BEKUNENE, SENTANI KANI? Laze Lafa lelihle kakhulu!*

FINANCIAL CONTROLS AND FISCAL DISCIPLINE

Any attempts to address poverty alleviation that the King and His Government initiated are to not to be destroyed at such a great proportion.

People possessing no skills or business acumen, how can they run businesses? Some of the securities advanced for the loans are a joke and one wonders if there were financial controls in place instead of this free-for-all. For starters, we all need money, but financial controls must be put in place because this was a loan facility. Such theft of national resources is not acceptable and such looters must be brought to book.

We cannot have organised crime thrive and still be so sympathetic to such thieves colluding with some senior government employees. Those who are responsible must be taken to task to give answers for such carelessness.

It is certainly abuse and violation of trust and why do we allow government officials to handle loan facilities when this could be best handled by reputable financial institutions. *KUYACONYISWANA NOKO!*

POVERTY ALLEVIATION IS A HUMAN RIGHTS MATTER

Human rights defenders are calling for stringent controls to our national treasury. We need to focus first on ensuring that people have access to basic things like food, water,

GREED, QUEST FOR OVERNIGHT INSTANT SUCCESS WILL DESTROY THIS NATION

Our country is not poor but badly run, and government should first be truthful to job creation and change the way things are run, as lack of visionary leadership is not evident. Proactive policies aimed at empowering people in rural based economies should be put in place and this culture of dependency syndrome must be brought to a stop.

shelter and health services' facilities. It is totally unacceptable to give money to a person without first ensuring that they are empowered and possess skills and competences to run businesses.

Last time I gathered there were community based initiatives where cooperatives societies taught and encouraged by ministry of agriculture and cooperatives, perhaps we should have channelled this there.

It is such initiatives that should be promoted first, so that people are given business skills and taught how it is handled. As I read with dismay the confessions how these funds were looted, I am asking myself, but how could we make ourselves such a laughing stock. If these funds were loans, then surely business plans should have been subjected to some scrutiny.

The funds were not hand-outs but loan facility to be injected to people's ideas that would ordinarily been checked first by professionals regarding their viabilities. It is abuse of economic rights to then expect people to run businesses profitably that they have no skills and competencies in. People must be first given skills before entrusted with such loans and capital injections.

HIGH LEVELS OF POVERTY

Our country is not poor but badly run, and government should first be truthful to job creation and change the way things are run, as lack of visionary leadership is not evident. Proactive policies aimed at empowering people must be put in place in rural based economies and this culture of dependency syndrome must be brought to a stop. People must first be enabled to produce their own food as food security is the issue here and land tenure and its accessibility is crucial.

Arable land must be put in good use in order to productive what we need for surviving. If my memory

serves me well, there was once a community development initiative when we grew up, emphasis of this programme was that of ensuring sustainable agriculture to feed ones' family and then sell the extras to have some form of income. But when you have no land policy in place and resettlement agenda then you are bound to have arable land made mismanaged.

People must be resettled and grazing land identified and fenced. Dams must also be constructed so that communities that can engage in commercial agriculture with access to water and irrigation.

Agriculture extension officers at community levels should work with the people and promote other fresh produce that could generate income.

This is where one would have expected the Regional Poverty Reduction Funds to have been channelled to.

I still feel very strong that we have not capacitated Swazis to produce food for sustainability purposes. Groups should have been formed so that these funds are accessed by communities that are organised instead of individuals who have no competences and skills. While livelihoods of those who cannot survive are being addressed by relevant programmes, issues of survival and support interventions must be on government agenda. As long as we are unable to empower these aspiring business people, how do we and then expect them to become shrewd and successful overnight?

ALLOCATE LAND AT COMMUNITY LEVEL

One issue that we have never seriously discussed as a country, conc powers vested on chiefs and their councils-bobandlancane to allocate land at community levels and arising abuses.

I am not getting it why should people who own land inherited from their grandparents keep ownership

even if they are not utilising such for sustained livelihoods and put them to good use and productivity of some sort. It is greed to keep so many fields that are hardly utilised by one family who insist they inherited the land. All land that lies uncultivated should be returned to relevant powers that could allocate such to people that want to cultivate and farm in order to ensure food sustainability. Of course, land must be given in trust as it belongs to Ingwenyama as the King.

It certainly does not sit well with me that there fields that are not being cultivated currently because of somebody who decided to be a town person, while rural home is an afterthought. Let us have a national policy on land tenure and time allowed for individuals to keep underutilised land in their name. Such greed must be eradicated as it hinders development, people must access to it.

OBTAINING CHIEFTANCY DISPUTES

One issue that continues to show its ugly face in Swaziland is the chieftaincy disputes which makes living and investing in national land risky. Today's citizens are opting to invest in places where they can be guaranteed assurance that they will not be pushed around and deprived of their investments.

What is the use of investing your hard earned cash in community where the chieftaincy issues are never resolved?

The forced removals of people from Swazi nation has still not been adequately addressed and resolved. People live in fear and many the relevant structures attempt to finalise such conflicts as they hamper development in the long line.

At the end of the day people lose interest and we cannot blame them for turning their back. May we strengthen the chiefdoms and community management system on these issues, because our country has so much potential but because of dragging unresolved issues, we are forever held captive by self-appointed authorities whose agenda is to make life so miserable if you happen to live in Swazi nation land. We cannot then blame people who decide to forget about sustained livelihoods in communities where there are witnessed leadership disputes. These are human rights issues we cannot ignore as people have constitutional protections. STOP THE LOOTING!



JOY NDWANDWE'S ZONE LEADERSHIP

This July is hero's month, and the Southern African Development Community recently lost a regional hero. My heartfelt condolences to the Masire family on the loss of their father, brother, uncle and grandfather.

My condolences to the citizens of Botswana for losing an icon and leader, whom I refer to as a statesman of note. The passing on of 'Uncle Quett', evoked the memories of my uncle, *Babe Shishayi Nxumalo*, who is the reason former president Masire is 'Uncle Quett' to me. After being expelled from the University of Swaziland by the then Ligoqo, I was admitted at the University of Botswana. With my brother Gabs, that is, Sabelo Gabriel Nxumalo, son of *Baba Shishayi*, we enjoyed access to the statehouse in Gaborone.

Through *Babe Shishayi's* brotherhood and family friendship with the Masire family, and indeed my condolences to the Nxumalo family on your loss of 'Uncle Quett'.

I am grateful for having gained access to the statehouse, as these were invaluable lessons, which I still cherish and carry within me. Then it was fascinating to have dinner with the President of Botswana, whilst being a student in that country.

And sharing these moments with Tswana students, who were vocal about the status of their country, understandably was already an activist expelled for politics in Swaziland. My everlasting memory of the statehouse was when *Mme Masire*, who loved chatting to us after dinner, was called by her husband. As the cattle host herder within him would emerge in a romantic whistle, calling his wife as he climbs the stairs to their room.

A romantic signal on how now it was their time to bond, and indicative of their love as she the pillar of this statesman of note. *Mme Masire* contributed immensely to his political career, and maybe my imagination was running wild when he whistled. As 'Uncle Quett' could have had a burning issue, thus, seeking counsel and advice from his confidant.

CATALYST FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

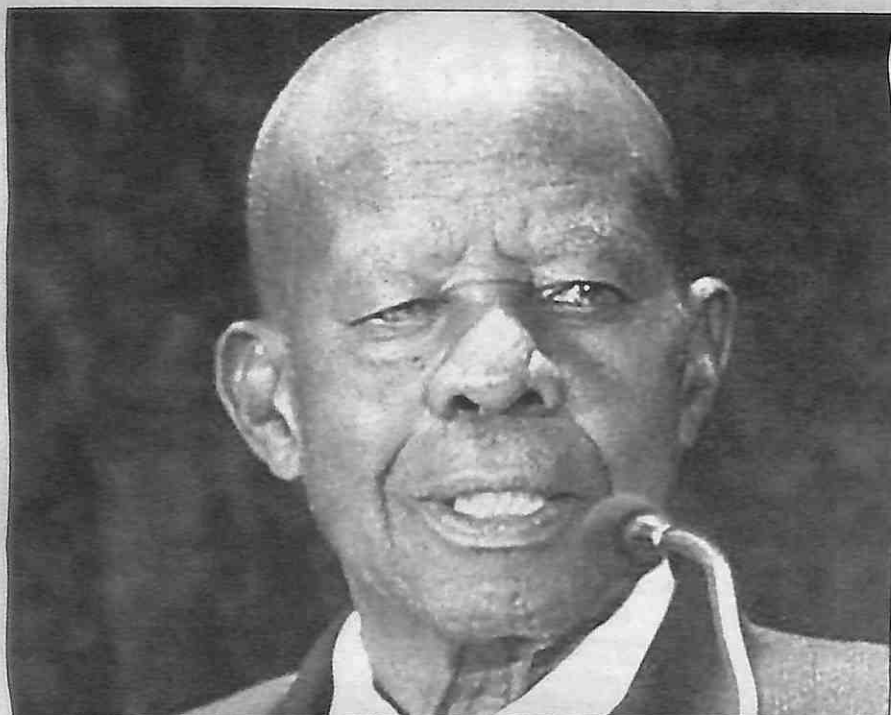
I recall when I attended the wedding of *Ncane Mathie* and the late *Uncle Elijah Legwaila*, may his soul rest in peace. Botswana was a village, Gaborone was a dusty town, and when I was a student 30 years ago, there was visible transformation.

When I attended *Matsidiso Masire's* wedding, I could only recognise the Gaborone Sun, and my recent visit to University of Botswana for a conference as disorientating. 'Uncle Quett' was a statement of note as his 18 years of leadership, enabled him to be a catalyst for economic growth. This was visible in the spatial development and also the economic participation of the citizens of Botswana. They were active participants in their economy, as King Sobhuza II said 'political and economic freedom are like Siamese twins.'

This catalyst for economic growth did not allow his limited education, as a teacher to become his worst enemy. But it was his stepping stone, coupled with humility and humour hence the monitor reflects how this statesman of note, gave birth to the economy from a mere 12 million pula.

Mbongeni Mnguni states 'it continues to amaze new generation that the modern Botswana of today was once poor, agrarian and windswept nation of approximately 550 000 people in 1966 with per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of about \$60.' This extract reflects how leadership must aspire to be catalyst for economic growth, when they accept leadership positions. 'Uncle Quett' was not only a catalyst for economic growth as president, but within his portfolio in finance and development planning, which rooted his leadership in public

A STATESMAN OF NOTE, UNCLE QUETT MASIRE



policy.

Leadership that understands the significance of long term public policy, to become catalysts for economic growth. Thus, creating a solid foundation on how the miraculous discovery of diamonds do not become a curse, but a blessing as a source of wealth to the country and its citizens. This economic miracle manifested on public policy fertile ground, as it was channelled into diverse infrastructure development projects. Thus, enabling the trickling effect of the economic miracle to be visible in spatial development, economic development and service delivery. Hence this statesman of note's leadership must be part of African leadership academic studies, a legacy of unprecedented economic growth and prosperity, with limited corrupt activities or state capture.

THE DEMOCRATIC REGIONAL LEADER

I was extremely disappointed with the South African media's 'cherry picking' speeches during the memorial and funeral. As we depend on them to share with viewers these significant moments and this contemporary history of this democratic regional leaders was a missed opportunity.

This statesman of note contributed to the liberation struggle of Botswana's regional neighbours; South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe including the post liberation conflict within Mozambique, and Botswana as a country bled during this era. Botswana was raided during my student years in 1985 by the South African apartheid regime and this was during this democratic regional leadership era. On the Namibian side, there were disputes along the Chobe River and Zimbabwe was accusing Botswana of harbouring the opposition ZAPU.

This historical perspectives provides a basis on how this democratic regional leader applied diplomacy during extremely difficult regional times.

As the military option could have been catastrophic, 'Uncle Quett' engaged in diplomatic negotiations with the regional neighbours, as he was a born negotiator. Hence he was honoured to be the SADC chairman for over 10 years as he had contributed to the peace and

stability of this region. And most significantly President Masire affirmed his commitment to democratic principles when he limited the presidential leadership to two terms. Thus, exemplifying democratic values that were significant for the region, and also at an interesting time after achieving economic growth and prosperity for the nation.

And most significantly he retired without corruption charges, although the country was experiencing some corruption levels due to the diamond economy, he founded the directorate on corruption and economic crime. This democratic regional leader was in post-retirement, a strategic asset to the region, as a facilitator of the peace process in Democratic Republic of Congo. 'Uncle Quett' received a Statesman of the Year Award, served as chairperson of the International Panel of Eminent Personalities Investigating the Circumstances surrounding the 1994 Rwanda Genocide. He was awarded the Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger, the Grand Counsellor of the Royal Order of Sobhuza II, Honorary Knighthood of the Grand Cross of Saint Michael and George (UK), and the Order of Welwitschia (Namibia). Rre Masire was the founder of the Sir Ketumile Masire Foundation, Co-Chairperson of the Global Coalition for Africa, Board Member of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, Member of Club de Madrid and Member of the Africa Forum.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, African leadership is my first love and I was drawn to it at young age. Here I was expelled by my government and the then Likofo Regime, but I was accepted in the State House of the Botswana government, dining with the president. 'Uncle Quett' was an unassuming statesman, and this statesman held Swaziland dear to his heart, and during my arrival in Botswana he was also mourning the loss of the father of the region, King Sobhuza II. Hence my doctorate study on SADC fascinates me on the common heritage and historical routes that unites us, the *Abantu*. And we must celebrate this history and contemporary history of the solidarity with liberations struggles led by icons such as 'Uncle Quett', the statesman of note.



THE RED PEN

Phila Dlamini Vilakati

SEXUAL PREFERENCE DISORDER

This is going to be a tricky one. A sensitive topic seldom talked about...

TRANSGENDER

Transgender is an umbrella term used to describe people whose gender identity (sense of themselves as male or female) or gender expressions differs from socially constructed norms associated with their birth sex. This includes androgynous, bi-gendered, and gender queer people who tend to see traditional concepts of gender as a restriction.

I will not take sides, I can't! Who am I to judge? I will simply discuss this matter in depth. Our students need us to discuss such subjects, because these issues are out there. Our children, friends and relatives have this sexual preference disorder. Disorder meaning a physical condition in which there is a disturbance of normal functioning. Automatically classifying 'it' as a condition. Yes I suppose it is a condition, some kind of 'syndrome'.

DIVERSITY

Diversity in sexual orientation—whether gay, straight, bisexual, or somewhere in between—has sparked longstanding controversies across the globe. In the United States, recent debates have centered around the civil rights for same-sex couples. In many other countries, homosexuality is considered illegal; in some, it's punishable by death. Often, these social and political debates refer to it as "homosexuality". What is it that we really know about why individuals are attracted to particular sexes? If you've followed these debates, you've likely heard people refer to the idea that homosexuality is genetic, or that it is a choice people make. But what does science really tell us about sexual orientation?

A new systematic review and commentary published in the journal of Psychological Science in the Public Interest takes a sweeping look at what the evidence says about homosexuality and sexual orientation in general. While the articles draw some conclusions about the causes and connections that lead to different sexual orientations, they also point out what we don't know about homosexuality.

Here's what we do know:

Across research papers, somewhere between two and 11 per cent of people report experiencing same-sex attractions. The exact number varies depending on how the question is asked and how the research paper categorizes homosexuality.

Children who do not conform to gender identities—for example, boys who wear dresses or girls who act as "tomboys"—are more likely to identify as not heterosexual later in life. This applies to cultures across the globe, no matter what their gender roles.

Political attitudes about sexual orientation are connected to people's understanding of the causes of same-sex behavior. People who believe that homosexuality is immoral tend to believe that sexuality is a choice or is influenced by social factors.

Those who support free expression of sexuality tend to believe there are biological factors that influence sexual orientation.

In a commentary published with the systematic review, Cornell Human Development Professor Ritch Savin-Williams offers evidence of a continuum of sexual orientation that includes a wide variety of classifications, including people who are "mostly straight" with a small degree of same-sex attraction or people who are "mostly gay or lesbian" with some attraction to opposite-sex partners.

Taking into account these groups, the prevalence of people experiencing at least some same-sex feelings may be much broader than represented in many stud-

ies. Shocker!

"Traditionally, we've thought of sexual orientation in terms of three categories: you are or identify as straight, bisexual, or gay/lesbian," he explained. "But recent research from a different perspective strongly suggests that this view mischaracterises a significant number of people who have varying degree. Shocking!

WHY?

What the data do not tell us definitively is why people have different sexual orientations. But there is evidence that there are multiple contributing factors, some of which we don't yet understand. The most scientifically plausible theories, according to the review, propose that sexual orientation is a product of biology and social factors, to varying degrees for different people. For example, there is credible evidence across cultures that, for men, their birth order has some effect on their sexual orientation. Men with more older brothers are significantly more likely to identify as gay compared with first-born sons or men with older sisters. This is likely related to evidence that prenatal hormones affect the sexual orientation of boys. There is also clear evidence that specific genetic profiles contribute to sexual orientation, but likely interact with other factors.

What's the take-home message here? There is a lot we don't yet understand about how individuals develop their gender identity and sexual orientation. But it is absolutely clear that there are a wide variety of factors—both biological and social—that play into each person's sexual identity.

MENTAL ILLNESS?

Psychology was one of the first disciplines to study homosexuality as a discrete phenomenon. Prior to and throughout most of the 20th century, common standard psychology viewed homosexuality in terms of pathological models as a mental illness. That classification began to be tested in research, which hasn't produced strong empirical evidence regarding homosexuality as a disorder. A large number of professionals in medicine, mental health, and the behavioral and social sciences, "sit on the fence" regarding the classification of homosexuality as a mental disorder.

The view of homosexuality as a psychological disorder has been seen in literature since research on homosexuality first began; however, psychology as a discipline has evolved over the years in its position on homosexuality. Current attitudes have their roots in religious, legal and cultural underpinnings.

CHOICE?

Those opposed to homosexuality regularly describe being gay as a choice, despite all evidence to the contrary. But what is never explained is why people would make this choice in the first place? Debate around these things is inevitable, and so is the whole "being gay is a choice" accusation. But why is this so persistent? Those saying it seemingly believe it with all sincerity, but what's the rationale? Basically, why would someone "choose" homosexuality, like you'd choose a new car or tattoo? Is choosing homosexuality just another example of a desire to not conform, like shaving your head or wearing outlandish clothes?

The trouble with this claim is that teenage rebellion is largely temporary; hair grows back, outfits can be changed. But those who "choose" homosexuality really seem to stick with it.

So maybe it's a "lifestyle" thing, as many claim? This suggests that those who are about to choose their sexual orientation look at the consequences of homosexuality and think it's a better option. They see the oppression, the suicide rates, the discrimination and harassment, the inequality, the increased risk of mental health issues, or abandonment from your family; the diseases associated; they see all this and think "I gotta get me some of that"? This seems, to put it mildly, unlikely.

There's undoubtedly a lot more to be considered that could be covered in a single column, so you could argue that this piece is a massive oversimplification of a very complex issue. And you'd be right; it sure is! But that's true for the whole "choice" argument, so it's oddly appropriate.

Well since it's a Sunday, let me leave this here...

• 1 CORINTHIANS 6:9 Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men.

• LEVITICUS 20: 13 If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.

Choose Affordable Advertising

THE SWAZI OBSERVER

Classified

email: advertising@observer.org.sz
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS 11.00AM

ADVERTS

2404 8699 or 2505 2330

index

1. FOR SALE
2. SERVICES
3. JOBS/VACANCIES
4. TUITION
5. ACCOMODATION
6. NATURAL HEALING
7. PROPERTY
8. HEALTH & BEAUTY
9. NOTICES / PETS
10. CHANGE OF SURNAME
11. DEATHS
12. MEMORIAM/CLEANSING
13. CATERING

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Clients are advised to please check their adverts on the first publication day, for we will not be held responsible for any errors after the first day of publication. If it happens that you note any errors please call 2404 3807 / 8671 immediately and it will be corrected as soon as possible. Failure to adhere to these terms, we assume no financial responsibility. Thanking you in advance for we assure satisfactory services.

Swazi Observer e-edition

Read the
Swazi Observer
online

log on to www.observer.org.sz and follow link

The Hub Mall Shop no. 4, Tenbergen St. Manzini



26-30 June 2017

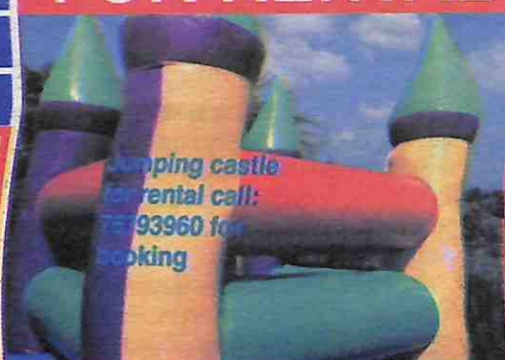
Need a little Help?

Space is limited,
call us to book an
appointment.

Make this mid term break
a fruitful one!
Let us help your child
consolidate their work for
the term this far and
cover up any gaps. We
offer individual tuition for
grades 3-12 during the
mid term break for a
maximum of 4 hours a day.

Contact: +268 76041460/50 or 25054121

FOR RENTAL



Jumping castle
for rental call:
76793960 for
booking

ALL TYPES OF SECURITY
Fencing, Gate Motor Burglars
& Pre-cast

"If it's Security,
Come to us"

Call: 2505 8191 / 7607 1518



S'HLENGE FENCING

We supply and install
On 11 JUNE 2017

Swazi
OBSERVER

For Advertising

your business ,

Call our office @

2404 3807 /

2404 8699

CARS FOR SALE

FORD COURIER CHEVY 383 STROCKER V8 ENGINE
T56 LUMINA MANUAL TRANX
CHEVY 8.5inch 3.08 Diff RATIO
DISC BRAKES

E120 000 neg



3.0L KZTE ENGINE
TOYOTA LANDCRUISER
AUTO BOX NEEDS ATTENTION

E75000 neg



CONTACT:
78020095

- Toyota Dyna 6Speed gearbox - E 25000 neg
- Toyota Lexus V8 1UZ-FE complete with
5speed box and harness - E20 000 neg
- Chevy 350 engine complete distributor,
starter, alternator, Holley carb - E 25 000 neg

DOC-13785

IF YOU'VE GOT THE
GOODS.. WE'VE
GOT AFFORDABLE
RATES



Swazi
OBSERVER
MINISTER
NDUMISE
MAMBA



19 AUGUST 2017
THE GEORGE HOTEL
TICKET PRICE: E40



FREE
WEDDING
PACKAGE
GIVEAWAYS

TH
The George Hotel
The last place to stay in Swaziland

Y
Yours
The last place to stay in Swaziland

The
The last place to stay in Swaziland

The George Hotel 2505 2260 Red Scissors 76031201 Top Tier Cakes - 76053829 Noni Events +268 7640 8378 Brides and Grooms 76820768 Dongs Decor 7631 6263

FORSALE



KIA RIO, 1.4 2014
57 000km
CONTACT: 76126339
NEG

R/N 108191 Dx 2/07 2017

NOTICE

Kucelwa Babe
Amoni Maseko
umnyo wemoto
inombolo : SD 543
BH ,Ashayele
Ndoda S Matse
eMkhaya ku 7605
4905.

R/N 175411 Dx 03/07/2017

Classified Section

Book
Your
Classified
Advert Now!



CALL OUR OFFICES @
2404 3807 /
2404 8699

MANZINI
"BOREHOLES"

Expert Services, Competitive prices
"Groundwater is our business"

A Cut Above the Rest

Tel: 2505 3880 / 2505 9402
Fax: 2505 9408, Cell: 7622 5300
www.purelldrilling.co.sz
E-mail: info@purelldrilling.co.sz

WATER FOR LIFE DQC:12644



Dx 31MAY

IF YOU'VE GOT THE
GOODS.. WE'VE
GOT AFFORDABLE
RATES

Swazi
OBSERVER

For Advertising
your business ,

Call our office @

2404 3807 /

2404 8699



Swazi
OBSERVER
MINISTER
NDUMISI
MAMBA

BODY PARTS CENTRE & SPARES

MANZINI BRANCH: Former Indali Furnitures Building, Opp. Liphaga Flats
Contact BONGANI: 7612 8651, THANDO: 7652 7264/7604 7776, or Tel/Fax: 2505 9464/2505 9002

WINDSCREEN SPECIALS

HIACE LOCAL.....	799.00
TOYOTA QUANTAM 2005 / 2017.....	799.00
TOYOTA COROLLA 1988-2001.....	599.00
TOYOTA HILUX 2000-2004.....	699.00
TOYOTA HILUX 1988-1998.....	499.00
ISUZU 1990-2003.....	599.00
CORSA GAMMA 2004-2012.....	759.00
HONDA FIT/JAZZ.....	1200.00
POLO 2003-2012.....	1100.00
MAZDA 3.....	1299.00
RUN X / COROLLA 2002-2007.....	999.00

BOREHOLE
DRILLING & PUMPS

SURVEY
BOREHOLE DRILLING
PUMP SALES & INSTALLATION
TANK STANDS
WATER TANKS
IRRIGATION SYSTEMS
FAST AND RELIABLE!

Contact us to find out more.
Tel/Fax: 2505 4501
Cell: 78200669 / 7617 9755

drilling.prime@gmail.com



WE CONNECT YOU WITH
YOUR POTENTIAL
CLIENTS, ADVERTISE
WITH US.



www.observer.org.sz

Swazi Observer
Classifieds

CALL OUR OFFICES @ 2404 1555 / 2404 8699



WHAT YOU CAN ADVERTISE

- CARS FORSALE
- SERVICES OFFERED
- VACANCIES/JOBS
- ACCOMODATION
- PROPERTY
- DEATH NOTICES ETC.

COME TO YOUR NEAREST OBSERVER OFFICES
FOR ALL YOUR SERVICES OR CALL 76549032

CLASSIFIED ADS

4328



'IT'S ALL DOWNHILL AFTER REAL MADRID'

MADRID - Real Madrid midfielder Luka Modric has warned team-mates Alvaro Morata and James Rodriguez that leaving the club will be a step down in their careers.

Colombia star James has been heavily linked with a move away from the Santiago Bernabeu after he was left out of Zinedine Zidane's Champions League final squad, with Manchester United and Inter among the reported suitors.

Although Modric would understand team-mates wanting to leave for more regular first-team football, he believes that Madrid remain the pinnacle of any player's career.

"It's certainly not an easy decision to leave Madrid," he told Marca. "When you leave here, nothing is the same. You're at the best club in the world, that's for sure, and from there you can only go down."

"Everyone will have their reasons. If I continue like this, I will do everything possible to stay, but things in football change fast."

Modric enjoyed one of his best seasons in the Spanish capital in 2016-17, winning La Liga and the Champions League, and he has credited head coach Zidane for keeping the players fit for the crucial matches.

"He knew how to get the most out of every player and that helped us to reach the end of the season in top

...Modric warns Man Utd and Chelsea targets James, Morata



Real Madrid midfielder James Rodriguez.

form," he said.

"This was different to years gone by, where we sometimes got a little tired at the end. Now, with all the rotations... "Any player who came on did well and helped the team. It was easier to do what Zidane wanted. These were the keys to winning the double." Madrid became the first team to win the modern Champions League back-to-back when they beat Juventus 4-1 in the final in Cardiff,

but Modric would not say the achievement was made sweeter by the fact Barcelona and Lionel Messi have not managed the same success.

Goal.com

Morientes urges Real Madrid not to miss out on Mbappe

MADRID - Fernando Morientes has warned Real Madrid another club will snap up Monaco star Kylian Mbappe if

they fail to do so.

Mbappe, 18, is widely expected to make a record-breaking move during the summer transfer window, with Madrid among those being linked with the forward.

Morientes, who won two La Liga titles and three Champions League crowns with Madrid, says the talented teenager will end up elsewhere if his former club are unable to complete a deal.

"When you talk about these types of figures, it's usually because the player has generated a certain level of expectation. If you don't buy, another will," he told Efe.

"It's difficult to digest, but when a player is tempted by so many clubs, it's because he has a lot of talent."

Mbappe scored 26 goals in all competitions in 2016-17, with Paris Saint-Germain and Arsenal among numerous clubs believed to be interested in his services.

It may take a world-record fee to sign the teenager and Morientes says that will put pressure on the France international.

"He is just a kid, still in the process of maturing," he said.

"The weight of responsibility will be on his shoulders."

Goal.com

Monaco star Kylian Mbappe.



Spurs tipped to beat Liverpool to £17m deal for Schalke star

LONDON - Tottenham are expected to sign Schalke's highly-rated star Max Meyer, according to reports.

The 21-year-old has just a year left on his current deal and, having shown no indication he is willing to extend his contract, Schalke have reportedly told interested clubs they want £17million (£19.2m) for his services.

The likes of Spurs,

Liverpool and Hoffenheim are all reported to be keen, but reports in Germany indicate it is Mauricio Pochettino who will win the race for the attacking midfielder. Meyer has scored 20 goals in 163 appearances for his club, but is thought to be keen on playing in the Champions League again, with Schalke enduring a disappointing campaign and only finishing 10th in the Bundesliga last season. TeamTalk

Arsenal, PSG told they have no chance of signing Nice star Seri

NICE - Jean Michael Seri will not leave Nice in this transfer window as too many first-team players have already been sold, according to head coach Lucien Favre.

The 25-year-old has been linked with Arsenal, Roma and Paris Saint-Germain in recent weeks after an impressive season in Ligue 1 in 2016-17.

Tottenham have also emerged as candidates for the midfielder's signature but Favre is determined to keep the rest of his squad intact, having seen defender Paul Baysse join Malaga on a free transfer and

Anastasios Donis, Ricardo Pereira and Younes Belhanda leave at the end of their loan deals.

"Seri? He stays, that's definitive," said Favre, as quoted by Le 10 Sport. "We've lost four starting players. That's enough. It's not easy to replace them." Seri scored seven times in 34 Ligue 1 appearances last season to help Nice to a third-place finish behind Paris Saint-Germain and champions Monaco.

They will enter the third qualifying round for the Champions League as a result, with the draw for those matches due to take place on July 14. Goal.com

Luis Suarez 'never imagined' dream Liverpool move would happen

LONDON - Luis Suarez says his move to Liverpool was a dream he never imagined he would fulfil.

The Uruguayan attacker moved to Anfield from Ajax in January 2011, playing a starring role for the Reds until he joined Barcelona in 2014.

Although he has gone on to win the Champions League, Club World Cup and two Liga titles so far with the Catalan side, the move to Liverpool remains a key moment for the 30-year-old.

"When I was little, Liverpool was one of the biggest clubs in Europe and was renowned throughout the world," he told Liverpool's website.

"So when I found out about the club's interest in me I was never in doubt because it's the dream for any player."

"I never imagined that I would get the chance to play there."

"At Anfield, the fans get right behind you come what may," he added.

Goal.com

Wolves break record for Portuguese star

LONDON - Highly-rated Portugal Under-21 international Ruben Neves became second-tier English side Wolverhampton Wanderers' record signing yesterday, joining the Chinese-owned team from Porto for a reported £15.8 million.

The 20-year-old -- who in 2015 became the youngest Champions League captain of all time in a match with Israeli outfit Maccabi Tel Aviv signed a five-year contract and is reunited with former Porto coach Nuno Espirito Santo. Nuno, who was discharged from his duties as Porto

coach in May after a trophyless season, also signed on loan another Porto player, centre-back Willy Boly.

The influx of Portuguese players and coach reflects the close relationship between the club's Chinese owners Fosun and agent Jorge Mendes. Goal.com

LEWIS HAMILTON STARTS AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX EIGHTH

after penalty as Mercedes team mate Valtteri Bottas storms to pole with Sebastian Vettel second

SPIELBERG - Lewis Hamilton will start the Austrian Grand Prix from eighth after being upstaged by Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas in qualifying.

The Finn claimed the second pole position of his career with a



Valtteri Bottas

dominant display in Spielberg. His 1:04.251 was a new lap record at the Red Bull Ring and two tenths of a second quicker than Hamilton's best.

The Briton finished third but received a five-place grid penalty earlier yesterday for a gearbox change.

Hamilton trails Sebastian Vettel by 14 points in the title race with 12 races to go. But from second on the grid the German is now well placed to extend that lead. What a difference a day had made for Hamilton.

After topping both of Friday's practice sessions, things went rapidly downhill for him on Saturday.

A five-place grid penalty for an unscheduled gearbox change was confirmed, before Hamilton's final practice session came to a premature end due to a brake failure. His Mercedes mechanics made the necessary changes ahead of qualify-

ing and Hamilton set the early pace with an eye-catching 1:05.064 - the fastest of the weekend so far.

That was half a second better than Vettel's first effort, though the German had used the slower supersoft tyres, with Hamilton on the ultrasofts.

With the battle lines drawn at the front, attention switched to the rear of the field to see who could progress to Q2.

The McLaren pair of Fernando Alonso and Stoffel Vandoorne were perilously close to the drop zone but clung on. That was despite the former reporting problems with his Honda engine and the chequered flag falling before he had chance to improve his time. Jolyon Palmer's miserable season continued as he fell at the first hurdle. The Briton is yet to score a point for Renault this term and is now unlikely to break that duck this weekend.

He was joined by the Saubers and Williams drivers. The latter's exit was particularly shocking as, just three years ago here, they locked out the front row. Kevin Magnussen made it through but took no further part in qualifying with his Haas stricken after suspension failure.

Entering this weekend, no driver had broken the 66-second barrier at the Red Bull Ring, but times plundered the 65-second mark in Q2.

Bottas led the way with a 1:04.640. Hamilton was less than two tenths behind his team-mate, but was the only one of the frontrunners to set his mark on the slower supersofts. *Dailymail*

Proteas blow as Rabada banned for swearing

LONDON - South Africa fast bowler Kagiso Rabada will miss next week's second Test against England after his verbal abuse of Ben Stokes during the series opener at Lord's, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Friday.

Rabada, 22, uttered an audible obscenity after dismissing all-rounder Stokes on the first day of the first Test on Thursday, his latest offence triggering a one-Test ban.

"South Africa's Kagiso Rabada has been suspended for next week's Trent Bridge Test after his accumulated demerit points reached four within a 24-month period following his latest breach of the ICC code of Conduct for which he received a 15 per cent fine and one demerit point," said a statement issued by the global governing body. The paceman will now play no part in the second Test of a four-match series at Nottingham's Trent Bridge starting a week on Friday. An ICC statement said Rabada had "used inappropriate language after dismissing England batsman Ben Stokes, which was audible over the stump microphones and also resulted in the batsman to turn before walking off the field". It added: "during the opening day's play in the Lord's Test against England on Thursday, Rabada was found guilty of... 'using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batsman upon his/her dismissal during an international match'."

The ICC said Rabada had admitted the offence on Friday and accepted the sanction proposed by match referee Jeff Crowe, the former New Zealand captain. Rabada, one of the rising stars of world cricket, having taken 71 wickets in just 17 Tests prior to this match, was already on thin ice after an on-field physical clash with Sri Lanka's Niroshan Dickwella during a one-day international in Cape Town in February.

That incident saw both players fined and have three demerit points added to their disciplinary records. The pair were warned that if they reached four or more demerit points within a 24-month period, those would be converted into suspension points which would see them banned from their country's next international in whatever format at the time of a subsequent offence. *AFP*



Rory McIlroy.

McIlroy blames 'silly mistakes for Irish Open flop

PORTSTEWART - Rory McIlroy's British Open preparations were in disarray on Friday after the former world number one missed the cut at the Irish Open for the fourth time in five years. Defending champion McIlroy was one under for his round with two holes to play but a double-bogey six on the 17th ended any chance of his playing all four days, leaving him one-over-par 73 for the second round.

That saw the current world number four, five shots shy of the projected four-under cut-off mark in the \$7 million event.

"My short game in general is not good as I am making silly mistakes, so it is not good," said McIlroy, who claimed a stunning victory last year at the K Club after struggling in previous years.

"I am just not being very efficient with my scoring and that is why I am making it difficult for myself."

Playing partner Jon Rahm showed McIlroy how it was done in just his second regular European Tour event, the Spaniard carding 67 to finish 12 under par, a shot behind halfway lead-

ers American Daniel Im and France's Benjamin Hebert, who also both hit 67.

As the event host, McIlroy will remain over the weekend to hand the trophy to the new champion.

He will then cross the Irish Sea on Monday (tomorrow) in readiness for next week's Scottish Open and follow up with the British Open a week later at Royal Birkdale.

McIlroy has not contested the Scottish event since 2014 when he shot a new course record 64 in round one.

"The Scottish Open does now take on more importance," said the Northern Irish golfer on the comeback trail after a rib injury.

"I'd like to get a good tournament under my belt going into Birkdale and while every tournament is important to me coming up in this summer stretch.

"I haven't played a lot and every time I go and play, I need to make the most of it.

"Unfortunately, the last three outings since coming back from injury hasn't been quite that way."

AFP

Venus Williams was driving 'lawfully' before fatal car crash - police

FLORIDA - Venus Williams drove her vehicle into a crossroads legally moments before she was involved in a fatal car crash, police have said.

Detectives in Florida released footage of the collision between a married couple and the tennis star, who was brought to tears at Wimbledon when she discussed the impact, on Friday.

Mayor Paul Rogers said the surveillance footage shows Williams lawfully entered the intersection at a green light in her Toyota Sequoia near her home in Palm Beach Gardens at around 1pm on 9 June.

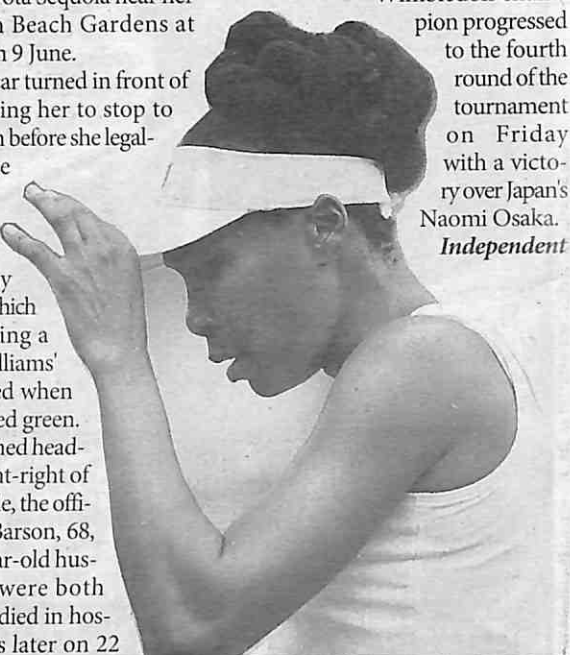
But another car turned in front of Williams causing her to stop to avoid a collision before she legally continued, he added.

At this point a Hyundai being driven by Linda Barson, which was approaching a red light to Williams' right, continued when the signal turned green.

Her car smashed head-on into the front-right of Williams' vehicle, the officer said. Mrs Barson, 68, and here 78-year-old husband Jerome were both injured and he died in hospital two weeks later on 22

June. Williams, 37, was not hurt and she was not charged with an offence. Investigators initially said she was at fault, but the video footage caused them to rescind that conclusion, and no blame has yet been determined. The Palm Beach Gardens Police Department said the investigation remains under way after inspecting the video evidence. Mr Barson's family launched a lawsuit against Williams, claiming she was "driving carelessly and recklessly". The five-time Wimbledon cham-

pion progressed to the fourth round of the tournament on Friday with a victory over Japan's Naomi Osaka. *Independent*



Venus Williams.

Messi's special wine gift for wedding guests revealed by Argentina team-mate Zabaleta

BARCELONA - Pablo Zabaleta has revealed Lionel Messi gave out special bottles of wine to those who attended his wedding last week.

The Barcelona star married his childhood love Antonella in a ceremony that attracted a great deal of global attention, with many star players there to take part in the celebrations. The Argentine showed off his dancing skills after tying the knot, while the pair were praised for donating the leftover food and drink to charity. But Zabaleta says there was another elegant touch in the form of giant wine bottles which had Messi's name on them. "We got a bottle of really good wine, a Malbec, which Lionel has put his name on

the bottle," the right-back told West Ham's official website.

"It was a big, big bottle of Malbec which was hard to bring back to England, because I had too much stuff in the luggage.

"Of course, I've kept that bottle of wine in Argentina so next time we go back there, I will open it and enjoy a few glasses with the family!"

Zabaleta was delighted to be able to attend his close friend's special moment alongside 260 guests.

"It was really good. It was a special moment to be there with Lionel Messi, of course, and some of the players who have been playing with him for so many years with the Under-20s, Olympic Games and the senior national team. *AFP*



Lionel Messi and his wife Antonella.



BARCLAYS

ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



MAN U AGREE POTENTIAL WORLD RECORD £90M DEAL WITH EVERTON FOR LUKAKU

LONDON - Manchester United have confirmed they have agreed a potential world record £90million deal with Everton for the transfer of Belgian striker Romelu Lukaku.

The transfer would see Everton receive £75million up front, with £15m due in potential add-ons based on the player's performances at United.

The potential fee

would trump the £89million they paid last summer to bring Paul Pogba back from Juventus.

Lukaku will make the switch from Goodison Park to Old Trafford and join up with his former Manager Jose Mourinho - who he played for at Chelsea.

In a short statement United confirmed: 'MUFc is delighted to announce a fee has been agreed with Everton for the transfer of Romelu Lukaku, subject to a medical & personal terms.'

The Red Devils have also revealed they will make a further announcement in due course.

Lodged

Chelsea had also lodged a bid for their former player but United look to have scuppered the Blues' chances of bringing Lukaku back to Stamford Bridge by stealing a march on the Premier League champions.

As revealed by Sportsmail

Conte was unwilling to give up on his main target, though Chelsea refused to pay what is thought to be an eight-figure fee, believed to be £12m, to Lukaku's agent Mino Raiola, which is a key part of the United package.

Before United stepped in with their concrete bid, Lukaku was in contact with Conte and made it clear he was enthusiastic about a return to the club who brought him to England from Anderlecht as a teenager in 2011.

However, the Belgium forward has formed a close bond with United midfielder Pogba and they are currently on holiday together in Los Angeles - both are Raiola clients.

United captain Wayne Rooney will move the other way, with the former Everton man sealing an emotional return to Goodison Park on a free transfer.

Dailymail

United set to decide on Rooney

MANCHESTER - Wayne Rooney's footballing future should become clearer within the next 48 hours as Manchester United prepare to fly to Los Angeles for a pre-season tour in the United States.

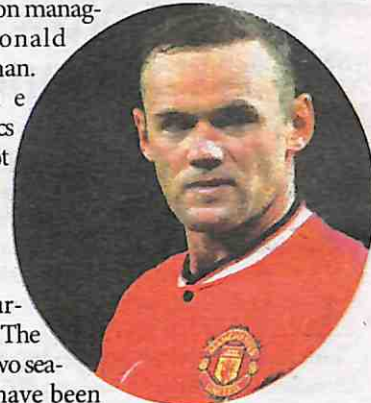
While they hope to add Romelu Lukaku, the £75 million striker they are luring from Everton, to their Stateside roster, Rooney looks likely to be left off the flight.

The terms of his move back to Everton, the club he where began his career, are being negotiated.

That may not prove the end of his playing-time problems, however, because even if the fine print over contract length and image rights are picked through, Rooney may face a struggle to win over sceptics on Merseyside.

The more blue-blooded among Everton supporters never truly forgave Rooney for his £25.6 million move to Old Trafford 13 years ago. Others struggle to see how a 31-year-old consigned to United's fringes by Jose Mourinho last season would help the fast-flowing football being developed by Everton manager Ronald Koeman.

The statistics are not



encouraging. The past two seasons have been the least productive in terms of goals of Rooney's career — five and eight, respectively — while Mourinho, who began his reign by warmly praising Rooney's striking prowess, did not trust him to deliver despite few options up front.

Then there is the wear and tear. Ever since the 16-year-old Rooney burst on to the scene with a stunning turn-and-shoot goal against Arsenal, there have been fears about how long his top-flight career would last.

Reuters

Leicester warn Arsenal target Mahrez about downing tools

LONDON - Leicester boss Craig Shakespeare will hold talks with wantaway winger Riyad Mahrez and expects him to remain professional.

The 26-year-old returned to training for the first time on Friday after publicly stating he wants to leave the club last month. Arsenal have been continually linked with the 2016 PFA Player of the Year who said he felt it was "time for me to move on" and that there was a gentleman's agreement with Leicester he would be allowed to leave.

He has not handed in an official transfer request but Shakespeare said he was unaware of any

agreement to let Mahrez, who signed a new four-year deal worth £100,000-a-week last summer, leave.

And he will now discuss the Algeria international's future with Leicester due to travel to Austria for a pre-season training camp next week.

Shakespeare said, "when I sit down with him I'll get an idea of where he's at. With this being his first day we haven't had a lot of time. Double sessions and it goes really quick. Before you know it, it's 6pm of an evening and you're thinking you've got to go home for a shower."

"It can be disappointing when

players go public with it but I think you have to understand the modern game. Sometimes outside influences are secondary behind that and there can be reasons for that.

"Him coming out, we know where it stands but ultimately he's contracted to the football club."

He has to be professional. We have to be professional with him but more importantly he has to be committed and I think he has to show supporters, staff and players that. "If he's selected he has to perform and if he doesn't show commitment he won't play. He's got a contract with us so he

has to understand that.

"We haven't had any bids and if we don't have one, we've got no decision to make. The decision making comes when we have a bid and we can assess that when it happens."

Meanwhile, Leicester are edging closer to a £25million move for Manchester City forward Kelechi Iheanacho.

The clubs are in talks over the 20-year-old, who has been one of Shakespeare's top targets, with a willingness to get a deal done, Press Association Sport understands.

Teamtalk

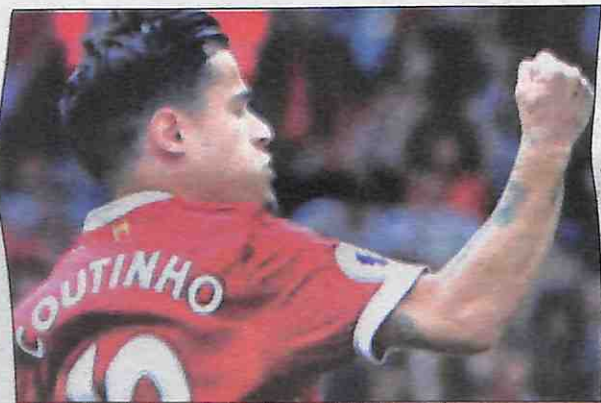
PSG to shock Liverpool by matching Coutinho valuation

LONDON - Paris Saint-Germain are refusing to give up in their efforts to prise Philippe Coutinho from Liverpool and will reportedly match the Reds' £100m valuation.

PSG's interest in the Brazilian is nothing new, with the Ligue 1 giants once again linked with Coutinho earlier this week when it was claimed they'd made an enquiry for the playmaker.

It was claimed Liverpool responded by sticking a €100m (£86.7m) asking price on the player's head in a bid to put the big-spending French outfit off the player.

But reports in the French media claim that rather than dissuade PSG from bidding



Coutinho, the reported asking price has given them encouragement that Liverpool could actually sell the player.

However, according to French publication L'Equipe, Coutinho is only PSG's Plan B if a move for top target Kylian Mbappe

falls through.

We reported earlier in the week how PSG were now favourites to land the Monaco wonderkid, with a respected Spanish journalist claiming the deal was "90 per cent agreed".

Teamtalk

DE BOER PROUD TO BE PART OF PL

LONDON - New Crystal Palace Manager Frank de Boer believes his disappointing spell as Inter Milan coach has prepared him ideally for the ultra competitive Premier League.

The 47-year-old Dutch footballing great — who was capped 112 times and won the 1995 Champions League with the outstanding Ajax side under Louis van Gaal — told 'The Times' he is proud to be crossing swords with the likes of Jose Mourinho and Pep Guardiola, both of whom he knew when he played for Barcelona.

"With the coaches here, you want to be here, and that's why I'm very proud," said de Boer, who was at the Catalan giants from 1999-2003.

"A friend of mine congratulated me, saying,

"You can be very proud, you're one of the 20 managers of the



Premier League, the best league in the world, the most watched of the world."

De Boer — who along with twin brother Ronald were mainstays of a sublimely-talented Dutch nation-

side in the 1990's and early 2000's — says he is looking forward to working with Palace Chairman Steve Parish and his team as unlike the Chinese owners of Inter they know their football. AFP

THE CHAMPIONSHIP WIMBLEDON

Querrey through in quick time against Tsonga

LONDON - Sam Querrey needed a matter of minutes to book his place in the last 16 at Wimbledon yesterday when he polished off Jo-Wilfried Tsonga after bad light had stopped play the day before.

Tsonga began the second installment of the match serving at 5-6 in the fifth set and buckled on the eighth point after the resumption, going wide with a forehand to hand 24th seed American Querrey a 6-2 3-6 7-6(5) 1-6 7-5 victory in a match lasting almost three hours.

Frustrated 12th seed Tsonga thrashed a ball high over the Court Two stands after losing and Querrey sympathised.

"I've been in that situation before (coming out to serve to stay in a match) and it's tough," Querrey, who knocked out defending champion Novak Djokovic on his way to the quarter-finals last year, said after his short work-out.

"After such a great match it was a bit of an anti-climax in the end, a bit of a bummer."

Tsonga was philosophical about his abrupt exit. *Reuters*



Sam Querrey.

FORMER FINALIST MUGURUZA INTO WIMBLEDON LAST 16

LONDON - Garbine Muguruza stepped up her bid to return to the Wimbledon final as the world No. 15 raced into the fourth round with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Romania's Sorana Cirstea yesterday.

Muguruza became the first Spanish woman to reach the Wimbledon title match in 19 years when she was beaten by Serena Williams in the 2015 final.

won

Muguruza, who won her first major title at the French Open last year, is through to the last 16 at Wimbledon for just the second time and has yet to drop a set this year.

She needed only 70 minutes to see off Cirstea and faces world number one Angelique Kerber or American Shelby Rogers for a place in the quarter-finals. Cirstea, the



world No. 63, cut a subdued figure as she returned to singles action

following the horrific knee injury suffered by her opponent Bethanie

Mattek-Sands in the previous round on Thursday. *AFP*

Gritty Kerber advances at Wimbledon

LONDON - Angelique Kerber was on the brink of losing the world number one ranking yesterday before the German scraped into the Wimbledon last 16 with a tense 4-6, 7-6 (7/2), 6-4 victory over Shelby Rogers.

In order to retain top spot in the WTA rankings, Kerber has to return to the Wimbledon final 12 months after losing the title match against Serena Williams.

The 29-year-old was on the verge of crashing out in the third round after losing the first set and falling a break down in the second against American world number 70 Rogers.

But Kerber, who won the



Australian and US Opens last year, gamely battled back to level the match in a second set tie-break before edging through in the decider.

Kerber faces Spanish 14th seed Garbine Muguruza, another former Wimbledon runner-

up, for a place in the quarter-finals. If Kerber, who regained the top ranking from Serena in March, fails to make the final she will surrender pole position to Romania's Simona Halep or Czech Karolina Pliskova.

AFP



Grigor Dimitrov.

Dimitrov into last 16 as Sela quits

LONDON - Grigor Dimitrov had an easy ride into the last 16 at Wimbledon yesterday when Dudi Sela was forced to pull out with an injury.

Israeli Sela, who had been struggling, quit after losing the second set, with the score at 6-1, 6-1 on Court Three.

Sela received treatment on his inner right thigh and battled on but eventually decided enough was enough.

It was the 11th retirement so far at Wimbledon - nine in the men's draw and two in the women's, notably that of Bethanie Mattek-Sands who suffered an horrific knee injury on court.

Dimitrov, 26, the Bulgarian 13th seed, is through to the fourth round for just the second time in his career.

The 2008 Wimbledon junior champion will meet either Roger Federer or Mischa Zverev tomorrow for a place in the quarter-finals.

AFP

Murray sparked injury concerns during Wimbledon practice

LONDON - After coming into Wimbledon with injury worries surrounding him, Andy Murray has looked fit and firing as he came through the opening week unscathed.

However, there were concerns during practice yesterday when the world No. 1 was seen to clutch his knee, sparking worries over his fitness.

Murray looked in discomfort as he trained on the practice courts at the All-England club, but was able to overcome whatever pain he was in to finish the session.

Murray was perhaps feeling the effects of a tough third round game on Friday evening, when he eventually managed to overcome Fabio Fognini in four sets.

Having come into the tournament amid concerns about a right hip problem, Murray has limped through

the week and admitted he struggled with his movement against Fognini.

The other top four seeds, Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal have also impressed in the early stages.

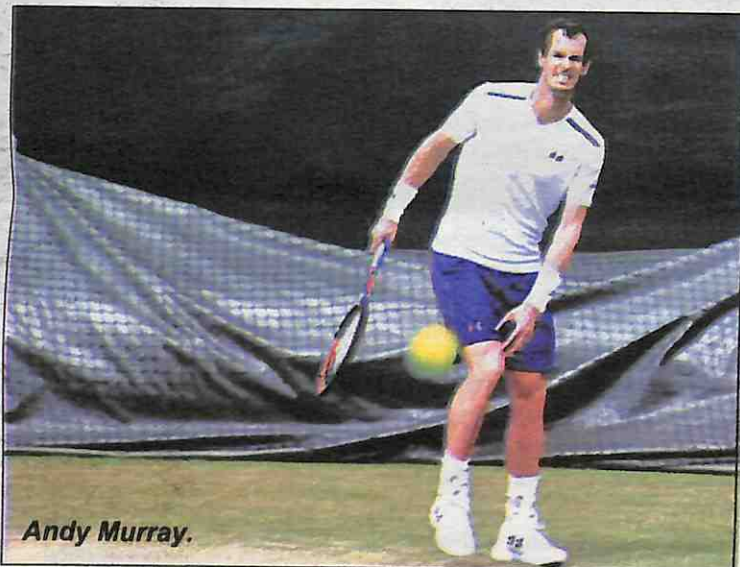
Former British No. 1 Tim Henman feels Murray needs to 'up his game' to deal with the challenge from these three players.

He said: "Nadal for me has been probably the stand-out on the men's side, he's played fantastically well."

"I'd be very surprised if the winner came outside of the top four. They're playing well, they've got the history and the experience of having won here before so it's going to be interesting to watch."

"I think Federer and Nadal are the favourites. Andy's just got to keep upping his game."

"He's had such a tough time with injury and illness. He did it in Paris,



Andy Murray.

not really coming in with great preparation and getting very close to the final so hopefully he can go one better here."

Next up for Murray is another

unorthodox player in Frenchman Benoit Paire, who has never been beyond the fourth round at any grand slam.

Daily Mail



Anele Ngcongca.

Madisha a future 'Downs captain - Ngcongca

JOHANNESBURG - Mamelodi Sundowns have for the second successive season booked their place in the knockout rounds of the CAF Champions League.

The Brazilians have had a gruelling campaign which has undoubtedly tested the depth of coach Pitso Mosimane's squad, but the experience of Sundowns' more senior campaigners has played a vital role in their success.

One such player whose experience has been pivotal in this year's campaign was, Anele Ngcongca. While the Bafana Bafana international's Sundowns career got off to a slow start, he has solidified his place in the team and his experience of playing at the very highest level has come in handy for the defending champions.

While Ngcongca missed out on Masandawana's historic triumph due to injury, the 29-year-old remains hopeful that this time around he too can enjoy continental success.

"It's been a great experience," Ngcongca told Goal.

Goal

Baroka sign Macha from Kaizer Chiefs

JOHANNESBURG - Zambian international Lewis Macha is to join Baroka FC for the next two seasons, officials confirmed yesterday.

He arrives at the club on a free transfer from Kaizer Chiefs after being released by the club after an injury plagued season.

The 25-year-old forward from Livingstone has signed a two year deal with the Limpopo-based club, who narrowly avoided the drop in their first season in the Premier Soccer League.

Macha is the second player announced by the club for the new Absa Premiership campaign after midfielder Gift Motupa returned on loan from Orlando Pirates.

Competition

At Chiefs last season, Macha made just three starts and failed to score in official competition.

There are expected to be several more foreign signings by the club in the next weeks.

Baroka chairman Khurishi Mphahlele has been at the COSAFA Castle Cup in the North West Province over the two weeks seeking players to strengthen his squad. *Mzansi Football*

'C.TOWN CITY BLESSED WITH QUALITY PLAYERS'

CAPE TOWN - Cape Town City head coach Benni McCarthy is delighted with the quality of the squad following their return from pre-season.

The Bafana Bafana legend replaced Eric Tinkler, who is now SuperSport United head coach.

"At times, I feel like I need to tell them to take it down a couple of nods because we are only in pre-season and only four days in," McCarthy told SABC Sport.

McCarthy has his work cut out in his very first role as head coach following his retirement as a footballer in 2013.

"The boys have acquitted themselves quite nice. They showed me

that they are eager to work, and the quality they bring back from the holidays has been really good.

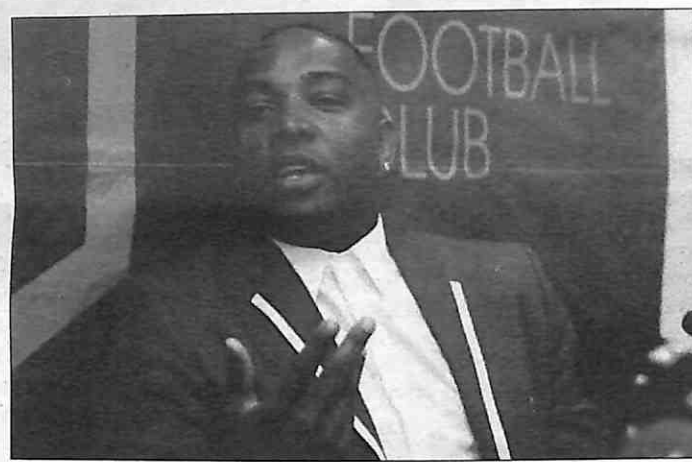
"So I am excited for the league to start already because I want to see them put their quality and work ethic into matches," McCarthy added.

Pleasing

What's more pleasing has been the attitude from the players according McCarthy.

"I am enjoying my first couple of days. The boys have been helpful. They have not really given me headaches," he said.

"When you come in as a new manager the players try and suss you out which has been really nice



Cape Town City head coach Benni McCarthy.

for me because they are a nice bunch. They try to make my job

a bit easier," McCarthy concluded. *GOAL*

Chippa United sign Mamelodi Sundowns midfielder Julies

JOHANNESBURG - Chippa United have reportedly signed Samuel Julies from Mamelodi Sundowns.

The attacking midfielder made his professional debut during the 2011/12 season after being promoted from the Sundowns academy.

However, Julies found it difficult to establish himself in the star-studded Sundowns starting line-up down the years.

Last season, the left-footed player made only PSL appearances as Sundowns coach Pitso Mosimane rested his key players.

Recent reports have indicated that Julies has joined Chippa on a permanent deal after his Sundowns contract expired at the end of last month.

Between 2013 and 2015, the Kimberley-born player was out on



Samuel Julies.

loan at National First Division (NFD) side Stellenbosch FC, who were known as Vasco Da Gama.

Julies was recalled by Sundowns prior to the 2015/16 season and he played regularly for the club's reserve

team in the Multichoice Diski Challenge (MDC).

He made nine PSL appearances for Sundowns - netting once in the process which was against Free State Stars in 2012. *GOAL*

Mokotjo relishing new chapter at Brentford

LONDON - Bafana Bafana midfielder Kamohelo Mokotjo believes his move to English Championship side Brentford was the correct step as he looks to continue his development.

Mokotjo's arrival from FC Twente was confirmed on Friday, when The Bees announced his three-year deal worth a reported R15.3-million.

Brentford coach Dean Smith yesterday revealed that the club had been monitoring the progress of the 26-year-old "for a while", and likewise the SuperSport United academy graduate is delighted to have finally made the switch.

"It's good to finally be here," said 'Kamo', speaking to iFollow. "It has been a long time coming but I am happy to be here."

"I have waited because it always felt good with Brentford. Everyone believes in me here and it is a good step for me to challenge myself. I have had chats with the coach and the directors of football and this is a club with ambition that wants to



kamohelo Mokotjo.

grow.

"I am not one to take the easy way out and I went with my gut. I know that this was the right decision for me. I needed to make the next step in my career and I believe that Brentford will help me to develop into a better player."

Style

After eight years in the Netherlands, Mokotjo is relishing the challenges of a new style of football, and is hoping to create and score a few

goals during his time at Griffin Park.

"The intensity of football is different here and I am looking forward to experiencing all the different things that English football has to offer," added Mokotjo.

"I am a very technical player for my position in defensive midfield. I anticipate situations and I always look to play the first ball forward. I want to create a lot of chances and create a lot of goals. *Kickoff*



Defender Moyo on Orlando Pirates radar

JOHANNESBURG - PSL giants Orlando Pirates have been linked with Zimbabwe international Honest Moyo.

The Bucs defence leaked goals during the 2016/17 season and the club is expected to beef up their squad with defenders during the current transfer window.

A few defenders including Bidvest Wits centre back Thulani Hlatshwayo and Jomo Cosmos centre back Frederic Nsibiyumva have been linked with Pirates in recent times.

Radar

The latest player to be linked with the Buccaneers is Moyo, who is currently on the books of Zimbabwean Premier Soccer League (PSL) club Highlanders.

The left-back is one of the Zimbabwean players, who have impressed for the Warriors at the on-going 2017 COSAFA Cup in North West, South Africa. Reports coming out of Zimbabwe have indicated that Moyo is on the radar of Pirates, who already have Zimbabwean striker Tendai Ndoro on their books. Moyo is one of Highlanders' key players and the club confirmed that the left-footed player had signed a new deal in January, 2017. *GOAL*

I WANT TO PLAY IN PREMIER LEAGUE - CENGZ

LONDON - Manchester City transfer target Cengiz Under has explained how it's his dream to play in the Premier League amid negotiations between his current club and English suitors.

Nineteen-year-old Under's current club, Istanbul Basaksehir, released a statement on their official website this week confirming that talks had been held.

They said: "There was a meeting between our club board members and the officials of Manchester City for four hours about the transfer of our young player Cengiz Under."

"An agreement has not been reached yet after the negotiations."

While no deal is in place as yet, the teenager, who has drawn comparisons with Juventus star Paulo Dybala, is seen as one of the hottest prospects in European football.

After seeing Under involved in 16 goals during the 2016-17 campaign, several leading sides have been alerted to his potential.

The door has been opened to a move as well, with the youngster harbour-



Cengiz Under.

ing ambitions of gracing the very top of the game.

Play

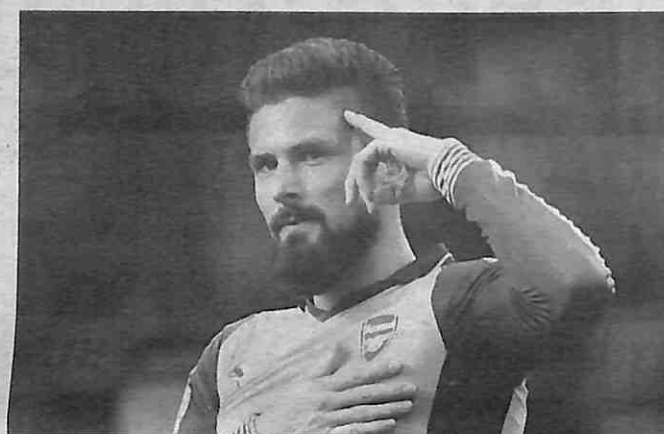
He told Milliyet: "Among the leagues I want to play in are La Liga, the Bundesliga and the Premier League, but I want to play in the Premier League the most."

Chelsea and Tottenham are among the other sides reported to be keeping

a close eye on Under's situation in Turkey, with French side Lille also keen.

They are all said to have had scouted him last season, with that campaign also seeing the talented forward make his senior international debut. He has since scored two goals in four appearances for his country.

GOAL



Olivier Giroud.

Arsenal striker backed by Garde

LONDON - Olivier Giroud is capable of partnering record signing Alexandre Lacazette at Arsenal, claims former Lyon boss Remi Garde.

The Gunners have splashed out £46 million on Lacazette, who will be expected to lead the line, while Alexis Sanchez is yet to leave Emirates Stadium despite intense speculation suggesting that he will be sold after entering the final 12 months of his contract.

Giroud could, therefore, find himself nudged further down the pecking order - having struggled for starts in 2016-17 - but Garde claims the two France internationals could be used in tandem by Arsene Wenger.

A man who spent three years

working with Lacazette between 2011 and 2014 told France Football: "Olivier and Alexandre are two different players that Arsene needs. 'The seasons are long and the aims are high for a club like Arsenal. To have these two players at his disposal is not too much, and it is possible to put them both in the same XI."

Proof

"The proof, at Lyon, is that Alex and [former Lyon and Swansea striker] Bafe [Gomis] played alongside each other at Lyon with me. We got the balance right by playing a diamond midfield."

"That is something that Arsene could do with these two players. Alex is a player who is sufficiently intelligent to adapt to that, Olivier Giroud too." **GOAL**

MANENZHE BACKS SANGWENI TO THRIVE AT ORLANDO PIRATES

JOHANNESBURG - Former Orlando Pirates striker Phumudzo Manenzhe believes Thamsanqa Sangweni's qualities is exactly what the team has been lacking in recent seasons.

Pirates earlier this week confirmed the signing of Sangweni on a three-year deal from Chippa United, much to the delight of the club's supporters.

'The Bold', who donned the 'Black and White' from 2002 until 2007, believes the arrival of a strong central midfielder is an answer to the fans' prayers as they look to restore the ship to its former glory days, following their most disappointing season in the PSL era.

"I think the arrival of Thamsanqa Sangweni means the Buccaneers' prayers are finally answered, because last season they were complaining that the defensive midfielders are not able to keep the ball or circulate it as much as we would like," said Manenzhe.

"We know Orlando Pirates' strength is playing through the wingers, but for the wingers to get the ball you need a strong central midfield to supply those balls out wide."

"I think Sangweni brings that long and short-passing game, and we know his diagonal ball is one of the best in the PSL. The late runs he makes in and towards the box to give himself that oppor-



Thamsanqa Sangweni.

tunity to shoot at goal is also one of his strengths. "That's what he brings to Pirates and I think the Buccaneers will be happy to have a player of his calibre in the team."

Since the departure of anchor-man Andile Jali in 2014, Oupa Manyisa's partnership with Issa Sarr in the centre of the park has attracted criticism, with Abubakar Mobara only recently staking his claim for that role. Sangweni now brings that glimmer of hope that Jali's shoes could finally be filled, however, Manenzhe argues that the 28-year-old former Chilli Boys skipper needs to forge his own history and not be compared to anyone, including his older brother 'Siya'. **KICKOFF**

Roma chief fires warning to Man U over Belgian star

ROME - Manchester United have been warned to forget any hope of signing midfield target Radja Nainggolan.

United may be set to finally end their long hunt for a new striker with the capture of Romelu Lukaku, but Jose Mourinho is yet to have much luck in his pursuit of a new central midfielder.

A deal for Chelsea's Nemanja Matic looked close last week, but much like United did with Alvaro Morata, the club are being tipped to end their interest

and pursue other targets.

Saturday's Paper Talk suggested United will go back in for Tottenham star Eric Dier, while Nainggolan also remains a long-term target of Mourinho.

Chance

However, Roma Sporting Director Monchi has ruled out any chance of the powerful Belgian leaving the Serie A club.

Monchi said: "Nainggolan will definitely remain at Roma."

"The time of sales of important play-

ers is over. Now we build a team with options that the market provides."

No hurry

Having already allowed Mohamed Salah to move to Liverpool, Monchi insists Roma are in no hurry to allow other top players leave the club.

"One of the objectives we are working on is a winger and we'll try to get that done as quickly as possible. I prefer to wait and bring in the player I really want, rather than to act hastily."

Teamtalk

Coetzee's absence from Ajax Cape Town explained

CAPE TOWN - Ajax Cape Town defender, Rivaldo Coetzee, is absconding from training with the club after becoming frustrated at the club's reluctance to earn a better wage or let him leave.

The Siya crew reported earlier this week that the 20-year-old defender had not returned to Ajax for pre-season this year ahead of the 2017/18 campaign, with the club's Head of Football, Mich d'Avray confirming his absence but not the reasons why. Now, with the player standing his ground, the crew have been informed that he is 'fed up' at the club, feeling that he is not earning a wage relative to his position and that they are deliberately halting his progress and the chance to move on. Siya sources have revealed that Mamelodi Sundowns and other PSL clubs are interested in the player locally, while there has also been numerous enquiries for his services from clubs overseas.

Meanwhile, another source explained the reasons for Coetzee's decision not to train, saying, "Coetzee is tired of feel-



Ajax Cape Town defender Rivaldo Coetzee.

ing disrespected at Ajax. There has been interest in him from clubs locally and abroad, but Ajax are wanting a completely unreasonable fee to let him leave."

Charge

"They want to charge clubs a fortune to sign him, but have players at the club earning four times what he gets. Going AWOL has been left as his only option. He's been incredibly loyal to the club

and loves Ajax, but he's got to a point where enough is enough and he needs to be earning a wage befitting of their personal valuation of him." The crew also reached out to Mike Makaab, the player's representative, who said, "I'm currently in negotiations with Ajax about Rivaldo, but I won't be commenting any further on it at this stage."

SOCCERLADUMA

NGWENYA CLASSIC MTB 70KM RACE



Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini at the start of the Ngwenya Classic MTB 70km race held at Ngwenya yesterday. (Pics: Sabelo Majola)



SA's Samantha Sanders was the third overall cyclist to cross the finish line. She is pictured holding her First Lady trophy.



Joan Kelly of Australia participating in the 7km trail run



Professional cyclist Carol Prete helping a young cyclist through a steep climb.



Cyclists had to pass through a tunnel.



Young cyclists along the 7km run route.



RACE: Some of the cyclists along the route.



Adele Henn-Ing from Nelspruit, took her baby Zanike to the race.



Carol Prete in the race.



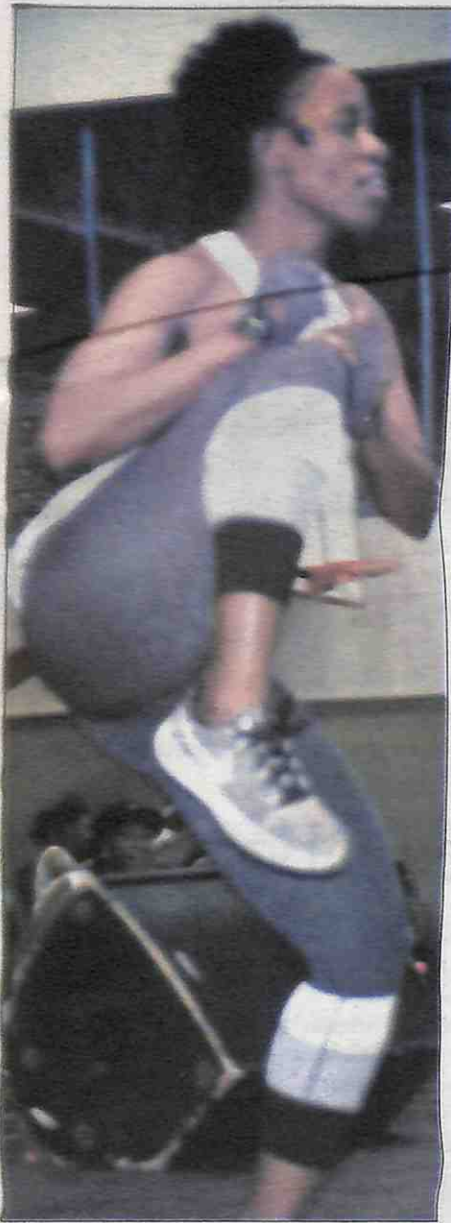
Dawn Naylor having fun.



Mduduzi Zwane's race was cut short after he got injured.



SA duo Max Knox (R) and Declan Sidey at the finish line. They came first and second respectively.



South African instructor Lebo leading the pack.



Participants in action during the aerobathon hosted by the Central Bank of Swaziland at the Mavuso Sports Centre yesterday.. (Pics: Sibusiso Masilela)

OVER 200 TAKE PART IN CBS AEROBATHON

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

AEROBICS- The aerobathon hosted by the Central Bank of Swaziland (CBS) yesterday proved to be a huge success as over 200 participated in the event.

The bank hosted eight local corporate companies during the six-hour event held at the Mavuso Sports Centre.

The companies include Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA), MTN, Conco, FNB, SWAKI and Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation (RSSC). Taking the participants through the different sessions were local and South African instructors.

Central Bank's Bheki Mbuli thanked the over 200 participants for being part of the event.

"We would like to thank everyone for turning out in great numbers.

Marathon

"This was an action packed and fun day as we started with a half marathon that went through St Paul's and Mbekwelweni before taking part in the aerobathon.



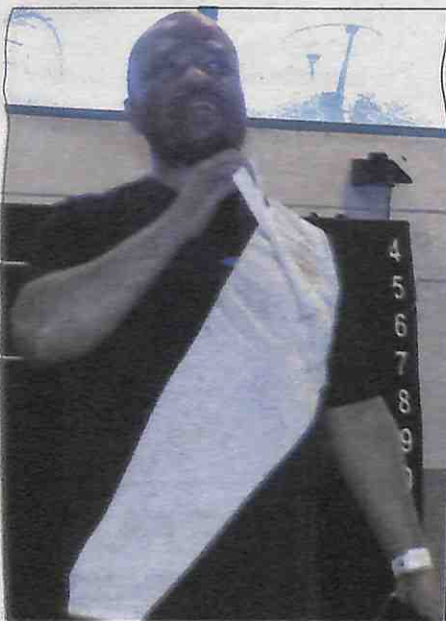
Some of the over 200 participants in action.

"This is aimed at keeping people healthy since they spend most of the time at work and some of them don't get time to exercise," he said.

Mbuli said the event also created a networking

platform for the participants.

"It is important for the corporate sector to mingle with one another in relaxed platform and we have chosen sports as one of the tools to unite people," he said



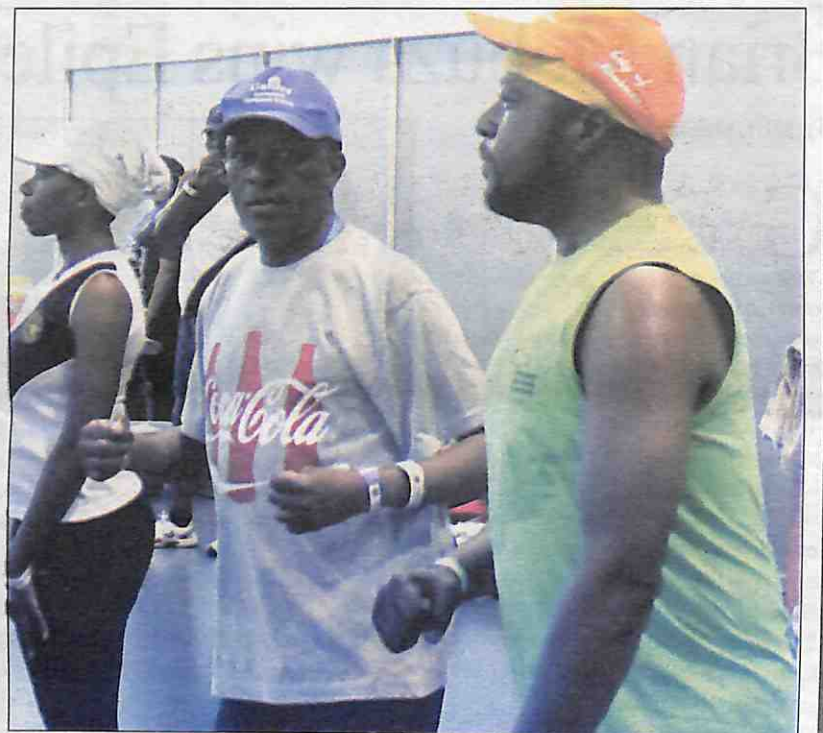
CBS's Zithulele Gina directing the proceedings during the event.



Dudu Dlamini and Poppy Zulu also attended the event.



Instructors Nondumiso Magagula and Fikile Mziyako taking the participants through one of the sessions.



Swaziland Electricity Company (SEC) Communications and Corporate Affairs Manager Sifiso Dhlamini was amongst those in attendance.

KNOX WINS NGWENYA GLASS MTB FOR THE 3RD TIME

BY SABELO MAJOLA

CYCLING-Victory belongs to the most persevering and the saying rang true for South Africa's Max Knox who successfully defended, for the third time in a row, the Ngwenya Glass Mountain Bike Challenge yesterday.

The race was graced by the honourable Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini, whose love for the sport is growing by each race.

Knox battled tough hills and a stony route to be crowned the champion of one of the toughest mountain bikes in the country just over three hours as he clocked 3:01:40, about ten min-

utes later than he did last year.

Max was closely followed by fellow countrymen in Declan Sidey who crossed the finish line after 3:05:39 hours.

The 30-years old New Holland cycling club cyclist and four time SA Mountain Bike national champion said he has been doing MTB for two decades and has been cycling as a professional for the past ten years.

"The race was a lot tougher this year because Sidey was hard on my heels and putting pressure on me whilst I had no tough competition last year. I had to work hard and keep the pressure on and I opened a 30-second gap on him towards the king of the moun-

tain and he couldn't close the gap," he said. Sidey, who came second in 2013, was impressed by the scenery of the route and the friendly people of Swaziland. "It was a very good race, I enjoyed it. Nice route and nice scenery, the people are very friendly, everything was just on point," he said. The route traverses the Motshane/Sigangeni valley offering unparalleled views of North Western Swaziland from Ngwenya towards Mhlambanyatsi. It took about 40 minutes for the first Swazi to cross the finish line with MTN Khemani cyclist Sicelo Phiri coming fifth with a clock time of 3:41:33. Phiri said he had a tough time at the multiple hills along the route

and he lamented about the road being stony. "There were too many stones on the route and too many climbs and I couldn't keep up with the SA cyclists," he said. The 25-years-old cyclist rose to prominence when he won the Total Nhlanguano National Road race last year.

Winning the 40km race was 4Eva cyclist Ayanda Dlamini who said the race had lots of climbs, which were good for training. He crossed the finish line after 2:05:10 hours.



South African duo Max Knox (R) and Declan Sidey pictured at the finish line. They came first and second respectively in the 70km race.

SA's Samantha outruns local cyclists

CYCLING - It is very rare to have a woman in the top three of a cycling main race but South Africa's Samantha Sanders defied all odds to finish third overall in the Ngwenya Glass MTB Challenge 70 km race yesterday.

The sturdy cyclist proved that there was no such thing as male dominance in the sport as she made it to the top three, after clocking of 3:29:05 hours.

Despite participating for the first time in the race, Samantha was able to astonishingly outrun professional local cyclists to attain podium finish.

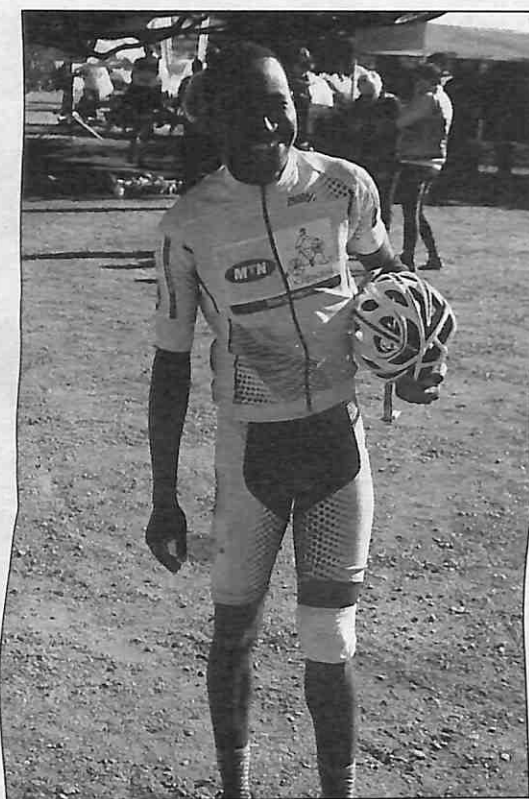
She was also the first woman to cross the finish line in the MTN Khemani race last year and has also participated in the DUPS Mafutseni road race. "The race was tough but I had lots of fun."

Nice

It is not just the nice views but the people are friendly and I just love the country. The route had lots of climbs but I enjoyed every moment as it was also nicely marked," she said.

The 33-year-old professional cyclist is part of Valencia cycling club and she hails from Nelspruit.

Mduduzi Zwane injures knee, abort race



Mduduzi Zwane's race was cut short after injuring his knee.

CYCLING - MTN Khemani cyclist Mduduzi Zwane had to cut his race short when he fell about 30km in the main race and injured his left knee.

The unfortunate Zwane said he was the first Swazi at the time and third overall at the time the accident occurred and that he had no alternative but to pull out of the race as he was badly hurt.

Lost

"It was over 30km when I lost control of the bike falling and sustaining an injury. I had no other alternative but to quit because the injury was serious," said the disappointed cyclists.

Cross

Zwane was the second Swazi to cross the finish line in the same race last year.

A notable absentee was his teammate Muzi Shabangu, who has been dominating road races this year.

Sihawu Dlamini and Sifiso Mhlana were sixth and seventh respectively while veteran cyclist William Kelly came in the ninth position. Completing the top ten was SA's Sandra Haywood

who was the second lady to cross the finish line with a clock time of 4:04:28 hours.

Selected results:

70km race

Name	Time
1 Max Knox	3:01:40
2 Declan Sidey	3:05:39
3 Samantha Sanders	3:29:05
4 Malcolm Dunkeld	3:30:43
5 Sicelo Phiri	3:41:33
6 Sihawu Dlamini	3:45:53
7 Sifiso Mhlana	3:49:59
8 Gerrit De Vries	3:50:03
9 William Kelly	4:00:30
10 Sandra Haywood	4:04:28

40km race results

Ayanda Dlamini	2:05:10
Mcebo Langa	2:07:40
Israel Lukhele	2:09:01
Richard Darne	2:14:01
Konrad Munnik	2:14:01
Qiniso Dlamini	2:16:33
Gcina Khumalo	2:17:03
Brian Henn	2:18:45
Tracy Ogg	2:18:59
Tiago Oliveira	2:21:28

Brian Mabuza wins Epilepsy tourney

BY SIBUSISO DLAMINI

GOLF - Brian Mabuza is this year's champion of the Lidwala Epilepsy golf tournament.

The golfer scored an impressive 41 points to be crowned the winner of the tournament hosted by Swaziland Epilepsy Organisation at the Nkonyeni Golf Estate yesterday.

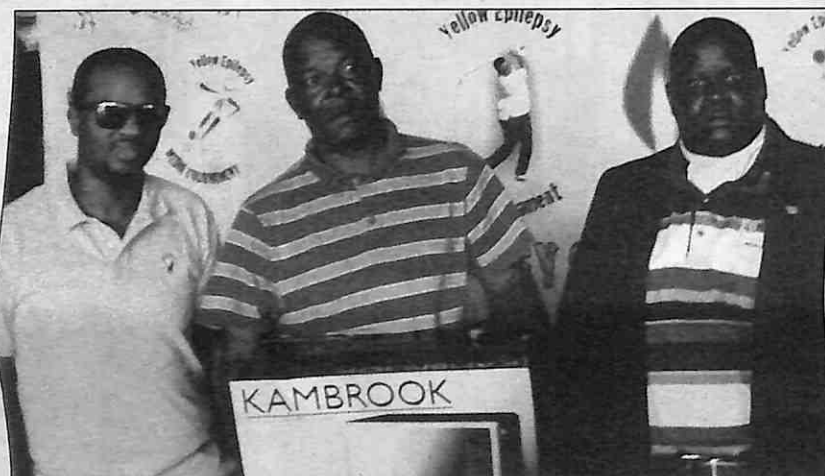
This six edition of the tournament was sponsored to a tune of E150 000 by Lidwala Insurance.

Mabuza was closely followed by Benedict Bennett who came second after scoring 40 points while August Piennar was third with 39 points on a count back.

The golfer was tied on points with Vusi Dlamini and Frans Strauss who came fourth and fifth respectively.

Other winners on the day included Teddy Vilakati, Mfanafuthi 'Taribo' Bhembe and President of the Swaziland Golf Union (SGU) Albert Mhlana.

Meanwhile, in the novelties section,



Swaziland Epilepsy Golf Champion Brian Mabuza flanked by the Swaziland Epilepsy Organisation (SEO) Patron Prince Bandzile and Director Mbusomuni Mahlalela after receiving his prize.

August Piennar was a double winner, winning for the longest drive on numbers one and 18. Justice Dlamini also won for longest drive, on number 17 while Teddy Vilakati was nearest pin

two, Sibusiso Shongwe nearest to pin seven, and Mzamo Dlamini nearest to pin nine. The tournament themed 'Putting Epilepsy in the Picture' was played in an individual stable-ford format.

Prince Bandzile wants people with epilepsy to play in golf tourney

GOLF - Swaziland Epilepsy Organisation Patron Prince Bandzile has expressed desire for people living with epilepsy taking part in the Epilepsy golf tournament.

Interviewed during the tournament held at the Nkonyeni Golf Estate after the tee-off of the games yesterday, the prince said it was his wish to see those living with the condition taking part in the tournament aimed at creating awareness and also raising funds.

Mentioned

He however mentioned that this would be possible after the association realises its dream of having an Epileptic Care Centre.

"We will definitely love to play with the epileptic, but I think it's just not viable now because we don't have enough financial

muscle to build our own health-care centre where they will be properly taken care of."

"Also in this same vein, it's worth mentioning that we need to support more people in order to realise this dream of ours," he said.

Impressive

When asked about his impressive tee-off, The prince said golf was his sport, as he began playing it back in primary school, something he continued to do in his tertiary years in England.

"Golf is my sport, so that's why I'm doing so well."

I started playing back in primary and have continued till tertiary so I am at home here.

That's how I knew it would be the perfect sport to raise money and awareness on epilepsy," he said.

ALOU BADARA JOINS MBABANE HIGHLANDERS

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER – Malian born Alou Badara is new Mbabane Highlanders Coach.

The coach is expected to assume his new duties when the team resumes training at the Casino Sports Ground tomorrow afternoon.

Information gathered by this publication is that the coach has agreed on terms with the Board of Directors over taking over the hot seat in the team.

The former Tambuti Coach replaces Rodney Stumbo Charles who took over the team to try and save it from relegation, a task that was in vain as the team was saved by the increment of premier League teams to 14.

A source close to the matter revealed to this publication that former Mbabane Swallows coach was approached by the team to lead them as they prepare for the new season.

"The two parties have already met and all that is left is for them to tie a few ends otherwise it is a done deal.

Badara will be introduced to the players who begin their pre-season training tomorrow," he said.

Mbabane Highlanders PRO Paul 'Magidza' Masilela could not be drawn for comment on the matter when asked yesterday.

Meet

"We are still to meet and discuss certain issues. But I can state that all issues affecting the team would be announced on Monday (tomorrow)," he said.

The coach also asked not to comment when contacted yesterday also

a comment could not be drawn from Tambuti PRO Nathi Dlamini as his phone rang unanswered when called several times yesterday.

There was also no response to a message sent to the PRO at the time of going to press.

The coach is not new at Highlanders as he had a short stint with the black and white side in the 2013/14 pre-season. He was however replaced by the late Basil Peterson in the new season after a fallout with some officials in the team.



Malian born Alou Badara.

Maxaquene replaces Aconbush in Transverse Cup

STORIES BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

SOCCER – Mozambican giants Maxaquene has since replaced SA Vodacom side Aconbush United in the upcoming Mpumalanga Transverse Cup.

The tournament to be now held at the Kwanyamazane Stadium instead of the Kamhlushwa Stadium is billed for July 23.

The Maputo based side will take on local side Matsapha United during the first semi-final which will be followed by an all South African affair between Orlando Pirates and Mbombela United.

The developments were announced by the tournament's coordinator Ray Mabunda during the Matsapha United family fun day held at the Matsapha Police College Sports Ground yesterday.

"We are very happy with the progress of the team over the past ten months and we felt they should be part of the Transverse Cup aimed at uniting countries in the SADC region. Matsapha United are the future of local football hence the decision to rope them in the tournament.

We strongly believe that they will add value in the tournament."

"We have also decided to change the venue after looking at the magnitude of the tournament which hopes to attract multitudes of supporters," he said.

The Transverse Cup fixture

23 July Kwanyamazane Stadium

Matsapha United vs Maxaquene 10am

Mbombela United vs Orlando Pirates noon

Finals 4pm

Matsapha United prepare for life without Zungu, Dombo!

SOCCER – Matsapha United are preparing for life without their Captain Vusumuzi Zungu and winger Mike Dombo who are both set to make moves to AmaZulu and Ajax Cape Town in the ABSA Premiership.

This was revealed by the team's Managing Director Siphon Shongwe during the team's fun day held in Matsapha yesterday. He said both players were already being assessed by the two clubs but stated that negotiations had not yet started.

"We could also possibly lose two of our international players in Zungu and Dombo who are both on trials in South Africa with AmaZulu and Ajax Cape Town respectively. But nothing has been finalised on the matter," he said.

He however noted that they were looking to new players in a bid to beef up their squad as they prepare for their journey in the premier league next season. He said he the 'deep blue ocean' was on the verge of signing two internationals in Tanzanian winger Ismael



Matsapha United star Vusumuzi Zungu.

Azziz from JKT Ruvu and midfielder Sizwe Madlala from Magesi FC in South Africa.

"We are working on strengthening our team ahead of the new season by signing local and international players so

that we can compete effectively in the premier league.

The Saul Chaminuka recently announced the signing of former Mbabane Highlanders and Royal Leopard midfielder Xolani 'Papi' Sikhondze.

'Birds' settle for stalemate in Rustenburg

BY SIBUSISO MASILELA

Platinum Stars (0)2

Mbabane Swallows (1)2

SOCCER – Football gods continued to obstruct Swazi football at the Moruleng Stadium following Mbabane Swallows' two-all draw against Platinum Stars in the last Group B CAF Confederation Cup encounter.

The venue seemed to be a hunting ground as the capital city giants surrendered to a two-goal cushion to play to a stalemate against the bottom of the table 'Dikwena' who were under the guidance of local born mentor Milton Dlamini.

The draw comes four days after Sihlangu crashed out of the COSAFA Cup at the same stadium.

Umkhonto ka Shaka failed to protect what was going to be a celebrated 2-0 win for the country but instead allowed the South African outfit to steal a point within the last ten minutes of the match.

The red and white glamour side got a bright start in the

Group B								
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1. CS Sfaxien	6	4	1	1	13	4	9	13
2. MC Alger	6	3	2	1	7	7	0	11
3. Mbabane Swallows	6	1	2	3	8	10	-2	5
4. Platinum Stars	6	0	3	3	6	13	-7	3

gruelling affair and were ahead as early as the 20th minute. This was through a wonderful strike taken by seasoned winger Wonder 'Samba Jive' Nhleko who unleashed a thunderbolt outside the 25 yards, leaving goalkeeper Steve Hoffman like a new born kitten.

The home side came out a bit recharged in the second half as winger Simphiwe Mnguni forced a desperate save from goalkeeper Sandile 'Nkomoshi' Ginindza with a fine strike twelve minutes into stanza.

The free scoring Sabelo 'Sikhali' Ndzinisa then drove the travelling Swazi fans into frenzy eight minutes after the hour mark with a well executed header coming from a Sanele Mkhweli cross.

Stars however managed to pull one back in the 79th minute through trusted midfielder Robert Ngambi who slotted

home a Vuyo Mere floated free kick.

The Malawi born playmaker spoiled the party for the Birds four minutes before time with a close range header coming from a Gift Links corner ending the dreams for the local side who finish the group stages on position three with five points.

Meanwhile Tunisian giants CS Sfaxien leapfrogged rivals MC Alger with a resounding 4-0 victory in Sfax, Tunisia to top the group and join the Algerians in the knockout stage of the competition.

Stars XI: Hoffman, Mere, Mlilo, Mnguni, Lesabane (Nale), Mwedihanga, Mathe K., Msomi (Sithole 60'), Khounou (Senne 74'), Links, Ng'ambi Swallows

Nkhomishi, Mabila, Mkhweli, Palma, Sphamandla, Papy, Wonder, D4D, Sikhali, Pupu (Sandile), Tony.



Mbabane Swallows celebrating one of their four goals against SA's Platinum Stars in the first leg encounter. (file Pic)

RESULTS		
CAF CONFEDERATIONS CUP		
CS Sfaxien	4-0	MC Alger
Platinum Stars	2-2	Swallows
Supersport United	4-1	Mounana
TP Mazembe	2-1	Horoya
FIXTURES		
2017 COSAFA CUP FINAL		
15:00 Zimbabwe	vs	Zambia
CAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE		
19:00 Saint George	vs	Esperance
19:00 Mamelodi Sundowns	vs	AS Vita
21:00 USM Alger	vs	CAPS
21:00 Zamalek SC	vs	Al Ahli

SundayObserver SPORTING

JULY 9, 2017



IN THE BULLS' KRAAL:

BADARA NEW 'LANDERS COACH



Former Tambuti coach expected to assume new duties tomorrow



PG 39

WAYNE ROONEY LEAVES MAN UNITED

LONDON - Wayne Rooney has left Everton's training ground after having his medical ahead of his proposed free transfer from Manchester United, and the striker stopped to sign shirts on his departure.

Rooney was pictured waving as he made his way out of Finch Farm in his Land Rover with his agent Paul Stretford yesterday evening as he prepares to seal a move back to

Merseyside.

Two Toffees fans displayed shirts signed by the 31-year-old, who is set to complete an emotional return to Goodison Park, 13 years after leaving for United in a £26.5million deal. Sportsmail understand that Rooney has agreed to a salary reduction of around 50 per cent as part of the deal taking him back to his boyhood club.

United have agreed to pay a portion of

their captain's wages, which amount to upwards of £300 000 a week, to facilitate the transfer.

His wages back on Merseyside are still expected to total around the £150,000 a week mark, which would make him comfortably the highest earner at Everton.

Rooney left Everton for United as an 18-year-old in the summer of 2004 after progressing through the Toffees' youth system.

He will depart as the Red Devils' all-time top goalscorer after breaking Sir Bobby Charlton's record with a late equaliser against Stoke in January - his 250th strike for the club.

Rooney has netted 253 goals in total during his 13 years at Old Trafford - which saw him claim five Premier League titles, a Champions League trophy and an FA Cup.

He would become Everton's sixth major signing of the window following Michael Keane, Jordan Pickford, Sandro Ramirez, Davy Klaassen and Henry Onyekuru. **Daily Mail**