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# Swazi MOBILE

we work we connect

**WELL DONE:** Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini congratulating Swazi Mobile Chairman Victor Gamedze during the brand launch of the country's second mobile company at Royal Swazi Spa yesterday. (Pic: Simon Shabangu)



**SWAZILAND  
NEEDS INDIA  
- KING**

>>>Page 5

**PM SAYS MTN,  
SWAZI MOBILE  
COMPETITION  
GOOD FOR SD**

>>>Page 3

# SWAZI MOBILE SPENDS E600m, TO HIRE 300

...Company will go live in July

Story on Page 3

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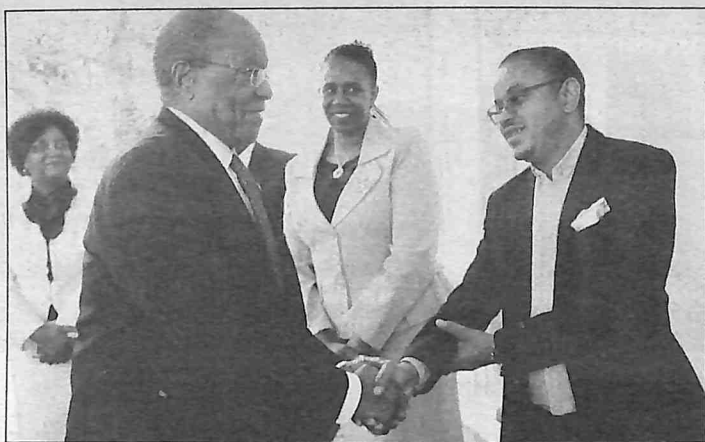
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**HELLO:** The PM meeting lawyer Sdumo Mdladla, the legal advisor for Swazi Mobile.



**WELL DONE:** Gamedze being congratulated by the PM.



**RUBBING SHOULDERS:** Swazi Mobile Chairman in a conversation with Swazi Observer Editors Kenneth Dlamini, Mbongeni Mbingo and Alec Lushaba.

## Dragging of SPTC separation has no effect on Swazi Mobile

**MINISTER of Information Communications and Technology Dumisani Ndlangamandla says the delay on the establishment of the infrastructure company will not stall Swazi Mobile to go live in July.**

He was responding to Observer on Saturday's Editor Alec Lushaba who wanted to know if the legal aspect, especially with regards to infrastructure sharing may stall Swazi Mobile from going live.

This follows after the Bill that has to separate the Swaziland Post and Telecommunications Corporation (SPTC) has still not been passed into law.

The minister said the power to control infrastructure sharing rests with the regulator.

"Therefore, the delay in setting

up the infrastructure company cannot stop the operations of Swazi Mobile," he said.

The Electronic Communications Facilities Sharing Regulations 2016 provides for the promotion of fair competition through equal access being granted to the installations and facilities of operators in mutually agreed terms. It also provides for the mandatory sharing of essential facilities.

It also makes provision for guidance and encourages operators to pursue a cost oriented policy with the added effect of a reduction in the tariffs chargeable to consumers.

The requests for infrastructure sharing are to be made in writing via the regulator, SCCOM and the specifications clearly provided for in the legislation.

# swazi mobile

we work we connect we serve

# SWAZI MOBILE TO INVEST

## COVER STORY

Stories by Manqoba Makhubu  
and Gugu Simelane  
Mbabane

**SWAZI Mobile intends to invest at least E600 million in the short term and seeks to pump in further investments in the next five years.**

This was disclosed by the company's Chief Strategy Officer Jeff Penberton.

He was responding to a question raised by Swazi Observer Senior Business Reporter Manqoba Makhubu during the official launch of the company's brand held yesterday at the Royal Swazi Sun Gigi's Restaurant.

The launch of the brand was officiated by Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini.

Part of the investment had already been utilised and the remaining portion is pending investment.

The company still faces a huge task of setting up operation infrastructure and to set up other systems to deliver as per its brand promise which speaks to three things; 'work, connect and serve.'

"Our intention is to set up the fastest network in terms of data and access in Swaziland," said Penberton.

Swazi Mobile Chairman Victor Gamedze said their network infrastructure shipment had already been sent to the company and they anticipate rolling it in two weeks time. The company had roped in a team of experts from China for the network setup and rollout.



**LET THE PHONES RING:** Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini assisted by Swazi Mobile Chairman Victor Gamedze in cutting the ribbon to mark the official launch of the Swazi Mobile Brand Launch at Royal Swazi Spa yesterday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

Swazi Mobile Chairman Victor Gamedze said their network infrastructure shipment had already been sent to the company and they anticipate rolling it in two weeks time.

The company had roped in a team of

experts from China for the network setup and rollout.

### Promise

"We have made a promise to the public and we want to keep it no matter what and that is what we have been

## Free phones, airtime as Swazi Mobile runs tests in May

**SWAZI Mobile Limited will in May dish out free phones and airtime to a few lucky selected registered customers as the company runs network tests in preparation to go live in July 1.**

Swazi Mobile Limited Chairman Victor Gamedze announced the good news during the company's brand launch held yesterday at the Royal Swazi Sun Gigi's Restaurant.

The blissful launch was graced by Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini, distributors and potential suppliers.

The Chairman said in May, the company will be testing its network

and lucky customers will have the privilege of getting free cellphones that will come with free calls and SMSes for a certain period of time in the duration of the tests.

He made an undertaking that the company will kick-start its operations at world class level.

"We will launch the 2G network, 3G network and 4G at the same time to allow our customers to get the efficient services they deserve. We have roped in a company from China and they will help in setting up all operations for a smooth operation," he said.

Gamedze further revealed that in the next two weeks, the company will be setting up additional network towers all over the country.

He said the aim was to commence operations with 80 per cent to 90 per cent network coverage, but promised that they would be soon targeting a 100 per cent coverage.

"We will keep all the promises that we have made," he said.

Gamedze further thanked government for allowing a Swazi company the opportunity to operate and compete on the mobile network service space.

## E200m loans available to buy shares

**IT will come as good news for members of the public who will be buying Swazi Mobile shares as the company has clinched a deal with one of the local financial institutions to offer loans to stake buyers up to the tune of E200 million.**

The financial institution has not been disclosed yet.

Swazi Mobile will float 33 per cent shares on the Swaziland Stock

Exchange

(SSX) in May

to enable ordi-

nary Swazis to

have a stake in

the company or

'to be part of

big giants in

business, as

Gamedze put

it. This stance

by the compa-

ny was deeply

appreciated by

Prime Minister

Dr. Sibusiso

Dlamini.

He said it was

an exciting

dimension to

the launch that

the compa-

"It should, of course be mentioned that a successful floatation of shares will require the general public being convinced of the profitability and potential of the company, but we all wish Swazi Mobile well in that respect"

Swazis to share a successful corporate performance.

"It should, of course be mentioned that a successful floatation of shares will require the general public being convinced of the profitability and potential of the company, but we all wish Swazi Mobile well in that respect. "The growth of our Stock market relies on the kind of initiative and commitment shown by Swazi Mobile Limited.

The greater

number of

company

shares avail-

able on our

Stock

Exchange, the

greater the

investment

opportunities

for individu-

als and insti-

tutions in

country," he

said.

He even said that they should make sure they launch the shares on the stock market during his 75th birthday in May.

**1<sup>st</sup> 25 000 to register to get free SMSes for life**

**THE first 25 000 customers who will register online and reserve their cellphone numbers on the Swazi Mobile website will get free Short Message Services (SMSes) for life once the mobile network starts operating in July 1.**

Master of ceremonies during the official brand launch of Swazi Mobile Mfokolozi Maziya encouraged the public to start registering online and reserve their numbers so they don't miss the limited opportunity of getting free SMSes for life.

### Change

He further revealed that those who will reserve their numbers will only have a minor change in their current MTN cellphone numbers.

Swazi Mobile's numbers will start with a 79..... instead of the usual 76.....all the other digits will be the same as their current cell numbers.



# E600m IN SHORT TERM

## 300 new jobs in 12 months

ANOTHER set of good news announced by Swazi Mobile is that the company will create 300 new direct and indirect job opportunities in the next 12 months.

And again, just like their investment, the number of people to be employed will increase in the long run.

This was also disclosed by Chief Strategy Officer Jeff Penberton during the question and answer session following the official launch of the company's brand

yesterday.

This is good news to the country which currently grapples with constrained economic growth and high unemployment rates.

### Opportunities

This was also alluded to by Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini who was the guest speaker during the function.

"Creating job opportunities for Swazis is one of the goals of the nation and government," he said.

He said the launch of the company creates growth in the indus-

try and in the economy, through business link and employment.

Prospect employees can submit their Curriculum Vitae (CVs) online or deliver them straight to the human resource department.

Apart from that, Penberton said there would be a piece of the pie for everyone.

"Individuals and businesses who offer different products ranging from applications, software, supplier vendors and any relevant support services can simply go to our website and pitch their ideas," he said.

doing to date," said Gamedze.

The company will launch 2G, 3G and the world class 4G network altogether. Chief Marketing Officer Khulile Dlamini vowed that they would work hard to connect customers to their 'unique world' and serve them better.

"We are here to sell and we want our customers to feel the difference even when coming to our offices," said Dlamini.

Adding, he said they would treat customers as individuals and address

their unique needs. To enable that, he said they built their brand based on future trends, the factors behind those trends and according to what people want.

"When we go live in July, we want to be compared with the best in the world," he said.

He said they also got motivation from the regulator to offer broadband services even in areas that do not have it through the deployment of wireless broadband network technology.

Swazi Mobile was recently awarded a licence by the regulator, Swaziland Communications Commission (SCCOM) following an invitation to tender for a telecommunications service provider advertised late last year.

It beat other four applicants, Mauritius Telecom Limited, a partnership between Data Network Services (Pty) Limited and Ndlaphu Financial Services (Pty) Limited known as Sdnet and Viettel Global Investments Joint Stock Company.

## Swazi Mobile won licence by 75%

**PRIME Minister Dr. Sibusiso Dlamini congratulated Swazi Mobile for setting the bar higher and pasting its competitors hands down during the tendering process of the service provider.**

He said Swazi Mobile won the tender for the telecommunications service provider licence by 75 per cent points out of a 100 per cent, while the others were able to only amass below 50 per cent.

Dlamini said the fact that a local company won the competitive bid to be the second telecommunications licensee was a very satisfying outcome.

"Only teachers can relate what happens when you get a score below 50 per cent," he said jokingly much to the amusement of the attendees.

The assessment was carried out by the regulator, Swaziland Communication Commission (SCCOM).

"In the evaluation of submissions, the main difference between Swazi Mobile and its competitors lay in the extent of local participation, operational experience and presentation on economic

and environmental issues," said the prime minister.

However, he said while getting the licence was an excellent achievement by Swazi Mobile, it also marked the beginning of the challenging journey ahead.

"Swazi Mobile will be aiming to provide top quality service to Swazi consumers under competitive conditions, with the need to balance a value for money service with a decent rate of return for itself," he said. He advised the company that it will face all normal corporate challenges of sustaining sound operations and financial management, while delivering product quality in a field that demands a high quality service as well as keeping pace with fashion and technology. He also announced that the Swaziland Telecommunications Act is now in full effect following the liberation of the telecommunications industry and that a home grown, entirely Swazi company has been selected under fully competitive conditions to launch itself into one of the most vibrant industries of the 21st century.

## CEO to resume duties April 1

SWAZI Mobile Chairman Victor Gamedze has announced that the company's Chief Executive Officer will start duty April 1 and as he/she is still serving notice somewhere.

At the initial stages of the company, Swazi Mobile recruited cream of the crop experts including Chief Strategy Officer Jeff Penberton, Chief Financial Officer Robert Atwell, Chief Marketing Officer Khulile Dlamini and Mbabane based lawyer Sidumo Mdladla, who is the company's Legal Advisor.

Gamedze was non committal on the name of the incoming CEO and said he/she will be unveiled in due time.

"The CEO is still serving notice at his/she current workplace," he said. He also introduced his team to the PM. Other members of the company include Chief Brand Consultant Kola Moradeyo, Programmes Manager Fola Delano, Human Resources Manager Veli Malinga and Legal and Compliance Office Sindela Simelane.

Wandile Mtshali is also expected to join the company by April 1, as the Chief Technical Officer (CTO).

## 'We work, we connect, we serve'

**THIS is Swazi Mobile Limited's tagline and brand value proposition which was unveiled yesterday.**

The tagline was unveiled together with the company's logo.

The logo comprises of a chat icon, a globe with and a styled letter S in the middle.

Chief Marketing Manager Khulile Dlamini said the letter S in the logo stands for Swazi, Superior and Swazi Mobile.

### Rise

"The chat icon symbolises the global rise of data and messaging as the preferred channel to connect, while the globe symbolises the promise to connect subscribers to the world with world class service", he said.

Dlamini said Swazi Mobile's promise is to work hard 24/7 to connect customers to a unique world and serve better.

"It is to attend everyone in all possible ways. We will improve communication of any kind," he said.

Dlamini said other products will be revealed in time.

## Network towers not a health hazard - SCCOM

**S W A Z I L A N D Communication Commission's (SCCOM) Ozzie Thakatha has allayed fears that mobile network towers are a health hazard.**

He was responding to a question raised during the ques-

tion and answer session, one of the journalists raised a concern about the health hazards from the expansion of network towers.

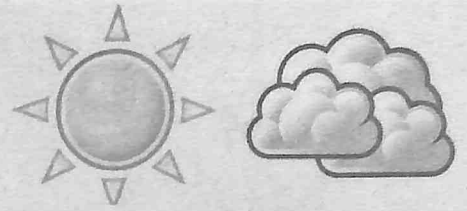
### Studies

Thakatha said scientific studies had been undertaken to

test the hypothesis.

### Demonstrated

"It has been demonstrated that there are no effects from towers, but more studies will be conducted to give consumers more confidence," he said.



## It will blow hot and cold this weekend

By Nozipho Sibiya  
Mbabane

### A cold to hot weather is expected this weekend.

According to the information sourced from the Swaziland National Meteorology services, this weekend temperatures will be cold and partly cloudy all over the country today and tomorrow.

"However on Sunday it will be sunny and hot mainly in the Lowveld," said the forecasters.

Thunderstorms are expected on Sunday evening after the extreme temperatures that will rise to a maximum temperature of 36 Degrees Celsius in the Lowveld while the Highveld will heat up to 29 Degrees Celsius.

### WEATHER UPDATE

#### TODAY

Mbabane	12/16
Mankayane	13/17
Manzini	15/20
Siteki	14/18
Mhlume	17/22
Big Bend	18/23

Today there will be morning fog at places otherwise partly cloudy and cool but cold in the Lowveld.

#### SATURDAY

Mbabane	9/21
Mankayane	10/22
Manzini	12/25
Siteki	11/33
Mhlume	14/27
Big Bend	15/28

Tomorrow, there will be fog patches at first otherwise partly cloudy and cool but warm in the Lowveld.

#### SUNDAY

Mbabane	12/29
Mankayane	13/30
Manzini	15/33
Siteki	14/31
Mhlume	17/35
Big Bend	18/36

On Sunday it will be sunny and hot mainly in the Lowveld with a few thunderstorms later.

### NEWS EXTRA

## Farmer shoots worker after 'mistaking him for monkey'

**POLOKWANE – A farmer allegedly shot and wounded a farm worker with a pellet gun in Letsitele, after allegedly mistaking him for a monkey, Limpopo police said on Thursday.**

Mathanene Ishmael, 55, was returning from a store room on his bicycle when the farmer allegedly shot him in the head with a pellet gun on Wednesday, Brigadier Motlafela Mojapelo said in a statement.

"The suspect claimed he mistook him for a monkey."

Ishmael was rushed to a nearby hospital with a head injury.

The 47-year-old farmer was arrested and would appear in the Ritavi Magistrate's Court on Friday on a charge of attempted murder.

Provincial police commissioner Lieutenant General Nneke Ledwaba warned gun owners to first make sure they knew what they were shooting at before pulling the trigger.

News 24



**CHIEF: Swazi Mobile Chief Strategy Officer Jeff Penberton responding to questions.**

## 'COMPETITION CRITICAL FOR A HEALTHY ECONOMY'

**PRIME Minister Dr. Sibusiso Dlamini says competition remains an essential feature in a healthy economy.**

He said it was critical for both the economy and the end consumer to get fair prices.

"It drives supplies of goods and services to provide to customers the best quality at the lowest," said the Dlamini, who was head of government when Swazi MTN started its operations in 1998 and has also coincidentally launched the first company that has ended the sector's monopoly of almost 20 years.

Adding, he said competition in an economy was also a vital contributor to improved service for the ultimate consumer.

Dlamini said the launch of Swazi Mobile creates growth in the industry and in the economy, through business-link and employment opportunities.

He said Swazis now have a greater choice as they identify their communications solutions.

"Swazi Mobile convinced the Swaziland Communication Commission of its ability to deliver on its promises to bring more value to the consumers and build a 2G, 3G and 4G voice and data network that will make the Swazi nation proud," he said.





**CUTTING THE RIBBON:** Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini assisted by Swazi Mobile Chairman Victor Gamedze in cutting the ribbon to mark the official launch of the Swazi Mobile Brand at Royal Swazi Spa yesterday. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

# SWAZI MOBILE BRAND LAUNCH AT ROYAL SWAZI SPA



**WELCOME:** Swazi Mobile Chairman Victor Gamedze addressing the gathering.



**REMARKS:** Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini making his remarks during the launch.



**THANK YOU:** Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso Dlamini receiving a token of appreciation from Swazi Mobile Chairman Victor Gamedze.



**MARKETING:** Swazi Mobile Head of Marketing Khulile Dlamini making his address.



**STAFF:** The PM and chairman posing with Directors, management and staff of Swazi Mobile.



**YOU SEE:** Swazi Observer Managing Editor Mbongeni Mbingo in a conversation with Swazi Mobile staff Cindy Nxumalo, Phumelele Mabuza and Sindela Simelane at the function.



**TECHNICAL:** Some of the technicians from China who helped in facilitating the set up as the company prepares to go live.



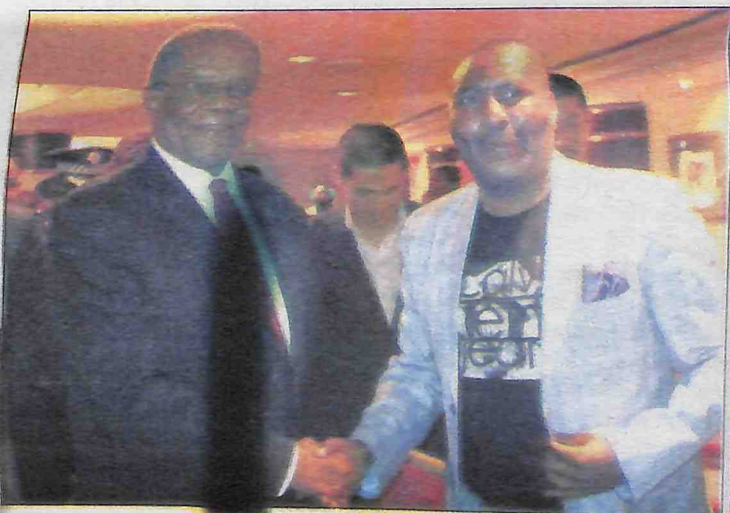
**FIRST TABLE:** Senior government officials and Swaziland Communications Commission management also witnessed the brand launch by the PM.



**ALSO THERE:** The chairman flanked by Channel S Boss Qhawe Mamba and Macford Sibandze.



**QUESTION:** Observer on Saturday Editor Alec Lushaba posing a question to the ICT Minister.



**GOOD TO SEE:** The PM meeting former Minister Macford Sibandze.



# INDIA IS KEY FOR OUR FIRST WORLD STATUS DREAM - KING

By King's Office  
Correspondent

**NEW DEHLI, INDIA** – For a country aspiring to attain first world status, forging partnerships and joint ventures with key role players in a first world country is essential to realise this objective.

This was the sentiment shared by His Majesty the King yesterday when addressing the President, government leaders and the business community of India.

The King was invited as guest of honour at the 12TH CONFEDERATION OF INDIA INDUSTRY – EXIM BANK CONCLAVE ON INDIA AFRICA PROJECT PARTNERSHIP held at the Taj Palace Hotel.

This is a forum that brings together the business communities and government officials of India and African countries with the aim of fostering trade and investment.

The King is impressed with the growth India has achieved over the years and has applauded the country for sharing this success with developing countries.

India is one of the top 10 fastest growing economies averaging seven per cent.

"We are pleased to note that subsequent to the India-Africa Summit 2015, we now have the business community following in the footsteps of the government to create strong business partnerships that will be highly beneficial, especially now that India is classified as a first world country.

With her experience, we are hopeful that India will be able to share her success story with Africa," he said.

His Majesty acknowledged the line of credit extended by the Exim Bank of India to Swaziland which has partly funded the construction of the Science and Technology Parks as well as financing a few initiatives in agriculture.

"There is, of course, plenty of room for expansion into other areas. Africa is looking up to India to explore investment opportunities in the continent in a variety of sectors such as manufacturing, pharmaceutical and renewable energy.

"We also look to India to help finance infrastructure development projects that can contribute to sustainable development which improves the socio-economic landscape of our people," he said.

His Majesty said the vision of our King-



**KING ARRIVES:** His Majesty the King arrives in India with Inkhosikati LaNkambule on Wednesday evening. (Pics Len Mohale - State Photographer)

dom is to yet attain a first world status by 2022, but there are several challenges to this national objective.

He cited these as financial resources to provide quality health services, schools, housing and portable water.

He acknowledged the role played by the private sector through domestic and foreign direct investment.

"Our new airport presents a gateway to numerous markets. Industrial estates have also been developed in strategic areas of the country to provide access to land for domestic and foreign direct investors.

The King acknowledged the confidence shown in the local economy following that the first foreign company to set up a plant in the park is an Indian company in the pharmaceutical business.

"We also have a company from India which is investing in the energy sector and we are looking forward to hosting

them in the kingdom soon. We wish to encourage other companies from India to visit us to explore the investment opportunities in infrastructure, ICT, mining, tourism, agribusiness and manufacturing," he said.

The King noted that trade between India and the Kingdom of eSwatini indicates a steady increase in imports of pharmaceuticals comprising 60 per cent of our import basket.

"Our government continues to provide a conducive business environment through competitive incentive packages and ensuring strong institutional support. Another incentive being proposed by government is the export and import economic zones," he said.

"Let us strengthen our economic cooperation and exchange knowledge between our two countries for the benefit of our future generations," he said.



**WARM WELCOME:** His Majesty received by Indian government officials upon arrival as Inkhosikati LaNkambule looks on.



**STRESSING A POINT:** The King stresses a point to Minister of Foreign Affairs Chief Mgwagwa Gamedze and Minister of Economic Planning and Development Prince Hlangusemphi while Principal Chief of Protocol Mphiwa Dlamini looks on ahead of yesterday business and investment conference in India.



**POSE:** There was a photo opportunity for the government and business leaders where they posed with His Majesty the King and the President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee.



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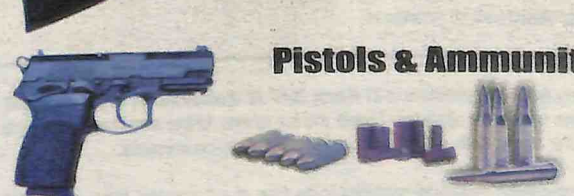
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# TV man Nathi bares wife-inflicted wounds in court

By Ackel Zwane  
Manzini

IN the final turn around in the assault case against Swazi TV News Editor Nathi Dlamini the court was shown pictures of eight wounds inflicted by his wife in the shoulder during the alleged altercation that culminated in the woman reporting him to police.

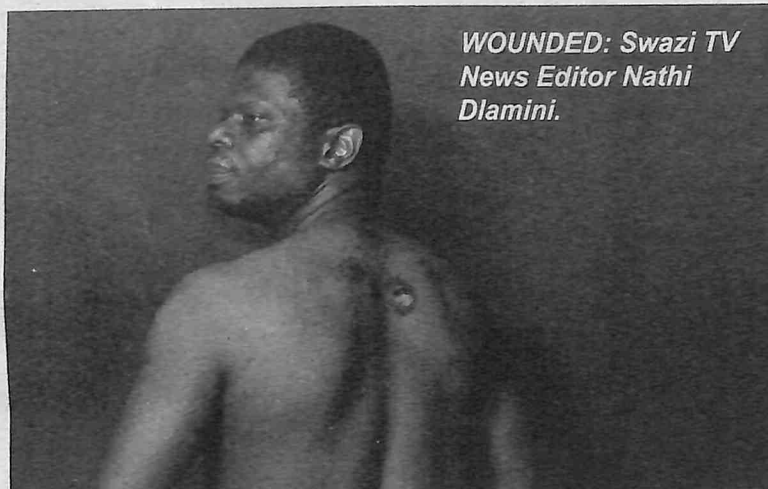
The matter was at the Matsapha Circuit Court at Sigodweni Police Station on Wednesday, where Manzini Magistrate Lucia Lukhele presided while Fakazi Mngomezulu prosecuted. Dlamini was represented by top Manzini lawyer Siphon Gumedze.

The charges were read before Dlamini who pleaded not guilty and thereafter the complainant, Lungile Dlamini led

evidence which was followed by cross examination by Gumedze.

It was during the cross examination that the magistrate became concerned that the trial would not help both parties and called both Mngomezulu and Gamedze to her bench where she expressed her worry that the evidence that was forthcoming was not helpful to the children of the married couple.

It was then that the two agreed that the matter should stand down and return on April 5 but this time as a peace binding matter and not that of a criminal nature. It must be noted that both parties had been charged with assault in that Nathi was first to lay assault charges on the night of November 23, 2016 at around 10pm to Sigodweni Police. However, his case was not proceeded but instead it



WOUNDED: Swazi TV News Editor Nathi Dlamini.

was that of his wife who reported around midday the following day.

Nathi was given the RSP88 form which he presented to Mkhiwa Clinic for treatment of his wounds where he was treated and discharged. This form

is part of the evidence in court and after it had been collected by the police with the doctor's findings.

Nathi had copies of pictures of his injuries in court while his wife Lungile had no such evidence. The magistrate

also felt he could be forced to discharge Nathi and proceed to prosecute Lungile on the criminal charges even though she did not produce any evidence of how she was assaulted save to say she was slapped and hit with elbows during the fisticuffs.

The magistrate felt such a trial would also not be helpful to the children. She further noted that the police mishandled the matter from the start in that Nathi was first to report on the same day he was assaulted and his wife reported the following day but her matter was first to get to court. She further took note that Nathi had also brought the RSP 88 medical report.

The magistrate felt it was important to find peace between the two so that they would not be "extremely estranged". She said she was making a provision that even if they may decide to go their separate ways they must do so harmoniously and not acrimoniously. She also took into account that Nathi was prepared to have the magistrate inspect the wounds inflicted on him as part of the evidence. This also emerged during the cross examination when the lawyer applied that the court should indeed inspect Nathi's injuries.

## Post-mortem of worker killed by forklift today

By Nozipho Sibiya  
Matsapha

A post-mortem report of the man who was killed by a forklift at a sugar packing company will be released today.

A senior Manager at Atlanta Products confirmed that investigations were still going on and the post-mortem results would be released to today. The man estimated to be

22 years old man died following the accident, where he became trapped under a forklift truck loading packets of sugar.

Atlanta Products is a sugar packaging company based in Matsapha. It is understood the deceased was working together with the forklift operator when he was lifted by the forklift. The worker was said to have been standing on a pallet when the operator forklifted the sugar while the man was still packing it.

"We think there was a communication breakdown between the two. We assume the operator thought the deceased was done packing and forklifted the packages not knowing he was still busy," said the source.

The deceased was pushed against the steel frames of the wall, then fell to the ground and died.

"His lifeless body was only removed from the machinery after rescuers arrived on the scene. Authorities are still investigating the accident at the factory." Sigodweni Police were notified of the incident shortly after it occurred and were told medical assistance was not needed because the worker was transported by co-workers to hospital. The man was pronounced dead at the hos-

pital's emergency department. A senior manager, who preferred not to have his name mentioned in the newspaper, said the incident was a sad scenario.

He said they would allow the police and ministry of labour social security to assess the situation. He said once they were done with the investigations they would call a press conference and address the media on what really caused the incident. Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba confirmed the matter.

However, he said he would not go to details pending investigations by police and other stakeholders involved. Meanwhile, the company sus-

pended operations on Wednesday to allow for the ongoing investigations. One of the workers said they were called by their superiors to address them about the incident that occurred during the night shift.

"We were told to go back at home so we can allow the investigations to occur without disturbance," the worker said. She said they were not allowed to talk to the media especially on work related things.

When the publication arrived in Matsapha most of the workers exiting the main gate of Atlanta Company while others were still gathered in groups mourning about the incident.

The senior manager when sought for comment yesterday said everything was back to normal now.

### KPMG

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Only Swazi citizens will be considered.

The closing date for applications is 21 March 2017. All applications will be acknowledged, late applications will not be accepted. Should you not receive further correspondence within two weeks of the closing date, please consider your application unsuccessful.

Written applications should be submitted in the form of a Curriculum Vitae, cover letter and certified copies of academic certificates clearly stating the post applied for in the subject line.

The Human Resources Manager  
KPMG Advisory (Swi) (Pty) Ltd  
Umkhwa House, Lot 195  
Karl Grant Street, Mbabane  
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cutting through complexity

## Distance Education degrees not good enough – Govt

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi  
Manzini

ASPIRING teachers who got their certificates or degrees by enrolling through the programme known as Distance Education might be forced to look for other alternatives as the ministry

of education and training says such teachers lack classroom experience.

The ministry has noted with concern that the teachers do not have the classroom experience needed in teachers and they might not be hired in the future.

This came after a lot of principals raised their concern about schools being used as dumping sites for people who were not even qualified to teach.

Addressing the issue during a meeting between principals and deputy principals yesterday at Sydney Williams Hall, Director of Education Dr Sibongile Mntshali said teaching is a very practical subject and as such the ministry had noted with concern the growing number of people who enrol in one of the universities in South Africa which offers a four-year Bachelor of Education programme.

Mntshali went as far to mention the name of the university but asked that she must not be quoted on that for fear of lawsuits. She said she understands the university offers that programme through distance education and people were getting genuine certificates.

She said the problem was that when these aspiring teachers are interviewed for teaching posts, it has been noted

that they do not know anything about a classroom environment.

She said they do not even know their lecturers and have never done peer teaching, micro practice and do not even know the purpose of practice teaching.

The director said you find instances where a person calls herself or himself a teacher and has done four full years without even going to attend class once.

Mntshali commended the University of Swaziland saying it does offer distance education but the students do attend classes on weekends which is what is expected. She said such people are not teachers but just individuals with a piece of paper they call degrees.

She said this is because such people have not gone through the experience that teachers must go through. She said she was not badmouthing the institution but all she was saying was that its products were just not working for the ministry of education and the ministry would meet to discuss on how they should deal with the issue.

She pointed out that it is not only that institution which is in South Africa but there were others which had the same challenge in the country.



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# GOVERNER TV SUMMONS MAPHUNGWANE RESIDENTS

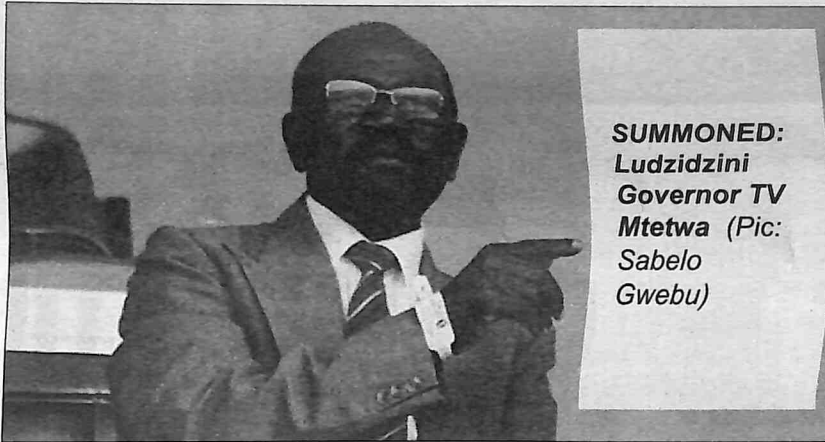
By Wonderboy Dlamini  
Siteki

**LUDZIDZINI Governor Timothy Velabo Mtetwa has summoned Maphungwane residents to gather at the area's umphakatsi tomorrow.**

The summons has been issued through a radio announcement which has been running over the past two days on SBIS. Making the announcement was Swazi National Council Secretary Sifiso Fakudze on behalf of Mtetwa.

Even though it was not stated on why the residents were being summoned, it is on record that the area is currently engulfed by chieftaincy disputes as a large fraction of the population has vigorously refused to accept Chief Maliwa Maziya as the rightful ruler of the area.

For the many years, residents of the area have remained divided into two factions. The opposition faction, which has grown to be known as the anti-Maliwalot, is being led by some senior members of the Maziya clan who argue that Maliwa was wrongfully appointed as chief. Evidently, the anti-Maliwa faction would convene meetings and formulate strategies of removing the chief from his position. Such meetings



**SUMMONED:**  
Ludzidzini  
Governor TV  
Mtetwa (Pic:  
Sabelo  
Gwebu)

would be disguised as development meetings to avoid arrests by the police.

It is also worth noting that at some instance in 2015, Lubombo Regional Administrator Sylvia Mthethwa passed an order banning the opposition from holding any kind of meetings in the area. Apparently, the faction was ordered to get permission from the umphakatsi whenever they wanted to hold a meeting of any sort.

The faction, however, disobeyed the order and continued to hold meetings which were deemed as illegal.

Following the standoff between the two factions, residents have been calling for the country's authorities to inter-

vene.

It has not been ascertained however, whether or not the Ludzidzini council will address this matter during its visit tomorrow.

Indvuna of the Umphakatsi, Moris Mbuli confirmed that residents have been summoned to the umphakatsi. "We do not have much information about the meeting, but all we know is that the Ludzidzini council has summoned all residents at the umphakatsi tomorrow," said Mbuli. Mtetwa could not be reached for comment as he was reportedly locked in a series of meetings throughout yesterday.

## RANGERS SHOOT ALLEGED POACHER AT MHLOSINGA

By Wonderboy Dlamini  
Siteki

**RANGERS at Mhlosinga Conservation yesterday shot and apprehended an alleged poacher who had just killed an Impala.**

The 30-year-old man of Luvatsi is alleged to have been found at the protected farm, where he was believed to have gone to engage in illegal hunting. He was found in possession of the Impala and 11 wire snares.

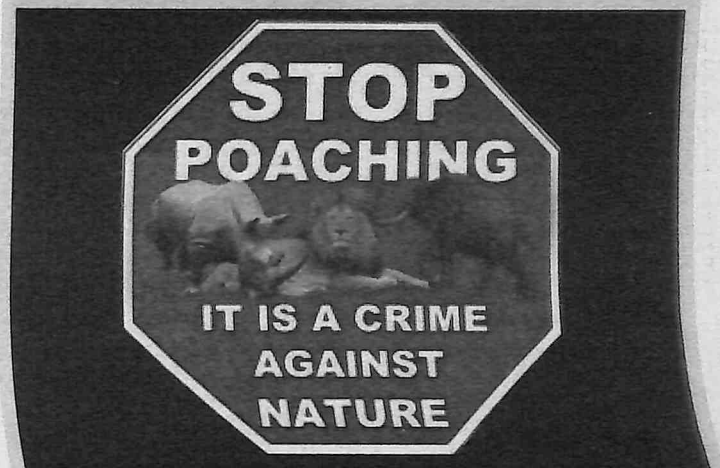
In a media briefing, Chief Police Information and Communications Officer Khulani Mamba stated that the man was subsequently arrested by Big Bend Police and charged with contravening the

Game Act. He was, however, taken to hospital for medical attention as he had sustained injuries.

Worth noting is that incidents of poaching are currently on the rise as there has been a number of them reported since the beginning of this year.

About two weeks ago, two Taiwanese men were nabbed at KM III International Airport while attempting to smuggle rhino horns out of the country. It was not ascertained where they had sourced the horns from.

A few days later, two other men were arrested at Hlane Game Reserve after they were found with wild animals which they had killed.



## SALARY TALKS STALL AS GOVT DOES NOT RECOGNISE NAPSAWU

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi  
Manzini

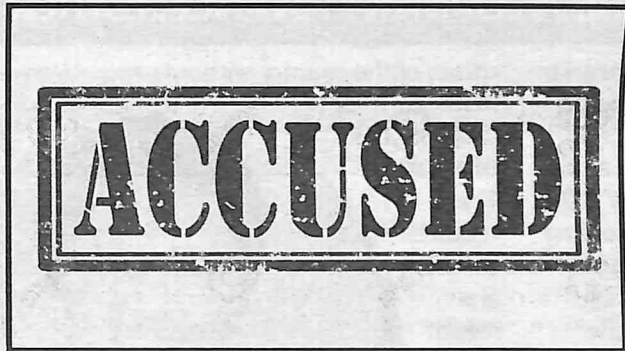
**UNIONS have accused government of applying delaying tactics in the ongoing salary review negotiations by claiming that it does not recognise the National Public Service and Allied Workers Union (NAPSAWU) at the negotiating table but only the Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT).**

This sudden turn of events has led to the negotiations reaching a deadlock as NAPAWU is now fighting for recognition.

SNAT Secretary General Zweli Mndzebele said they reached a deadlock with government and they were expecting to sign an agreement that they were not seeing eye to eye on the issue of salary negotiations and allowance issues.

Mndzebele said they were expecting to discuss issues of allowances and salary reviews as unions but they were told by government that it was done and way past the stage of salary reviews. He said government stated that it could only address issues outside the salary review.

He added that when they



were supposed to sign a deadlock agreement government informed them that the unions must get their house in order. He said as unions they were told by government that NAPSAWU was not recognised at the negotiation table.

The secretary general said at paper there is SNAT but on the negotiation table there is NAPSAWU, which is a union that government does not recognise.

Government is said to have asked for a two-week period but even that period has elapsed and nothing has been communicated to them as unions. He added that they were still trying as unions to discuss a way forward in the matter.

The public sector unions involved in the negotiations include Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT), Swaziland National Association of Government

Accounting Personnel (SWAGAP), National Public Service and Allied Workers Union (NAPSAWU). NAPSAWU General Secretary Celumusa Tembe said this was nothing but a delaying tactic by government. He said their previously government recognised them as SNAT and they even signed a collective agreement under SNAT.

Tembe said government was just desperate and now clutching at straws in a ploy to delay the negotiations. He said they had tried to engage government on the matter but they were told that this was a busy week with the ongoing SADC meeting.

He said they were informed that their issue will be addressed once the SADC meetings are over. Tembe said as NAPSAWU they would not change but continue to negotiate under the same name.



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Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

#### Overall

- Supporting the Country Director and Senior Operations Manager to implement the human resources activities as per the Country Office Work Plan
- Partnering with and Coaching Line managers to ensure that the HR activities in the country strategy are implemented and all day to day services needs are met.
- HR compliance
- Providing support to the Snr Operations Manager and Country Director to implement smart and effective HR processes in country.
- Maintaining employment contracts and ensures that they are compliant with both m2m standards and country law.
- Providing support to the Senior Operations Manager and Country Director to manage all disciplinary processes in a timely manner so as to limit risk to the business.

#### Recruitment

- Implementing and manage the in country recruitment process in a timely and strategic manner
- Implementing and managing the in country induction process in close partnership with the Recruitment specialist at HO
- Ensuring the completion of on-boarding and off-boarding processes at a country level

#### Talent and Performance management

- Implementing and aligning the m2m learning and development strategy in country in close partnership with the Learning and Development Specialist
- Monitoring and implementing the performance management process, in liaison with line management develop and implement performance contracts working in close partnership with the Talent management and reward BP

#### Remuneration

- Effectively implementing the m2m remuneration strategy managing in country benefits aligned with the contractual terms and conditions.
- Implementing and managing monthly employee information changes/updates for payroll on time and in an accurate and compliant manner.

#### Wellness management

- Working with the Wellness Coordinator at Head Office Implement and develop the country wellness strategy as aligned to the organisational wellness plans

#### Systems

- Producing and analysing management information in country working with the Benefits and systems officer to recommend solutions to country management
- Working in partnership with the Benefits and systems officer utilise HRIS services across HR channels (HR premier, ESS, Silver Soft) to guarantee data integrity.

#### Qualifications, experience and competencies

- Higher diploma in HRM/ B-degree is advantageous, preferably in Human Resources Management or a related field.
- At least 3 - 4 years' experience as a human resources generalist, preferably 2 years' experience in an NGO environment.
- Knowledge and experience in Recruitment, Performance Management processes and methodologies
- Influencing skills and interfacing with senior members of the business
- Well-developed presentation, facilitation and decision making skills
- Employee relations, change management and team development experience
- A fair understanding of employee benefits and reward management
- A solid understanding of labour law and an ability to undertake legal matter
- Computer literacy on MS Office Packages (MS word, Excel, PowerPoint) and working knowledge on an HRIS

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# WELCOME TO UMNTSHOLI NEWS



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## CBS CELEBRATING WOMEN

As the world celebrates women under the theme "Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030", the Central Bank recognises that as the world of work changes, it changes fast, through innovation, increasing mobility and informality.

This as it may be, the world still needs to change faster to empower women, whose work has already driven many of the global gains in recent decades. Women still predominantly occupy jobs that pay less and provide relatively no benefits. Some earn less than men, even as they shoulder the enormous and economically essential burden of unpaid care and domestic work. Realising women's economic empowerment requires transformative change so that prosperity is equitably shared and no one is left behind.

The international community has made this commitment in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Every woman should enjoy her right to decent work. The Central Bank as mandated to foster financial stability conducive to economic development in Swaziland realises the need to intensify efforts to empower women in this regard.

This month, we feature our Central Bank women in our column, to highlight contributions of the CBS and their role towards achieving the 2030 objectives.

### MANAGER, DEVELOPMENT FINANCE, ESTHER MAGAGULA

#### 1. What does this theme mean to you as a woman in your position at the Bank?

In my opinion the theme is a call to end gender inequality by 2030. The current position I am holding is at Management level, I must commend the Bank for having made an effort in bringing the number of women closer to the planet 50-50 vision, where women hold equal positions as men. For the past 20 years I have been empowered in so many ways and I have attended high level meetings in men dominated forums.

#### 2. What does your line of work contribute towards empowering women financially and economically?

My line of work involves empowering small business entrepreneurs. Women are mostly in the informal business sector. We would like to see women being financed to run their businesses from street vendors to medium businesses escalating to large entrepreneurs.

Government established the Small Scale Enterprise Credit Guarantee Scheme, housed at the Central Bank to assist every

citizen of the country without any restrictions especially on issues of collateral.

The required collateral is meant to be affordable. It is evident from the loans granted that the collateral is an uphill effort to most Swazis. But what we have also observed is that women are good in settling their debts.

#### 3. What does the country need to get to the 2030 agenda for sustainable development?

The country needs to make improvements in Women's and focus should be in having proper legislation to protect women. Policies should be in place, fostered towards the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. Women should be promoted to become employees and employers at an equal level with men.

Women should break the glass ceilings and glass walls to attain gender balance, end discrimination against women and girls and stop the abuse of the girl child, like for example arranged marriages, violence, unpaid labour. More women are required in decision making and leadership. Globally women representation in Parliament should be increased. The position in Swaziland is below the required quota of 30% for women Parliamentarians, which is disappointing. Women need to support each other and women should be confident in themselves. There are a number of pieces of Bills which need be promulgated into law aimed for the protection of women including the girl child.

#### 4. Are there activities in the Bank that are geared towards the global 2030 agenda for sustainable development?

Management is almost balanced. There is no gender inequality in the pay structure.



With your hostess,  
Senior Communications  
and International Relations Officer  
Lindokuhle Sithole





## WOMEN IN THE CHANGING WORLD OF WORK: PLANET 50-50 BY 2030

@UN\_Women | #Planet5050 | #WomensDay



### General Manager, Finance - Philile Nxumalo

#### 1. What does this theme mean to you as a woman in your position at the Bank?

The theme makes me reflect on the successes of women before me who took action to achieve gender equality in the workplace. It challenges me to define what those bold actions can be, for myself and for other women in positions of leadership today, to actively champion issues relevant to women and girls in the workplace.

#### 2. What does your line of work contribute towards empowering women financially and economically?

The Bank supports achievement of the country's financial inclusion goals and in my particular area of responsibility this talks to fostering safe and easy access to financial services through mobile payments for example.

By encouraging innovative solutions in this space, we hope to see more inclusive payment systems that meet the specific financial needs of women, who make up the larger portion of financially excluded people in our society.

#### 3. What does the country need to get to the 2030 agenda for sustainable development?

#### tainable development?

I am watching with keen interest the many examples of instances where women have played significant roles as agents for change – often this requires resilience and consistency to drive big changes through small repetitive actions. My thoughts are that we need to create an environment where women are supported to take those actions, and further to that, to lead and actively participate in deciding and implementing innovative solutions, politically and economically. This empowerment takes various forms ranging from the quality of education given to girls to actively creating opportunities for women to reach their full potential in the workplace. One other important aspect of this is that we must also be careful to ensure that as we uphold our cultural or traditional values, we avoid using them as a tool to disempower women.

tural or traditional values, we avoid using them as a tool to disempower women.

#### 4. Are there activities in the Bank that are geared towards the global 2030 agenda for sustainable development?

I am proud to see women participating in key roles at all levels in the Bank and I think this is tangible evidence of an inclusive leadership. It is a good example of action taken to drive gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (SDG5). Workplace practices are also evolving to reflect a better understanding of women and the often dual roles they play – in the workplace and in their homes. I have observed and experienced this to be a good driver of productivity and creativity in my workplace while achieving the all-important goal of empowering women to reach their full potential.



### Manager Compliance and Ethics, Zandile Simelane

#### 1. What does this theme mean to you as a woman in your position at the Bank?

Being a woman in the compliance and ethics field, I find the commitment made by the international community in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development a very critical one. The field has, in recent years become vital in organisations, and there are strong indications that it is tilting towards becoming female-dominated.

It's encouraging from a workplace diversity perspective that women are in compliance and ethics roles, given the authority and responsibilities that come with the profession. This is particularly so where these female compliance and ethics professionals are in leadership positions where they can actually move the dial on corporate ethics.

#### 2. What does your line of work contribute towards empowering women financially and economically?

Generally there is a hunger for compliance and ethics talent brought by the rapid expansion of the profession. Therefore, organisations are hiring compliance profession-

als (especially women) than ever before. This then leads to financial empowerment of such women. Economically, the bias towards female compliance professionals has positive, tangible results- from better corporate culture, to better stakeholder engagement, to better financial results. What does the country need to get to the 2030 agenda for sustainable development? The country needs to ensure that women are in positions of influence that go right to the top, representing actual advancement. Drawing leaders from female professionals will ensure greater diversity which is one cornerstone of the 2030 agenda.

to ensure that women are in positions of influence that go right to the top, representing actual advancement. Drawing leaders from female professionals will ensure greater diversity which is one cornerstone of the 2030 agenda.



#### 3. Are there activities in the Bank that are geared towards the global 2030 agenda for sustainable development?

The Bank has initiated a number of activities geared towards the attainment of these goals which includes the promotion of sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for Swazis which even women can take advantage of.

*"The aspirations portrayed in this theme inspire me to commit to making a difference as a woman in the workspace. It ignites the enthusiasm to confidently work towards the future with more energy even if it is for the benefit of the next generation"*

isation and income distribution for the benefit of all.

#### 4. Are there activities in the Bank that are geared towards the global 2030 agenda for sustainable development?

To directly speak to Women Empowerment, the Bank has no gender discriminating policy but staff is treated equally the way creation put it in **Genesis 1:27**. Currently, the statistics may not be matching the set standards but progress is being made through various policy interventions and specific programmes. Further, there are risk informed strategic objectives currently being pursued such as;

a. Reviewing outdated legislation and aligning it with relevant model laws;

b. Adoption and compliance with applicable best practice standards;

c. Effective participation in regional integration initiatives;

d. Stakeholder relations management initiatives which involves ensuring that stakeholder needs and expectations are met through effective engagements;

e. Administering a high performance culture through a number of programmes including staff welfare and capacity building, among others.

These initiatives will compel the Bank to recognise and utilise the women capacity thus fulfilling the Planet 50-50 vision by 2030.

### ZANDILE NDLELA, RISK SPECIALIST

#### 1. What does this theme mean to you as a woman in your position at the Bank?

To me as a woman risk specialist in the Bank, a position not so high in the hierarchy but very influential for effective decision making, this theme articulates the responsibility I carry to make the world a better place. My job does not require any muscle mass and therefore should not define me any differently from my male colleagues. To be effective in the risk space requires a fair balance of intelligence quotient and emotional intelligence, and these are common across the gender divide. The aspirations portrayed in this theme inspire me to commit to making a difference as a woman in the workspace. It ignites the enthusiasm to confidently work towards the future with more energy even if it is for the benefit of the next generation. This is probably because it supports my forward looking approach to life as described by Nelson Henderson that; "the true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit"; a sustainability premise forming the basis for risk management.

ing the basis for risk management.

#### 2. What does your line of work contribute towards empowering women financially and economically?

The contribution of risk management towards empowering women financially and economically is broad enough to cover both the micro and macro-economic spheres as captured in Margaret Thatcher's speech when she said "There can be no liberty unless there is economic liberty.....extinguish free enterprise and you will extinguish liberty". I like her perspective when she said "In politics, if you want anything said, ask a man. If you want anything done, ask a woman", and I believe men can attest to this! Embedding a risk management culture has overarching positive results in one's outlook. The risk awareness culture can unleash the power of women for a greater benefit beyond their households.

women for a greater benefit beyond their households.

#### 3. What does Swaziland need to get to the 2030 agenda for sustainable development?

The 2030 agenda for sustainable development calls for a number of initiatives by Swaziland ranging from governance, policy making, economic development.

To narrow this to "Women in the Changing World of Work", the key issue in my opinion revolves around adopting good governance principles and effective change management. Ensuring responsibility and accountability within the governance structures would guarantee fair and equitable resource utilisation and income distribution for the benefit of all.



Ensuring responsibility and accountability within the governance structures would guarantee fair and equitable resource utilisation and income distribution for the benefit of all.



# EX-MP MYEZA'S REVIEW APPEAL STRUCK OFF

By Sandile Nkambule  
Supreme Court

**IT never rains but pours for former Member of Parliament (MP) Charles Myeza, who was convicted for fraud charges after his application for review of an Appeal Court ruling was yesterday set aside by the Supreme Court.**

This, after Myeza's lawyer Siphosiphopho Gumedze filed the application using the common law instead of using Section 148(2) of the Constitution of the Kingdom.

This section provides that "the Supreme Court may review any decision made or given by it on such grounds and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by an Act of Parliament or rules of court".

Myeza had filed an appeal before the Supreme court which sat the last time before His Majesty appointed permanent Judges of the Supreme Court. That appeal, however, failed as the court confirmed the sentence meted out by the High Court.

He was sentenced to a five-years custodial sentence by the High Court. He has now brought another appeal before the Supreme court.

Making his submissions before a full bench comprising Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala, Justices Dr Odoki, Robert Cloette, Jacobus Anandale, Phesheya Dlamini, Majahenkhamba Dlamini, his lawyer Siphosiphopho Gumedze approached the court using the common law.

This irked the court which vehemently stated that it will not be in a position to hear the application stating that he should have filed the application using the mentioned section

● *Supreme Court struck off the matter to allow Myeza's lawyer to file a proper application*

in the Constitution instead of the common law.

Seeing that he had taken the wrong route as advised by the full bench, lawyer Gumedze pleaded with the court to move a proper application that will come through the cited section in the Constitution of the kingdom. "My Lords, I appreciate your concerns and I will make a proper application in terms of Section 148 but may I just brief my client about what is going on," Myeza's lawyer pleaded with the court.

The Chief Justice allowed him to proceed to his client and brief him before informing the court that his client had understood the situation. However, Judge Phesheya Dlamini noted yet another glitch in the application that Myeza's lawyer had not filed a bundle of authorities which he would use when making his submissions.

After admitting his flaws, and submitting that he will definitely make a proper application, the court struck off the matter which might be placed in the next Supreme Court session roll.

Myeza was found guilty of fraud, forgery and uttering and was sentenced by the High Court. He defrauded the Royal Swaziland Police over E600 000.

In passing sentence, Judge Nkululeko Hlophe had considered that Myeza was a relatively young man who has a future and that he was remorseful.

Judge Hlophe stated the court would issue a sentence that will not break him but one which will give him a chance in life.

He said the court would, however,



**DENIED: Former Member of Parliament Charles Myeza.**

not lose sight of the seriousness of the charges he was convicted of. Judge Hlophe said offences such as the ones Myeza was convicted of were prevalent these days.

He said the accused was a first offender, had children and was cooperative but it was not in dispute that he breached the trust which his employer had bestowed upon him.

In coming to an appropriate sentence, the judge stated he visited a number of concluded cases which included that of Qhawe Mamba, Thembele Simelane, Polycarp Dlamini and that of Siphosiphopho Marko Gama.

The Director of Public Prosecutions Nkosinathi Maseko, however, asked the court to issue a sentence that would send a clear message to other would-

be offenders. He said Myeza breached the trust that had been bestowed upon him by his employer.

He had been charged with his wife Phumzile, Musa Ngwenya and his company PPC Electrical (PTY) LTD. Ngwenya and Phumzile were, however, acquitted and discharged in terms of Section 174 (4) of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act 1938, after their lawyer, Mduduzi Mabila, moved an application for acquittal on their behalf.

The push of the fraud charges was that on various dates between August 2004 and November 2005, all the accused persons, while acting in furtherance of a common purpose, misrepresented to the Royal Swaziland Police and had performed certain elec-

trical works as reflected in invoices prepared and presented to the Royal Swaziland Police and subsequently to the Swaziland Government Treasury Department for payment.

The contention was that there was either no such work performed or where any work was performed; it was only a portion of what was claimed.

Notwithstanding these anomalies, the Government of Swaziland had, while acting on the advice of the Royal Swaziland Police, paid the amounts claimed to its detriment. From these incidents of fraud, the Swaziland Government lost a total of E661 046.36, which was all paid to the fourth accused's company. He is said to have forged these signatures to misrepresent the work claimed for in each invoice.

With regard to the uttering charges, Myeza is said to have offered, uttered and put off the invoices.

Judge Hlophe in his judgment, stated that it was not in dispute that the said documents were actually processed for payment by Myeza who did so when he had interest in PPC Electrical (PTY) LTD which prepared the invoices and presented them for processing and payment.

When finding him guilty last Friday, Judge Hlophe said the falsity in this contention by the defence was in how and when Silindza would have been able to ascertain or confirm if the work was done including its monetary value.

He said they themselves had not suggested that Silindza was part of any criminal enterprise done with them.

It has also been noted that in the case of Myeza as he could discern from his evidence that he dealt with invoices of PPC Electrical he found deep in the Finance or Accounts Department like he dealt with other invoices presented to the department.

## SMI transport refuses to have truck attached, sold

By Sandile Nkambule  
High Court

**A woman whose car was damaged by a company truck during a road accident, successfully made an application to have the company pay for the damages to her vehicle.**

Ester Sigwadi, whose Jaguar registered WSD 099AH, was extensively damaged and as a result took the matter to court where she made an application to have SMI Transport, who were cited as the first respondent and Danna Collen as the second respondent, pay for the damages to her car.

The court after hearing the matter issued an order to have a sheriff or his deputy attach and take into execution movable property belonging to SMI Transport, a company registered according to the company laws of the country and based in Matsapha to be released for public auction for the sum of E119 743.03 in respect of damages for the said vehicle.

The truck, an Argosy Freightliner registered HDL 427 MP, has already been attached by Deputy Sheriff for the District of Manzini Mciniseli Zwane. This was as per the judgment

of the court on December 16, 2016 against the defendants. The court further ordered that SMI further pay Sigwadi's attorneys the sum due to them.

However, SM Bulk Transport has now filed an urgent application at the High Court, where they seek an order of the court to have the truck be and hereby released from judicial attachment and execution to the custody and possession of VINTOSCOPE CC trading as SMI Bulk Transport.

In the current application, VINTOSCOPE has been cited as the applicant while the Deputy Sheriff and Sigwadi have been cited as the respondents.

They also seek an order to have the sale in execution of the truck stayed with immediate and interim relief forthwith pending finalisation of the application they have since filed in court and further seek that the sale be cancelled and set aside.

According to VINTOSCOPE in its papers, SMI Transport is a Swaziland entity trading as such in Matsapha which is a separate and distinct entity from that of SMI Bulk trading as such from Durban South Africa.

The only reasons according to VIN-

TOSCOPE that the two entities share a similar name is that there are familial ties between members of VINTOSCOPE and Swaziland entity which was to be developed into a full business association, but this unfortunately for many reasons did not happen. However, the two entities do pass business leads to each other due to family ties and nothing more, VINTOSCOPE stated in its affidavit.

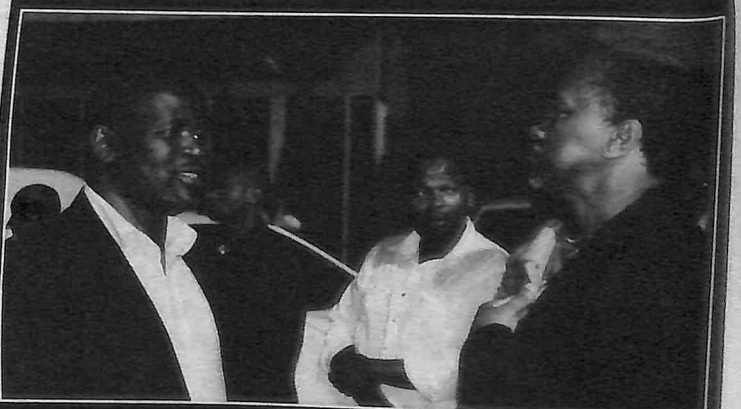
They submitted that the said SMI Transport cited as the first respondent in the main proceedings is a Swaziland registered entity registered as SMI Transport and Investments whose vehicle was involved in the collision during a road traffic accident resulting in the claim under the proceedings in which Sigwadi successfully moved.

They submitted that notwithstanding the similarities of names, an entity with separate and distinct existence from that of the other cannot be held liable for the legal obligations of the other in particular where the distinction has been made.

The applicant VINTOSCOPE is represented by lawyer Jose Rodrigues, while Sigwadi is represented by Sukati-Msibi Attorneys in the matter.



**DOING JUST FINE: Channel S Boss Qhawe Mamba interviewing HMCS Commissioner General Isaiah Ntshangase.**



**SHARING A LIGHT MOMENT: EBC Commissioner Ncumbi Maziya and Minister Phiyayinkhosi Mabuza in a conversation.**



# Moz man rapes, impregnates daughter (14)

● DNA tests reveal a 99.9 per cent relation probability after he allegedly had sexual encounters with daughter on numerous occasions

By Sandile Nkambule  
High Court

A Mozambican man is alleged to have raped and impregnated his daughter after having sexual encounters with her at his rented flat in Nkoyoyo.

The rape ordeal is alleged to have occurred between 2014 and 2015 before the man was eventually arrested and charged with the rape of his daughter.

The man, whose name will not be published to protect the identity of the survivor, yesterday appeared before

High Court Judge Mbutfo Mamba facing the serious count of raping his daughter and further exposing her to sexually transmitted diseases including HIV and AIDS.

He is alleged to have while staying with child at Nkoyoyo, repeatedly had sexual intercourse with her without her consent.

## Testified

The 14-year-old daughter has already testified before court and she was howling when she gave her evidence as she related how the man whom she regarded and respected as a father forced himself on her.

This aggravated by the fact that this

was not just rape, but as a result of the alleged crime, a child was born. The man is currently kept at the Sidvashini Correctional facility pending finalisation of his trial before judge Mamba.

Yesterday, Senior Crown Counsel Lomvula Hlophe led a South African Police Service (SAPS) Warrant Officer Dereshen Chetty in evidence.

The warrant officer told the court that he received blood samples for the suspect, the child and the survivor (daughter) from the local police to conduct DNA test on, for the purposes of confirming the relation between the three.

Officer Chetty stated that upon con-

ducting same, in Pretoria, the results thereof reflected a 99.9 per cent probability in relation for the three.

The officer said he was convicted that the blood samples for the suspect, that of the child and the mother were the same in terms of relation, an indication that the suspect fathered the child to his daughter.

The DNA results were presented before court by officer Chetty who gave a detailed report on how the tests were made and what each and every process meant before handing the results as part of his evidence in court.

After giving his evidence and being cross examined by the suspect's



BEFORE HIM: High Court Judge Mbutfo Mamba.

defence counsel Noncedo Ndlangamandla, the SAPS warrant officer stood down and drove back to South Africa.

By Sandile Nkambule  
Supreme Court

## Supreme Court reserves ruling on man who raped daughter (5)

● He was given a 20 years custodial sentence by High court

THE Supreme Court has reserved a ruling on an appeal application by a man who raped his five-year-old daughter.

The man appeared before the Supreme Court full bench comprising the Chief Justice Bheki Maphalala, Justices Dr Odoki, Phešheya Dlamini, Robert Cloette and Majahenkhamba Dlamini, where he was appealing against his conviction and the 20-year sentence given to him by the High Court.

After having heard submissions, the court reserved its ruling which will be issued at a later date where the convict will know his fate.

The convict, who for ethical reasons will not have his name published to protect the minor,

committed the offence at his landlord's compound in Moneni in November 2010. He was

staying with his daughter at his rented flat and on numerous occasions had sexual contact with her.

One of the witnesses who testified, told the court that he was bathing at the same block of flats where they were staying with the convict when the young girl found him in his house naked and asked why he did not have what her father had between his legs since her father used it on her.

This shocked the witness who later reported the matter to the community police and the landlord since the five year old indicated she had been abused.

The girl later revealed to the police how her father repeatedly abused her while sleeping at the rented flat.

The man had long separated with the mother of the child and when police questioned him on whom he was sexually involved with after the departure of his lover, it transpired there was none.

The police conducted further

investigation which led to the arrest of the convict on November 20, 2010 at his work place in Manzini.

## Submitted

However, he submitted that he was wrongfully convicted as he alleged he did not commit the offence arguing that the child said what she did just because she is a child.

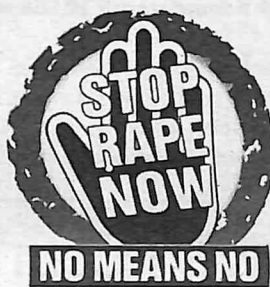
He further submitted that he has been a good father to the child and still wants to go back

and take good care of her.

He said he was shocked when community police approached him and informed him of the said crime which he denied before being eventually apprehended by the police while at his work place.

He was later arraigned and his trial was completed and sentenced to 20 years in October 2011 by the High Court, a sentence he is now appealing against.

The sentence was backdated to the day of his arrest in November 2010.



## Gun used in shooting passerby still not traced

By Sandile Nkambule  
High Court

A police officer who is an expert in firearms says the gun that was used in discharging a bullet that shot a passerby during the 1996 strike action has not been located.

The officer inspector Madonsela said the police were able to locate the cartridge at the scene and further got hold of the bullet after it had been retrieved from Howard Nkambule's body by doctors.

However, the cartridge indicated that the firearm used in the shooting does not belong to the country's security forces and armed force since they do not have such.

According to Madonsela, Swaziland subscribes to North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and as such, the country's security forces do not own such a weapon used in the shooting, the pistol which has the calibre of the cartridge that was found at the scene.

Nkambule was shot while passing by a group of protestors during the mass action in 1996, an action that grounded the country in what was known as *khukhulela ngcogco* strike.

Madonsela said the firearm that was used is only used by country's who subscribe to the Warsaw Treaty. The parties to the North Atlantic Treaty was signed in Washington on 4 April, 1949, Considering that the forces of one Party

may be sent, by arrangement, to serve in the territory of another Party;

Bearing in mind that the decision to send them and the conditions under which they will be sent, in so far as such conditions are not laid down by the present agreement, will continue to be the subject of separate arrangements between the parties concerned;

Desiring, however, to define the status of such forces while in the territory of another party;

## Established

The Warsaw Treaty Organisation (also known as the Warsaw Pact) was a political and military alliance established on May 14, 1955 between the Soviet Union and several Eastern European countries. The Soviet Union formed this alliance as a counterbalance to the NATO, a collective security alliance concluded between the United States, Canada and Western European nations in 1949.

Madonsela explained that after the cartridge was taken for forensic tests in Pretoria South Africa while the bullet that was retrieved from the victim's body mated the cartridge found at the scene.

He further told High Court Judge Qinsile Mabuza that he went to the Umbutfo Swaziland Defence Force (USDF) and both the security forces where he confirmed that they do not have the firearm in question in their armoury.



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Email: townclerk@mankayane.org

## NOTIFICATION OF CONTRACT AWARDED BY NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Name of Project: Swaziland Local Government Projects  
Project ID: MANKAYANE/SLGP/WRK/001/2016  
Bid/Contract Description: The Rehabilitation of Titandini Road in Mankayane, Ext 2  
Scope of Contract: Re-construction of 500 metres of paved and unpaved road from subgrade preparation, layer works up to asphalt surfacing and construction of lined stormwater drains.  
Duration: 4 months  
Contract Signature Date: 21 March 2017

Awarded Bidder		
Name & Address of awarded bidder	Bid price at bid opening	Final bid price
Pots Construction	2, 740, 129.19	2, 726, 335.19

Evaluated Bidder(s)		
Name of evaluated bidder(s)	Bid price at bid opening	Bid price of evaluated bid
Homeboyz Construction	2, 615, 988.21	2, 614, 884.69
Pots Construction	2, 740, 129.19	2, 726, 335.19
PCR Construction	2, 596, 676.61	2, 596, 676.61

Rejected Bidder(s)		
Name of rejected bidder(s)	Bid price at bid opening	Reason(s) for rejection
Afrotim Construction	2, 532, 876.94	Did not submit work program
Inyatsi Construction	4, 604, 232.21	Did not submit recent financial records and method statement
Tuboway Construction	2, 984, 985.86	Did not submit evidence of access to financial resources, contact details of bank, program of works and method statement
Roots Civils	3, 512, 364.88	Did not submit method statement and program of works
Heptagon Company	3, 290, 317.31	Did not submit method statement and program of works

WANDILE D. THWALA  
TOWN CLERK





**HELPING HAND:** Liberty Life Swaziland representatives taking a group picture with the staff and children at SOS Village yesterday after receiving their books. (Pics: Nozipho Sibiya)

## LIBERTY LIFE'S E10 000 WORTH OF BOOKS DONATION TO SOS VILLAGE



**ATTENTIVE:** SOS staff members listening to the proceedings during the event.

By Nozipho Sibiya  
Mbabane

**LIBERTY** Life Swaziland has extended an invaluable gift of knowledge to SOS Children's Village after a donation of E10 000 worth of books.

The donation took place at the SOS Village library yesterday and the books would be used to help the children at the school. The books would help about 50 pupils who benefit from

the village. Liberty Life Swaziland Sales Manager Melisizwe Mdluli said they were hoping that the donation would make a difference for the pupils of SOS through quality education and an improved reading culture.

The donated books worth E10 000 were received by excited staff members, SOS principal and the children.

"Make reading your best friend. It's a tool to help you get further in life," he said.

### Urged

He further urged the children to befriend books as they were the only solace to rely on when sad, lonely and feeling left out.

"Books bring back inspiration and are a passport to greater things in life. Use the library and enjoy it," he said.

On that note, SOS Programmes Director Thokozani Maphalala said the donation would make a vast difference to the school's library.

"They add variety and scope for children to read and improve their knowledge.

The library will be used by our own SOS children during their leisure time," said Maphalala. He further passed his sincere gratitude to Liberty Life Swaziland. "We are happy to have partnered with you today and we hope our partnership will go a long way."

He said the SiSwati books would help those people who do not know their culture.

## Kobe director appointed into Commonwealth Jewish Council

By Simon Shabangu  
Ezulwini

**KOBE-Ramokgadi Learning Academy Director Geoff Ramokgadi who is also President of Jewish Community in Swaziland has been appointed Vice Chairman of the Commonwealth Jewish Council (CJC).**

The news of Ramokgadi's appointment into the high position of authority within the Jewish community was communicated to him by the Chief Executive Officer of the CJC Clive Lawton in a letter dated February 10. "Rabbi Silberhaft has recommended that you will be the most suitable candidate to represent Swaziland on the Commonwealth Jewish Council. The way we do this, if you are agreeable, is we name you as our country

vice president," reads the letter in part. Ramokgadi said he accepted the appointment in a letter he sent to the CEO which he said was with immediate effect.

He said he would remain in Swaziland, but would be travelling to United Kingdom (UK) from time to time for meetings to be held in different parts of the world.

Ramokgadi said he would also be reporting to the council on whatever issues related to the Jewish faith in Swaziland.

He would also coordinate meetings for the Jewish community since he also doubled as a local president having assumed the position over 15 years ago. "I am honored to be recognised for such a powerful position within the Jewish community. This means that my contribution towards work of

the Jewish faith is appreciated. Personally, I do not like all these positions but when important bodies within the CJC need my services, I cannot say no to such responsibilities. I will remain in the country because this is not like a full time job but will be frequently travelling for important meetings mainly at our headquarters in the UK," he said. He also noted that he would be travelling to another meeting.

Ramokgadi who is also Vice President of the African Jewish Congress said this is a great honour to him to have been appointed into this position stating that he has been coordinating operation of the local Jewish community for sometime now. According to the CJC; the council was created by a unanimous agreement of Jewish leaders from 16 Commonwealth countries at meeting held in London from

November 29, to December 1, 1982. It now includes the Jewish communities of 37 countries, Hong Kong having observer status. Part of the objectives of the CJC is to provide links between Commonwealth Jewish communities, to create a network of Commonwealth Jewish communities through which shared interests and mutual support can be nurtured. It is also seeks to support the interests of Commonwealth Jewish communities, and Commonwealth communities in which Jewish communities live and work.

To make representations on behalf of Commonwealth Jewish communities to governments and other relevant bodies and people as and when seems suitable and to cultivate constructive relationships to help further the goals of CJC.



**APPOINTED:** Director of the KOBE-Ramokgadi Learning Academy Geoff Ramokgadi.

## 19-YEAR-OLD FROM MAKHOLOKHOLO ACCUSED OF MURDER

By Phesheya Kunene  
Mbabane Magistrate's Court

**A 19-year-old man appeared before Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati for alleged stabbing another to death.**

Vilakati did not waste time when Siyabonga Mbuli of Makholokholo took to the accused dock as he informed him that he would have to move a bail application at the High Court should he consider doing so.

Vilakati told Mbuli's attorney Akaphelindla Mkhwanazi of Mabila Attorneys to advise his client he was facing a serious offence.

The suspect was remanded into custody until March 17 pending High Court committal.

When he left the court with his attorney, an emotional episode ensued as the suspect was swamped by his family members, who shared one or two words with him before being taken away by a police van.

Coming to the wrongdoing, Mbuli is alleged to have stabbed Mlungisi Dluflu with a beer bottle once on his neck.

It is alleged that the wound inflicted by Mbuli was so fatal that the deceased was certified dead upon arrival at hospital. This gory incident

is said to have taken place at Maduma bar, Makholokholo, last Saturday night while the suspect was watching soccer. His attorney Mkhwanazi alleged it was an act of self-defence following a violent confrontation by the deceased.

According to reports, Mbuli was planning to go to a funeral with his friends when he decided to join them at the tarven. "He found his friends seated with the deceased, and as soon as he sat down the deceased asked him if he smoked and when the suspect said he does not smoke a fight erupted as he was forcefully asked by the deceased to buy him cigarettes.

He went out with him then started slapping him while telling him he wanted to teach him a lesson," the source alleged.

It is alleged upon seeing he was in trouble the suspect then ran to his friends but he could not find them as they had already left the place.

"His friends had already gone to dig the grave as they were planning to go to a funeral. When Mbuli tried to leave the deceased blocked him and took him inside the tarven where he started assaulting him again," he added.

According to the confession made by Mbuli, while inside the tarven, the deceased continued where he left off

as he assaulted him in front of other patrons.

"I held him in defence, I then saw a Sibebe bottle on the table which I took and hit him on his head as he was carrying a knife. I then stabbed him in the neck, he bled and I ran out still wanting to go home but he held me.

I managed to escape and went home," reads his confession.

Moreover, according to the confession, the suspect was then followed by the deceased's friends, who carried bottles with intent to assault him. "I then went home and upon arrival the police were called and took me to the bar where the deceased was taken to hospital," reads the last paragraph.



# DPM commends King on appointing women into political positions

By Sizwe Dlamini  
Pigg's Peak

**DEPUTY Prime Minister (DPM) Paul Dlamini has commended His Majesty King Mswati III for appointing women into political positions.**

The DPM was speaking during the International Women's Day commemoration at Mavuso Exhibition Centre on Wednesday.

He urged women as a group to aspire for leadership positions, have confidence in themselves and actively participate in politics in order to increase their representation.

Dlamini said women had a demographic comparative advantage in this regard and a majority of women were in some form of association which could be used as a means for mobilisation.

"His Majesty has advised that a legislation be enacted to facilitate the election of women into Parliament in preparation for the 2018 national elections," the DPM said.

He said the country had made some progress towards enhancing women's participation in economic activities which included competitions like Women Farmer of the Year Awards, the establishment of a women's bank by the Swaziland Women Economic Empowerment Trust (SWEET) for financial inclusion, the Imbita Micro Finance to promote a culture of saving where women gain access to credit against savings made for investment purposes.

## Bill

An Empowerment Bill has been drafted so as to enhance women's entrepreneurial skills and economic participation.

The DPM said effecting changes in women's economic status had a direct bearing on women's representation in politics and in decision making.

He said representation and decision making remained a major socio-political indicator towards the attainment of the 30 per cent target and as the country approaches the elections next year everyone is expected to contribute towards this target.



**HAPPY:** The Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini delivering his speech. (Pics: Sizwe Dlamini)



**ALL EARS:** A section of the women who attended the International Women's Day commemoration at Mavuso Exhibition Centre.

## FOREIGN NATIONALS ACCUSED OF INTRODUCING NEW CRIME TECHNIQUES

**FOREIGN** nationals have been accused of teaching northern Hhohho criminals organised means of committing crime.

RSP Hhohho Regional Commissioner Charles Dumsani Tsabedze said foreign nationals had started influencing locals on new techniques to commit crime.

"Pigg's Peak has been a haven for dagga dealers, and these are not all Swazis. We are seeing a very worrying increase in the number of foreign nationals who cultivate dagga and who have also started influencing local criminals," said Tsabedze.

He said they were seeing a new more daring type of criminality in Northern Hhohho that required police to be diligent.

Tsabedze said previously, Swazi criminals lacked ingenuity and organisation.

"We have seen crimes where thieves have gone through the roof of a building and used explosives to blow open the safe. This happened at Boxer Superstore in Pigg's Peak last year, this shocked us as the police.

"This type of daring criminal behaviour was non-existent in Swaziland not too long ago, we believe that the influx of foreigners who originally come to the country to cultivate dagga have an adverse effect on the Swazi criminals. They have inadvertently caused the introduc-



**STOP IT:** RSP Hhohho Regional Commissioner Charles Dumsani Tsabedze.

tion of organised and daring crimes," said Tsabedze. Police Information and Communications Officer Superintendent Khulani Mamba (PRO) echoed the assertions by Tsabedze.

"We are seeing an increase in the influx of foreign nationals in Hhohho. Their main objective is to intensify dagga growing in the country as they have introduced new techniques which keep criminals from being apprehended," he said.

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# MAINTENANCE DEFAULTER DENIES KNOWLEDGE OF THREE KIDS

Stories by Pshesheya Kunene  
Mbabane Magistrate's court

A security guard has denied knowledge of three children said to be his.

The mother of three, Babusile Magongo was left baffled and bitter inside the court when her former boyfriend, Richard Gwebu, suggested she should start searching for the father of her three children as he was not the one.

In not so many words, Gwebu said he never had a serious relationship with Magongo but only a 'hit and run affair' with her hence he does not believe the children are his.

The maintenance defaulter father said he wanted a DNA test conducted so as to prove his case.

However, Magongo maintained the VIP Security Company employee was the father. She further lamented he was failing to look after them. In court, she said she was only concerned about the upbringing of the children hence she settled for E400 after her initial request of E600 was shot down by Gwebu.

This was before Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati intervened and ordered the man



YOUR WORSHIP: Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati

to contribute E600 every month until he furnishes the court with proof he did not father the children.

"The money he is offering is too small your worship; It will not be enough to support the children," she said.

On the other hand, Gwebu mentioned he would not afford the amount demanded by Magongo.

"I made an offer of E400 because I have other children. I do not want to

make an offer that will put me in trouble in the future," he said.

Moreover, a shocked Vilakati could not believe Gwebu was denying paternity of the children.

"What happened here, she has three children and you are saying you are not the father of all of them," he wondered. In response Gwebu said they met occasionally but were not in a serious relationship.

## Miner's child maintenance reduced

BESIDES having to worry about his suspension from work, Zombodze Shabangu will now heave a sigh of relief as the court reduced his maintenance contribution.

Shabangu was ordered to fork out E4000 on August 28, 2015 while appearing before court. However, over a year later, the court changed.

Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati said believed that the money contributed by Shabangu was too steep hence he reduced it to E1500. He further struck off two of the four children from benefiting on the child maintenance as he said they were now old enough to support themselves.

Before this order was issued, Shabangu told the court he could have continued contributing towards the upbringing of his children but he was suspended at work and his salary was stopped after he faced a disciplinary committee over a theft charge.

"I was working as a miner in South Africa but I stole from my employers due to financial constraints and I am no longer getting paid since I have moved for an appeal. I am currently unable

to support my children. I am also a sickly person as I have been admitted to hospital," he said.

His ex-wife Zandile Tsabedze said she had to turn to loan sharks and borrowed E5000 to pay for school fees. She said the debt has now shot up to E8000 after interests were included.

"I am now struggling to pay off the debt. I used the money to pay school fees and took care of other expenses of the children, we still owe E1800 at school," she said.

The court demanded proof of the loan agreement and further asked her to furnish the court with proof she used the money to pay school fees. Vilakati also pointed out he understood Shabangu was facing a change of circumstance.

"I have been advised to reduce the money I contribute towards my children as this would lead me to steal again since I am left with nothing after the child maintenance deduction," he said.

He was ordered to pay for school fees. However, Tsabedze argued he bought himself a new car.

"I only received E1000 from him," she said.

## CHILD IS NOT MINE – DEFAULTING FATHER

MAGISTRATE Sifiso Vilakati has said the traditional way of approving a child is now outdated and should not be trusted.

Vilakati made these remarks after Mduduzi Nhlengetfwa denied fathering a child with Nonjabulo Simelane. He argued that Simelane failed to

show up at his homestead after being summoned by his family to approve the child.

"We scheduled a meeting with the

elders to see if the child is indeed mine, but she disappeared. I will undergo a DNA test to prove I am not the father," he said.

However, Vilakati said this method should be trusted while adding it was irrelevant in court.

He said a blood test is the only

acceptable method. Moreover, the defaulting father said he was contributing E150 towards child support every month and said he had proof of this.

He was ordered to go get the receipts after the mother of one said he was lying.

## POOR COMMUNICATION IN RURAL SWAZILAND

By Mbono Mdluli  
Lobamba

MOST rural communities in the country are still struggling to communicate due to poor reception of telephone and radio signals.

This is happening at the time when the country is working towards attaining the first world status by 2022.

It is also worth noting that such an incident is happening when the telecommunication industry is drastically changing in the country.

Yesterday, a third mobile telephone operator, known as Swazi Mobile, was launching its logo.

The country's telecommunications industry regulator, Swaziland Communications Commission (SCCOM), has also hired a chief executive officer (CEO), who is expected to start working for the commission next month. The post will be filled by Mvilawemphi Dlamini. The country is also awaiting a legislation that would allow the mobile telephone operators to have their own infrastructure backbone, which is known as the Swaziland Infrastructure Bill, 2016.

Members of Parliament on Wednesday voiced out their disgruntlement on the poor communication they experienced in rural areas in the country.

This was during the budget debate for the ICT ministry.

Areas like Lugongolweni, Maphalaleni, Hhukwini, Bhadzeni, and Mponono, are said to be experiencing the problem. Communications giants of the country were blasted by the legislators

for failing to satisfy the communication needs for the rural citizens of the country. These included Mobile Telephone Network (MTN), Swaziland

Telecommunications Corporations (SPTC), and Swaziland Broadcasting and Information Services (SBIS). Hhukwini MP Saladin Magagula wondered why his constituency was receiving poor communication because it was nearer to Mbabane.

"Hhukwini constituency starts from Gobhola, which is in Mbabane. That means part of the constituency is in town. I am failing to understand why we are receiving such a poor service in communication. There is no telephone at Hhukwini inkhundla centre. What is unfortunate is that such a thing

affects even schools, yet we say we want to reach the first world status in 2022. Such a dream should also include the rural communities," Magagula said.

Maphalaleni MP Mabulala Maseko said the problems affecting Hhukwini also affected his constituency.

Maseko's constituency is Hhukwini's neighbour. The MP said the three high schools and 15 primary schools in his constituency were also affected by the unfortunate state of affairs. Lugongolweni MP Joseph Souza complained of the lack of radio coverage in some areas of his inkhundla.

He also moaned about the lack of cooperation between government ministries. "One of the schools in my constituency was supposed to start doing ICT education. The ministry of education made it impossible for such to happen. The two ministries should be cooperating, but seemingly, that is not the case," Souza said.

Ngwemphisi MP VeliShongwe also stated that his constituency faced the same predicament. Almost all the areas under his inkhundla were facing the problem. Minister for Information, Communication and Technology Dumisani Ndlangamandla promised to respond to the MPs with written answers.

## DISAPPOINTING SALES FOR SET TOP BOXES

SWAZIS are not buying set top boxes as they feel such gadgets are making it difficult for them to access television viewing.

The ministry of information, communication and technology (ICT) bought 38 000 set top boxes since the start of the digital migration campaign.

However, the ministry has managed to sell less than 12 000 of them. Minister for ICT Dumisani Ndlangamandla made this admission when MPs, who are the ministry's portfolio committee members, told him that it was becoming difficult to view television because of set top boxes. They argued that the gadgets expensive and buying them was almost impossible for an ordinary Swazi.

They further told the minister that a person who was able to view Swazi TV before the country switched to digital migration found it difficult to do so. It was then suggested



that government should find a way of subsidising the gadgets to make it easy for the Swazis to access the country's local television stations.

The minister assured the MPs to look into the issue because they had realised that the gadget were difficult to get.

The country migrated to digital television viewing on December 31 last year. This simply means people will not be able to view local television channels without the set top boxes.



# Woman rams into MP's car

By Starsky Mkhonta  
Nhlango

**SHISELWENI** Member of Parliament Mandla Nxumalo's car was involved in a car accident resulting in a traffic jam along the busiest main street of Nhlango town.

The car was hit by a female driver believed to be a teacher at the Evelyn Baring High School identified as Lindiwe Dlamini (nee Sibandze).

## Approached

The female driver was from the Shamrock Complex parking area and when she was to connect to the main road, MP Nxumalo approached in his car.

Sources claimed that the teacher did not notice that there was a car coming and she was supposed to

allow any vehicle driving along the main road to pass.

Just when she was supposed to apply the brakes, apparently she accelerated, hitting the MP's vehicle.

MP Nxumalo had to stop right in the middle of the road after realising that another motorist had rammed his car.

Traffic jam was then experienced and this occurred during the peak hour which was towards 18:00 hours where other people were rushing home from work.

## Problem

Having realised that it was not a serious accident, it is said MP Nxumalo was not 'jumpy' and tried to find out from Dlamini what her problem was.

Passersby were already assembled at the scene with some already aware that it was a legislator that was involved in the accident, others were keen to

see how he would react.

"She told the MP that she was from a pharmacy housed at the Shamrock Complex and when she drove to connect to the main road, she did not stop as she was expected to do.

## Brakes

"She said she had intended to apply the brakes only for her to press the accelerator.

"Fortunately, the teacher's vehicle just grazed the MP's car and got a scratch on the right side and did not cause extensive damage," said a source who witnessed the incident.

Police are said to have arrived and as they were enquiring what had happened, they were advised not to do anything as the two had agreed on terms.

"The police were excused, it was clear that the MP was kind enough. They agreed that they would sort the



**ACCIDENT:** Shiselweni I Member of Parliament Mandla Nxumalo.

issue without involving a third party," said a source.

The MP when reached for comment regarding matter said there was nothing to write home about. He said the matter was under control.

The MP had however earlier disputed that it was him who was involved in the accident but he eventually confirmed it didn't need a third party, being the police.

## Congregant admits to being 'blessed' by 'Naked Pastor'

By Sifiso Nhlabatsi  
Manzini

**THE married woman who was caught red-handed having sexual relations with her pastor at Dvokolwako area is alleged to have admitted that she has been having an affair with the pastor for almost two years behind her husband's back.**

Sources close to the matter have stated that messages which were found on the woman's phone revealed that the two were indeed having a secret relationship.

The pastor allegedly had a long-standing affair with the woman who is also a member of the same church where he preaches.

The relationship got to a point where the two were caught enjoying themselves at the woman's place while her husband was away at Mhlume where he was working.

The woman is said to have taken advantage of that and called the pastor over, however they were unfortunate as they were caught in the act.

The pastor bolted out of the house stark naked.

## Blood

After this incident members of the community have been baying for the pastor's blood and the Dvokolwako *umphakatsi* made it clear that it would be forced to evict the 'naked' pastor if found guilty of being involved in an adulterous relationship.

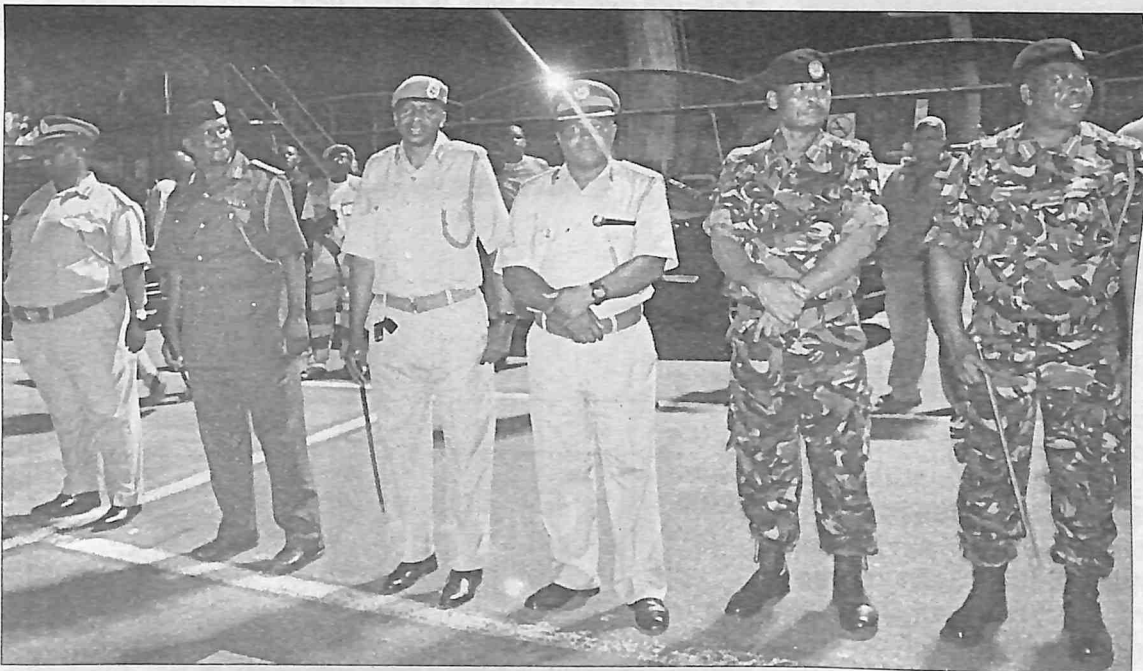
At the start of this week, the pastor was called for another hearing at the area's *umphakatsi*.

However, the pastor's matter could not proceed at the *umphakatsi* instead the faction which went to the hearing was disappointed as they were informed that the matter would now be heard at Kuphakameni Royal Kraal.

Allegations that arose were that the pastor snatched the woman from her husband by luring her with money as he would send someone to give her cash from time to time.

Information gathered is that the woman no longer lived with her husband but moved to live with her relatives.

## COLONEL MAGWAZA BACK IN ACTION



**HE IS BACK:** USDF Head of Close Protection Unit Colonel Pivon Bhutana Magwaza with senior officers at Matsapha International Airport to see the King off on his trip to India. Magwaza has been away from the public eye for sometime. He was seen mingling and receiving greetings from many present on the night. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)



## E12m water project to benefit 500 homesteads delayed

By Starsky Mkhonta  
Nhlango

**A E12 million-worth of water scheme project that would benefit 500 homesteads has been delayed as the community is failing to secure a sponsor to finance half of it.**

The Dzakasini community which is under Sandleni Inkhundla has to wait a bit as the sponsorship they had would finance half of it and the remainder would need a new sponsor.

It is said World Vision showed inter-

est of starting the water project but could only cater for half of it.

The constituency is now searching for a sponsor to help finance the other half.

Member of Parliament Jameson Simelane said the project could not be launched last week.

He said the plan was to have the project kick off soon, but securing the sponsorship hindered that.

"We secured World Vision as the sponsor of the Dzakasini Water Scheme project but it will finance half of it. World Vision explained that when it comes to sponsoring community pro-

ject, it does not inject over E6 million. This therefore means the challenge we have is scouting for another sponsor to assist in financing the other half," said MP Simelane.

The MP said he was optimistic that as inkhundla, they would secure a sponsor to help with the other half needed for the E12 million worth project.

"With World Vision having agreed to finance us with E6 million, now we have to go around scouting for another sponsor to cater for the other half. I am positive that at the end, we will kick start the project.

"We have applied to a number of possible sponsors and even World Vision has promised to assist in finding another sponsor to finance the other half of the project. Our aim is to have the multimillion project take off soon," said MP Simelane.

The MP said a total of close to 500 homesteads stand to benefit from the E12 million project, which is one of the inkhundla's main projects.

"We are looking at having at least all areas under the inkhundla accessing clean water. It is in line with the wishes of the country's leaders and part of Vision 2022," said MP Simelane.



**PROJECT:** Sandleni Member of Parliament Jameson Simelane.





# Postal & Telecoms On Observer

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## SWAZIPOST CARES FOR HER CUSTOMERS

SwaziPost has introduced insurance services in partnership with leading Insurance companies in Swaziland. The insurance services that are offered under SwaziPost Insurance currently offers customers two insurance products namely:

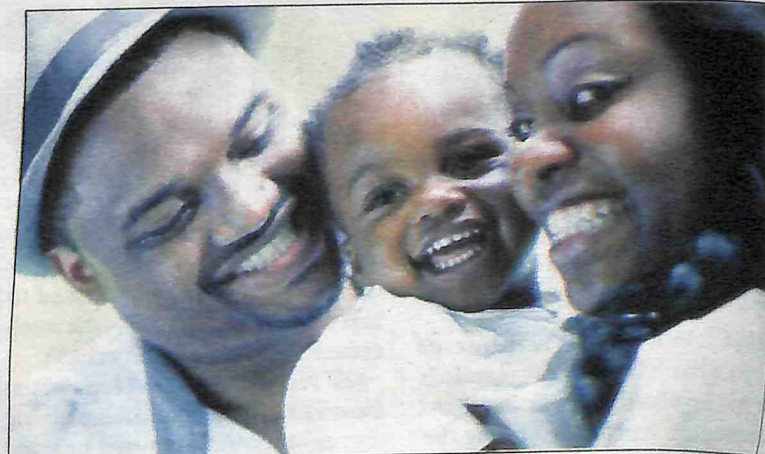
- A Funeral Cover
- A Family Support Benefit

### FUNERAL COVERS

The loss of a loved one can be an emotional stress on family members left behind. With the high costs of funeral arrangements, it can quickly become a financial stress as well. SwaziPost insurance Funeral Cover is designed to assist during these events. You will have peace of mind knowing that you have the best protection against unforeseen events.

tection against unforeseen events.

The SwaziPost Insurance Funeral Cover which is underwritten by Liberty Life has introduced Silver and Gold cover plans, which interested clients could choose from according to their needs and affordability. In both covers, clients can have their cover paid out in 24 hours after a six-month waiting period.



### FAMILY SUPPORT BENEFIT

As a post-box holder SwaziPost Insurance now offers you the family Support Benefit which is aimed at making sure your family is able to meet monthly expenses should you pass away. The Family Support Benefit underwritten by Metropolitan Swaziland covers monthly expenses for a period of three to four months from as little as E6.60 a month.

es should you pass away. The Family Support Benefit underwritten by Metropolitan Swaziland covers monthly expenses for a period of three to four months from as little as E6.60 a month.



### AVAILABLE COVER OPTIONS:

The Family Support Benefit has two cover options:

COVER OPTION	BENEFIT LEVEL	ANNUAL PREMIUM
Cover Option A	E3 000	E 79.20
Cover Option B	E4 000	E105.60

### ELIGIBLE MEMBERSHIP

- Members should be a post-box holder
- Post-box payments must be up-to-date
- Maximum entry age is 74 years in respect of the main member

### AVAILABLE COVER OPTIONS:

COVER OPTION	BENEFIT LEVEL	MONTHLY PREMIUM
Silver Plan	E5 000	E32
Gold Plan	E10 000	E53

### EXTENDED FAMILY

Each of the cover options covers the policy holder, one spouse and a maximum of four children with a choice to add two biological parents and parents in law as well as extended family members.

For both funeral covers an additional amount of E15 for each extended family member and E22 for each of the biological parents or in laws has to be paid.

### DOUBLE CASH BENEFIT

In the event that the policy holder passes away due to an accident, double the cash benefit as per the cover option selected gets paid out to the family.

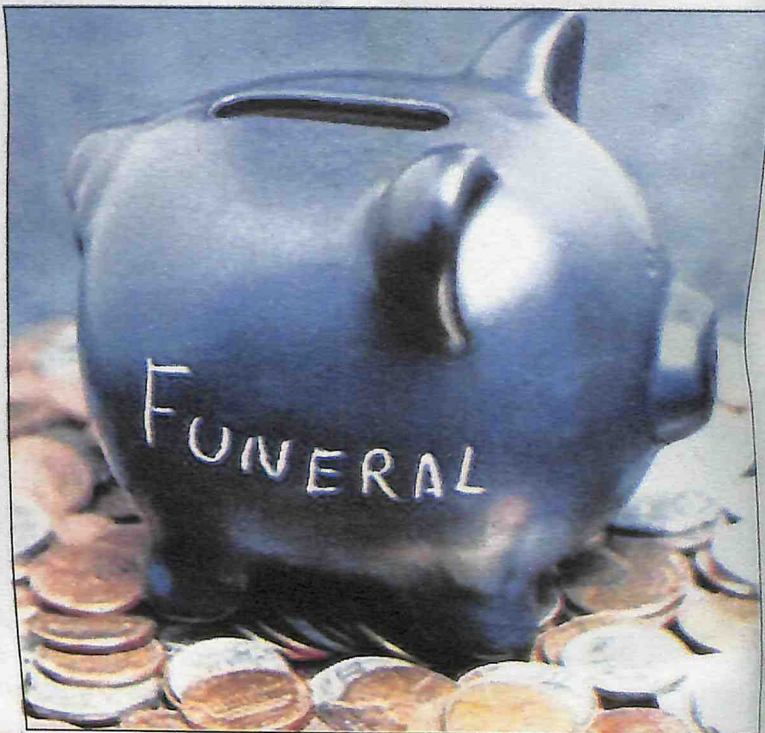
In the event the main member passes away, SwaziPost Insurance Funeral Cover pays out a family support benefit of E3 000 to the remaining family members. The benefit will ensure that the family is looked after even when the main member is no longer there.

after even when the main member is no longer there.

### FUNERAL COVER ELIGIBILITY

In terms of eligibility, only persons between 18 and 70 years can register as policy holders.

For extended family members registered by the policy holder, only persons below 65 years while parents that can be registered must be below 80 years.



## LETTER WRITING COMPETITION

Win your share of prizes worth E80 000

Pupils from the age of 9 to 17 years from all Primary and High Schools are invited to take part in the letter writing competition.

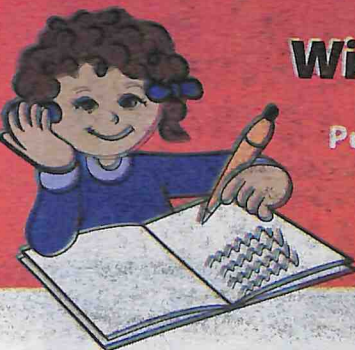
Submit your letter with a E3.95 stamp to any Post Office, your school or Macmillan offices.

Closing date for the competition is 31 March 2017

For more info visit your nearest Post office or Call 800 2100

### 2017 Topic:

"Imagine you are an advisor to the new UN Secretary-General which world issue would you help him tackle first and how would you advise him to solve it?"



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# FEATURES & OPINION

REFRESH WHAT YOU THINK...

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## BUDGET DEBATE: 'VAN DAMME' WINS...AGAIN!

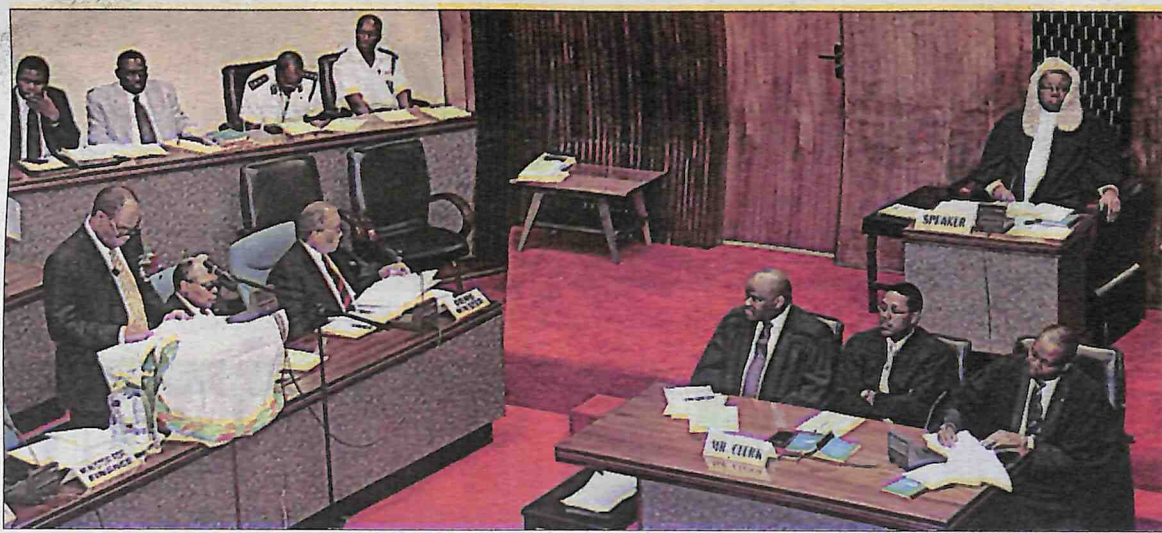


Kenneth's  
*Tit-Bits!*

LAST Sunday saw the slaying of 'Van Damme' by newbie, Matsapha United. Untold scenes of jubilation filled the Somhlolo National Stadium after Matsapha United executed a well-thought and well-deserved giant-killing ploy to defeat the country's flag bearers Mbabane Swallows.

I can't recall the last time people were so united to celebrate a defeat in the manner they did last Sunday. I thought we only celebrated victories, not defeats, of others for that matter. Well, that's me. I was taught never to delight on other people's misfortunes. Anyway, that's beside the point, especially considering the hypocritical nature of Swazis.

The point I'm driving at is the vanquishing of the 'Van Damme' of football, a team that had previously not lost an official match inside 90 minutes since the final game of the MTN Premier League last season against Royal Leopards, which was a 3-1 loss. Swallows were close to completing a cycle of 12 months without tasting defeat since the loss against Leopards in May last year. Then entered Matsapha United who delivered what is known in football circles as a sucker punch. Granted, Swallows



**BUDGET:** Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini delivering the 2017-2018 Budget speech before the House of Assembly in Parliament recently.

were at some stage going to lose a match as it often happens in a movie script that the main character, in this case 'Van Damme', dies at the end. But it was the size of the opponent that got people rather excited. Barely known Matsapha United who were only formed some nine months ago dared to dream and succeeded where others failed. I say kudos to them for such a monumental victory, something I can't say about the Premier League teams, which have all been vanquished, some twice or thrice already this season by the same team. Similarly, in the political spheres, there are Van Dammes everywhere. Last week, saw Members of Parliament

(MPs) attempt a Mount Everest. They embarked on their own mission to kill their own 'Van Damme' by rejecting the national budget. From where they were coming from I understood their reasons very well. However, I must say I was shocked by such bravery by our scare-crow MPs. I thought to myself, could this be a belated way of trying to score points with the electorate, especially with the 2018 national elections knocking on the door. It appeared finally our MPs had come to play hardball, and were in an uncompromising mood. I thought perhaps this move could win them favour with the disgruntled electorate especially after a dormant cam-

paigned of the 10th Parliament. Deep inside I knew they were attempting a 'Van Damme'. But I was prepared to give them the benefit of doubt and wait in the wings and see how this panned out. We all know killing 'Van Damme' is no mean feat. And, I was hoping the MPs would have lobbied and lobbied amongst themselves for this move to succeed. And am pretty sure they did; only they didn't know they were up against the sly, suave, tactful, mastermind and ever-calculating 'Van Damme'.

It is history now that the national budget has been approved hardly a week later after it was thrown out, and MPs are left with egg smashed all over their

sorry faces. They have been left to lick their wounds and they are back tip toeing while at it. They are behaving like the good boys that they have become known for since their election into the August House. 'Van Damme' was not to be this time. What a bitter lesson. They should have known better that 'Van Damme' always wins no matter what.

So, next time, if there's ever going to be a next time, they must know before attempting to kill 'Van Damme' that you bring everything you have to the fight. I have seen 'Van Damme' outsmart many others like them before, but still he remains and very much relevant and the cornerstone for our politics. He survives. Not just that, he wins all his battles. Battered and bruised but at the end he comes tops.

So, when the MPs failed in their bid to throw out the national budget, it seemed a familiar outcome to me that has played itself all over again.

'Van Damme' won't be killed...not anytime soon. So, those who were thinking Van Damme had lost his punch, they better think again. And, my final warning or advice, depending how you look at it, don't bet on the country witnessing a sequel after next year's elections. I know the thought of 'Van Damme' returning next year unsettles a lot of people, but there's nothing you can rule out in this game of politics.

Who knows, maybe we will witness 'Van Damme' The Return...Again!

## Top SA jurists make case for ICC

...as SA withdraws original notice of withdrawal

Contributors:  
Daily Maverick

IN an attempt to cut through the fog of misunderstanding and misinformation that surrounds South Africa's membership of the International Criminal Court, a heavyweight panel of brilliant legal minds – including six former Constitutional Court justices – has briefed Parliament on what exactly is at stake.

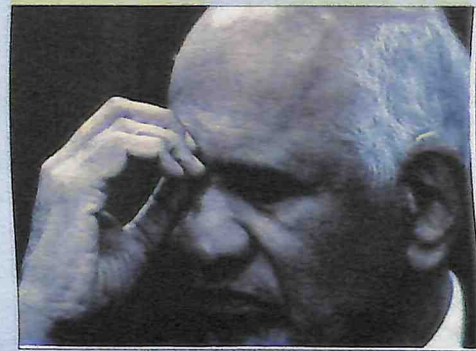
Justice Zak Yacoob, a former Constitutional Court judge, speaks with the incisive brevity common to all brilliant legal minds. The issues around the International Criminal Court (ICC),

and South Africa's membership thereof, are complicated and confusing, but he cuts through the noise: "[In joining the ICC], South Africa made the choice of saying some human rights violations are so gross, so bad, so punishable, that no leader, even if he or she was a state leader at the time, should be able to get away with it. And that is actually the question. Are there human rights violations that are so gross that nobody, whatever their situation, should be allowed to get away with them? That is the essential moral issue that we as a country have to get to terms with once again." Yacoob was speaking to journalists in Johannesburg on Wednesday morning, just hours after South Africa officially with-

drew its notice of withdrawal from the ICC, following a High Court order last month that found that notice to be unconstitutional.

Consequently – for now, at least – South Africa remains a full member of the International Court. And, as per the High Court decision, if South Africa still wants to withdraw, it cannot do so on the orders of the president alone. Parliamentary approval is required.

Yacoob, along with a stellar roll call of some of the most famous names in South African jurisprudence, had just submitted a briefing note to the National Assembly's Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services. The briefing note sought "to clarify some commonly misunderstood facts about the [ICC]", and was signed by former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay as well as former Constitutional Court judges Laurie Ackermann, Richard Goldstone, Johann Kriegler, Yvonne Mokgoro, Kate O'Regan, and Yacoob. eNCA



**LEGAL MINDS:** Former Constitutional Court judge Zak Yacoob forms part of a heavyweight panel of brilliant legal minds that has briefed Parliament on what exactly is at stake concerning South Africa's membership of the International Criminal Court. (AP)

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## ON THIS DAY

...March 10

0241 BC - The Roman fleet sank 50 Carthaginian ships in the Battle of Aegusa.

0049 BC - Julius Caesar crossed the Rubicon and invaded Italy.

1496 - Christopher Columbus concluded his second visit to the Western Hemisphere when he left Hispaniola for Spain.

1629 - England's King Charles I dissolved Parliament and did not call it back for 11 years.

1656 - In the American colony of Virginia, suffrage was extended to all free men regardless of their religion.

1785 - Thomas Jefferson was appointed minister to France. He succeeded Benjamin Franklin.

1792 - John Stone patented the pile driver.

1804 - The formal ceremonies transferring the Louisiana Purchase from France to the US took place in St. Louis.

1806 - The Dutch in Cape Town, South Africa surrendered to the British.

1814 - In France, Napoleon Bonaparte was defeated by a combined Allied Army at the battle of Laon.

1848 - The US Senate ratified the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the war with Mexico.

1849 - Abraham Lincoln applied for a patent for a device to lift vessels over shoals by means of inflated cylinders.

1864 - Ulysses S. Grant became commander of the Union armies in the US Civil War.

1876 - Alexander Graham Bell made the first successful call with the telephone. He spoke the words "Mr. Watson, come here, I want to see you."

1880 - The Salvation Army arrived in the US from England.

1893 - New Mexico State University canceled its first graduation ceremony because the only graduate was robbed and killed the night before.

1894 - New York Gov. Roswell P. Flower signed the nation's first dog-licensing law.

1902 - The Boers of South Africa scored their last victory over the British, when they captured British General Methuen and 200 men.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



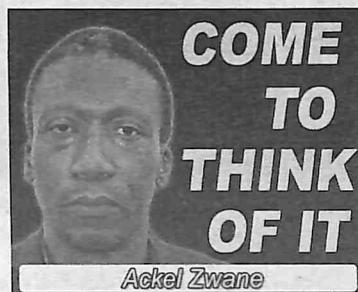
**Emeli Sande**(rnb singer) -  
March 10 1987 -  
30 years old



**Chuck Norris**  
(movie actor) -  
March 10 1940 -  
77 years old



**ALL RISE:** Some of the MPs who wanted to make their submissions on the topic of the day.



**COME  
TO  
THINK  
OF IT**

Ackel Zwane

**THE** naked truth has come to the open that Members of Parliament abused their oath of office by letting down the institution by which they are sworn into office to delay the passing of the budget in order for the operations of the Swazi state.

The national budget is the lifeblood of the nation. This treasonous act is common among individuals who have the interests of their egos first and foremost than those of the voters who propelled them into office.

Otherwise they would have given us all the reason why they had to make the process suffer this delay, they must tell us what they have achieved in the interest of voters by holding the budget captive.

#### Expected

Time for high school teenage activism can no longer be expected among people who are carrying the sole mandate of passing this country's laws. We are all aware that next year is the election year and the MPs want to hijack the budget to feed into the Rural Development Fund, a fattening ranch and vehicle for canvassing votes where office bearers manage to fool the unsuspecting voter that they are indeed responsible for bringing development in the rural areas.

We all know that development programmes are the prerogative of the central executive and not members of their legislature who spend most of the time roaming the countryside mobilising beer swigging unemployed rogue youths of voting age to cast their votes in exchange for alcohol and chunks of roast beef.

This strategy has helped many a crop of MPs we have to day into the August House who then turn tables and spit fire as though possessed all in the name of appeasing their constituencies as if those antics would ever propel Swaziland to 2022 dreamland.

Without buying into their turf,

why is it none of these have so much as offered to raise a motion to discuss urban poverty and urban development yet they witness how much the urban budgets are over-stretched to accommodate the crowds from rural areas who are supposed to be cushioned by the vote hunting ambassadors in Members of Parliament.

The Elections and Boundaries Commission currently doing civic education should have started with the present MPs who appear not to fully understand their mandate and therefore opt to play marbles with the trust and responsibility endowed upon them by the voter by simply delaying the budget and everything that comes with it.

News filtering from the EBC vuselas, in essence, point to a desperate voter public that is calling for the power of recall.

The voters want to be able to withdraw their candidates from the House who tend to stray from their mandate and replace them with those who know how to transform the aspirations of voters in Parliament by way of doing what is expected them in Parliament.

After raising dust in Parliament

and blinding all operations the unscrupulous MPs also returned for a similar bout of terror unleashed on *Indvuna Yenkhundla* all because they lack the respect and understanding of collective responsibility.

We have seen this type of legislators in the past, who quite often though their mandate also extends into encroaching into the territorial operations of the *Indvuna Yenkhundla* because all along they

had considered themselves somewhat superior, too superior to throw their weight about in the constituency, overbearing even to the helpless voters who now find themselves stuck with a stock of politicians that have turned to despise their own.

One MP suggested that the budget should not be allowed through the House of

Assembly because it contained E20 million for Bibles, money that should otherwise be used pump water from Lobamba to the Lubombo plateau.

The time wasted in bickering that has resulted in nothing but more time wasted would have otherwise been fruitfully used in taking the budget to the portfolio committees

where the auditor general's report will also be a subject for more drama. It is these forums that members can keep the checks and balances, ask relevant questions on the accountability of government. It is in these forums that the chiefs executives in the persons of principal secretaries will have tested their egos and arrogance.

The time lost in the bickering can never be recovered, believe you me. If the MPs want to rearrange the order of doing things in the August House they should call for a constitutional reform, another process that I'm certain they also do not know how to handle.

Holding back the budget has also attracted another debate whereby the Attorney general explained that MPs cannot possibly derail the budget because it is a product of Cabinet.

#### Budget

Why, then, in the first place was the budget ever taken through Parliament, is only for procedure or the legendary rubber stamping? Now why all the dilly dallying, the tantrums from some MPs who even had the privilege of being at Cabinet.

No wonder in their previous life these were individuals who earned their popularity by being outspoken as spoilers in any event. *bosiyayinyofa*, derailing the process just for the sake of causing mayhem.

As a schoolboy failing to be pitched in a team of eleven during a match resulted in me taking my ball under my armpit and turning towards home until they featured me in the match, it was never about the game, never.

# MPs DETAIN, FREE BUDGET AS THEY WISH, WHO CARES?




 your HEAL+H section

# WOMEN WHO TAKE HRT MAY LIVE LONGER

**WOMEN** Who take hormone replacement therapy to cope with symptoms of menopause may live longer, research suggests.

A trial of 4 200 menopausal women concluded that HRT could protect against heart disease, significantly reducing a major cause of death.

Scientists found women in their 50s and 60s who took HRT pills had a 30 per cent chance of dying during the eight years they were monitored.

The researchers, from Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre in California, think the oestrogen in HRT stops major arteries blocking, furring and stiffening - the main causes of heart attacks and strokes.

## Pills

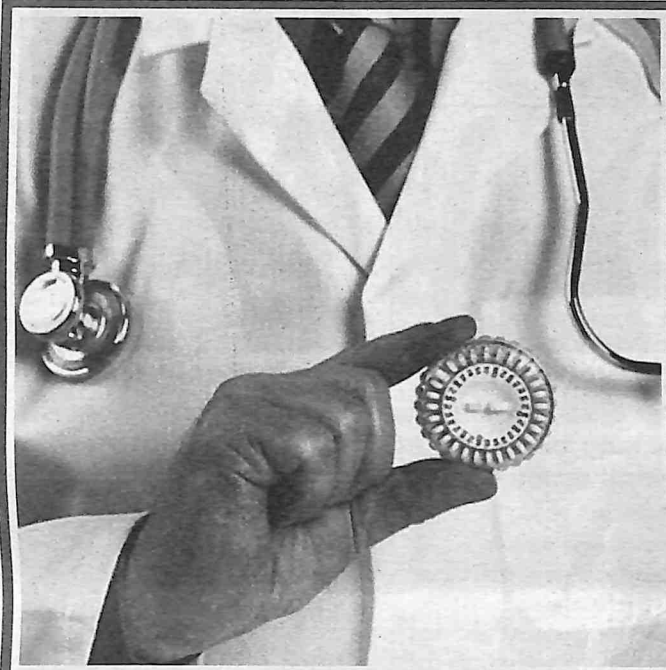
They found women who took the pills had a 36 per cent lower chance of high calcium levels in their heart - a key indicator of heart attack risk and arterial blockage.

Study leader Dr Yoav Armon, whose team tracked the women, said: 'With proper screening and proper follow-up, from a cardiovascular standpoint I believe it is beneficial to take hormone replacement therapy.'

'Our results confirm and enhance previous work in terms of showing lower atherosclerosis [arterial blockage]. In addition, we've shown very clear survival benefits of using hormone replacement therapy.'

An estimated one million British

...because oestrogen protects against heart disease, research suggests



**LIFE-SAVER:** Women who took the pills had a 36 per cent lower chance of high calcium levels in their heart - a key indicator of heart attack risk and arterial blockage - experts say.

women take HRT to cope with the menopause, which commonly strikes in the late 40s and early 50s.

HRT tackles symptoms such as depression, hot flushes, and night sweats by providing oestrogen as the body stops producing it.

But the numbers who take the drug have plummeted since the early 2000s, when major studies raised

concerns that it raised the risk of certain forms of cancer.

## Evidence

Increasing evidence, however, suggests the threat of cancer may have been overstated - and that HRT may also protect against other health problems, including heart disease.

Dr Armon, who is due to present the findings next week at the American

College of Cardiology's annual conference in Washington DC, said oestrogen probably protects the heart by reducing cholesterol and increasing the flexibility of blood vessels and arteries, allowing them to accommodate blood flow.

He said this may explain why women are more likely to suffer from heart attacks after menopause.

## SHOULD WOMEN HAVE YEARLY BREAST SCREENINGS?

**ONE in four women over 50 should be screened for breast cancer every year, research suggests.**

Women aged between 50 and in their early 70s are currently given mammograms once every three years on the NHS.

But American research has suggested women with 'high density' breasts should be screened annually instead.

Around a quarter of women have dense breast tissue, which feels no different to touch but contains more glandular tissue and less fat.

These women are up to six times more likely to develop cancer than the average woman - and to make matters worse, it is also much harder for mammograms to detect warning signs in denser breast tissue.

Researchers from the Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modelling Network, in collaboration with the Breast Cancer Surveillance Consortium, studied the effectiveness of screen-

ing on women aged between 50 and 74, who had different risk levels and breast density.

They found these women benefited from more regular screening to pick up abnormalities.

'Hormone replacement therapy resulted in lower atherosclerosis and improved survival for all age groups and for all levels of coronary calcium,' Dr Armon said.

'From this we do think it is beneficial, but we would need prospective or randomised studies to determine which groups might not benefit or even be harmed by this therapy.'

He stressed that HRT is not suitable for everyone. Women who have already had a heart attack, known heart disease or have a history of blood clots are advised against taking the treatments.

Fears over the safety of HRT were first raised in 2002 when a major US study of 160 000 women suggested it doubled the risk of breast

cancer.

Then in 2003, British research showed HRT significantly increased the likelihood of getting breast cancer and subsequently dying.

Over the next few years the number of menopausal women on the drug fell, from 36 per cent before the studies to around 10 per cent today.

## Guidelines

But NHS guidelines watchdog NICE issued new guidance in November 2015 advising GPs to start offering the drug to more women.

Officials said women should be given a clear explanation of the risks, stressing that out of 1 000 women taking HRT for five years, there would only be six extra cases of breast cancer and 1.5 additional cases of ovarian cancer.

Dr Jasmine Just, Cancer Research UK's health information officer, said last night: 'HRT is an effective treatment for symptoms of the menopause, but it can also increase the risk of certain cancers.'

'Whether or not to use HRT is an individual choice, and it's important that women have the information they need to make the best decision for them. If you are considering using hormone replacement therapy it's a good idea to discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor.' *Daily Mail*

## Wit and Wisdom

● "The truth is rarely pure and never simple."  
— *Oscar Wilde, The Importance of Being Earnest*

● "Never tell the truth to people who are not worthy of it." — *Mark Twain*

● "Be not afraid of greatness. Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and others have greatness thrust upon them." — *William Shakespeare, Twelfth Night*

● "I know God won't give me anything I can't handle. I just wish he didn't trust me so much."  
— *Anonymous*

● "... a mind needs books as a sword needs a whetstone, if it is to keep its edge."  
— *George R.R. Martin, A Game of Thrones*

● "The books that the world calls immoral are books that show the world its own shame."  
— *Oscar Wilde, The Picture of Dorian Gray*

● "It's so hard to forget pain, but it's even harder to remember sweetness. We have no scar to show for happiness. We learn so little from peace." — *Chuck Palahniuk, Diary*

● "What you're supposed to do when you don't like a thing is change it. If you can't change it, change the way you think about it. Don't complain." — *Maya Angelou, Wouldn't Take Nothing for My Journey Now*

● "A day without laughter is a day wasted."  
— *Nicolas Chamfort*

● "A person's a person, no matter how small."  
— *Dr. Seuss, Horton Hears a Who!*

● "Do you remember me telling you we are practicing non-verbal spells, Potter?"  
"Yes," said Harry stiffly.

"Yes, sir."

"There's no need to call me 'sir' Professor."

The words had escaped him before he knew what he was saying."

— *J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*

● "I finally understood what true love meant...love meant that you care for another person's happiness more than your own, no matter how painful the choices you face might be."  
— *Nicholas Sparks, Dear John*

● "When adults say, 'Teenagers think they are invincible' with that sly, stupid smile on their faces, they don't know how right they are. We need never be hopeless, because we can never be irreparably broken. We think that we are invincible because we are. We cannot be born, and we cannot die. Like all energy, we can only change shapes and sizes and manifestations. They forget that when they get old. They get scared of losing and failing. But that part of us greater than the sum of our parts cannot begin and cannot end, and so it cannot fail." — *John Green, Looking for Alaska*

● "Memories warm you up from the inside. But they also tear you apart."  
— *Haruki Murakami, Kafka on the Shore*

● "Books are a uniquely portable magic."  
— *Stephen King, On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*



# BUSINESS UPDATE

YOUR DAILY SOURCE OF FINANCIAL/BUSINESS NEWS

## CONTACTS

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## VITALS

Prime Rate	10.75%
First National Bank	
Inflation Rate	8.2%
Central Statistical Office	
Mortgage Rate	9.75%
Swaziland Building Society	
Bank Rate	7.25%
Central Bank	
Petrol (u)	E11.80 per litre
Replacement	E11.85 per litre
Diesel	E11.70 per litre
Paraffin	E 7.95 per litre
Engen Garage	

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Correct as at 9 MAR 2017

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar / SZL	13.1300	13.1800
British Pound/SZL	15.9661	16.0269
Japanese Yen/SZL	8.6897	8.7190
Swiss France/SZL	12.9334	12.9712
Botswana Pula/SZL	1.2526	1.2640
Australian Dollar/SZL	9.8541	9.8969
Canadian Dollar/SZL	9.7295	9.7637
Mozambique Meticals/SZL	5.5211	5.5942
Euro/SZL	13.8272	13.8799
Gold	1,205.0300	
Oil	53.0900	

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Standard Bank

# CONSUMERS CAN ONLY REPORT COMPANIES REGISTERED WITH FSRA

By Linda Dlamini

CONSUMERS are advised that the Office of Ombudsman can only help if consumers are reporting a matter where the non-bank financial services provider entity is registered with the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA).

Office of the Ombudsman of Financial Services (OFS) Senior Legal Officer Sabelo Zwane said the OFS may only consider a complaint between a financial services provider and a complainant only when the financial service provider is registered with the FSRA. "That is why it is important for consumers to seek products from registered financial services providers. This will aid them when problems arise," he said.

Zwane was speaking during a breakfast media briefing on the draft of the OFS's media policy yesterday at the OFS offices in Mbabane.

### Awareness

Zwane said the media remains an important means of mass communication in which the OFS could raise public awareness for OFS related events.

"The media is a conduit in which important resources could be shared for consumer protection information for media houses to disseminate to the general public," he said.

He said to meet the mandate of the OFS it is important that both the OFS and the media sector cultivate a

professional and supportive or collaborative relationship.

"The media is the conducive platform in which we the OFS can inform the public on how we work," he said.

Zwane said the education of the public on role OFS could be achieved by running informative and educational articles which highlight the role of the organisation within the economy.

"With this line of thinking, the OFS have seen it necessary to formulate a media relations policy which is geared to foster a harmonious relationship with the media," he said.

Zwane said the policy amongst

other factors provides guidance to OFS officers on how to engage with the media.

"The policy will further give clarity to the organisation on how to best promote public awareness and understanding of the role of the OFS to the general public," he said.

Adding, Zwane said it was important to note that the principle spokesperson for the OFS was the Ombudsman.

"This is very important to note as other officers may speak to the media but the media should understand that they speak on their own behalf and not that of the OFS," he said.



**WELCOME:** OFS Legal Officer Elizabeth Mzungu welcoming journalists to the media policy briefing.



**PRESENT:** Ombudsman of the Financial Services Nondumiso Simelane was also present during the presentation.



**SPEECH:** Office of the Ombudsman of Financial Services Senior Legal Officer Sabelo Zwane making his presentation. (Pics: Linda Dlamini)

"Unless of course the employee has been given the explicit agreement of the Ombudsman," he added.

Zwane said the media policy would ensure accurate information was passed to the relevant stakeholders and would further aid accessibility of information to the media.

"The purpose of the meet here today is to inform the various media houses that given the sensitive nature of the job, confidentiality is important to us and therefore information communicated to the public has to be handled with care and diligence," he said.

## OLD MUTUAL EMERGING MARKETS PROFIT UP ONLY 3%

By Manqoba Makhubu

OLD Mutual Emerging Markets (OMEM) registered a slight growth of three per cent from E12 billion in 2015 to E12.3 billion in 2016 amid challenging the macro-economic environment.

Old Mutual Emerging Markets operate in 18 countries, including Swaziland.

The company said these results were underpinned by strict expense management across the business and a positive contribution from the South African businesses.

According to the group's announcement issued yesterday, the growth in AOP was supported by the Life and Savings operations in South Africa, which delivered a strong improvement in Return on Embedded Value from 13.6 per cent in 2015 to 15.7 per cent in 2016.

However, OMEM Interim Chief Executive Officer Iain Williamson

## ...Profit group drops 7%, dividend cut by over 30%

indicated that macroeconomic and political headwinds across many of the company markets contributed to 2016 being a challenging year for the business.

### Satisfied

"Nevertheless, we are satisfied with our financial performance and we continue to make good progress with our strategic priorities, including preparations for our independent future as the principal operation of the primary listed entity in South Africa," he said.

He said OMEM's strong and well-diversified balance sheet was resilient enough to be able to withstand a number of shocks, including a possible South African sovereign credit rating downgrade.

"A key priority for OMEM in

2016 was strengthening our focus on the needs of all our stakeholders, particularly our 10.9 million customers.

"Through financial education programmes, we continue to promote the value of advice and drive financial inclusion. We also remain committed to enhancing the overall customer experience across our business," he said.

### Strategy

Adding, he said their asset management strategy to support investment in socioeconomic development also reflected their deep commitment to doing business that benefits the society.

"In 2016, OMEM committed investments towards affordable housing to the tune of E21 billion,

other infrastructure E59 billion, renewable energy E20 billion and sustainable agriculture E942 million.

"Additionally, a further E142 million was invested in community upliftment towards financial education (E27 million), education upliftment, bursaries and scholarships (E76 million), as well as skills and community development (R39 million)," he said.

"We are confident that OMEM is well positioned to enable positive futures for our customers and communities as we make the most of the opportunities ahead of us in South Africa and the other emerging markets we operate in," he further stated.

Meanwhile, the company also announced that former finance minister Trevor Manuel, who has chaired Old Mutual's South African operations since May 2016, has been expanded to chair Old Mutual Emerging Markets (OMEM).



# DISTRIBUTION, TOURISM SECTOR LOANS EXCEED E1 BILLION SCORE

Stories by Linda Dlamini

**COMMERCIAL banks seems to be committed to the distribution and tourism sector as loans and advances to the sector have surpassed the E1 billion mark for the first time.**

According to the Central Bank of Swaziland (CBS) December Quarterly loans and advances by depository corporations in the country for 2016 stood at E1.1 billion.

Compared to 2015 this 2016 figure it's 25 per cent higher, further examination reveals that the commercial bank's exposure to the sector has more than doubled in three years.

"Total bank loans and advances to the distribution and tourism sector in 2013 were E502 million but now stand at E1.1 billion," reads the report in part.

The CBS said total loans and advances to the private sector and non-financial businesses for 2016 stood at E5.8 billion.

Therefore, the distribution and tourism sector holds 19.1 per cent of the loans and advances dished out by local commercial banks.

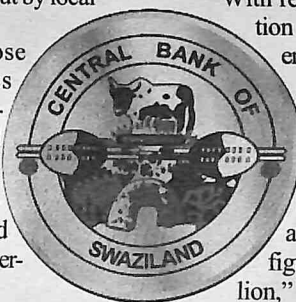
Other sectors whose loans and advances increased in 2016 included agriculture and forestry sector, transportation and communication, real estate and community, social and personal services.

Sectors which experienced a contraction in loans and advances from the banking community include mining and quarrying, manufacturing and construction.

The banking sector's exposure to the manufacturing sector has decreased

by 62.6 per cent in just two years.

"Loans and advances to the manufacturing sector as of the end of 2014 stood at E1.2 billion whilst as at the end of 2016 they were E463 million," reads the report in part.



With regards to the construction sector, a similar pattern emerges as loans are down 39 per cent in two years.

"Loans and advances to the construction as of the end of 2014 stood at E627 million whilst at the end of 2016, this figure stood at E382 million," the CBS said.

Of note is that whilst the agriculture and forestry sector received an increase of 10.9 to reach E697 million in 2016 it is still 27.7 per cent down from 2013.

The real estate sector continued to be the sector which received the lion's

share of the loans and advances of the banking sector whilst the mining and quarrying sector received the least.

"As of December 31, 2016 loans and advances to the real estate sector were E1.4 billion while the mining and quarrying sector were advanced E63 million," reads the report as part.

The real estate sector therefore accounts for about a quarter of loans and advances for the private sector.

Previously University of Swaziland (UNISWA) Lecturer and economist Sanele Sibiya said the manufacturing sector was an important sector as it was a labour intensive sector which therefore creates a lot of jobs within any economy.

Sibiya said with the current data, the sector was not going through an expansionary cycle.

"This, therefore, is indicative of an economic downturn," he said.

## CBS FULLY SPONSORS POST BUDGET SEMINAR

**THE Central Bank of Swaziland (CBS) has this year fully sponsored the annual post budget seminar.**

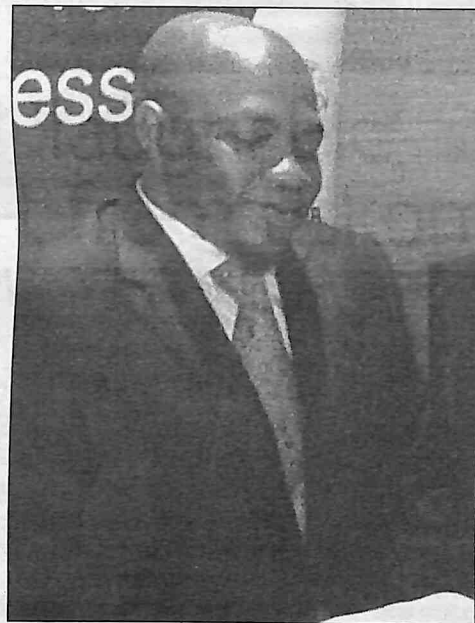
The seminar is an annual event where stakeholders from the various sectors of the economy come to gather to discuss the national budget following its presentation by the minister of finance to Parliament.

The announcement was made yesterday by CBS General Manager Economic Policy and Research Statistics Sikhumbuzo Dlamini who spoke on behalf of Deputy Governor Mhlabuhlangene Dlamini.

"To achieve more representative participation and exchange information, the CBS has for the first time sponsored the event in a bid to reach out to more participants in order to make the best of this forum," he said.

Dlamini said the main aim of the seminar was to provide an opportunity to stakeholders from the private and financial sector to share information in an open environment.

"The seminar in the past sold tickets to corporates and individuals who wished to participate. However, the approach this year is to have an informed interactive session com-



**SPEECH: CBS General Manager Economic Policy and Research Statistics Sikhumbuzo Dlamini delivering a speech on behalf of CBS of Deputy Governor Mhlabuhlangene Dlamini.**

(Pic: Linda Dlamini)

bined with panellists who will set the tone of the discussion from specialised areas or constituents they represent," he said.

Dlamini said the panellists for the discussion have been drawn from businesses, civil society, academia and government.

This year's seminar themed, 'Rising

above Adversity to Create Prosperity for All,' will be held on March 22, at the Royal Villas.

He said the theme originates from His Majesty's King Mswati III Speech from the Throne which was cascaded to the minister's budget speech.

Dlamini said during the seminar, stakeholders would interact with the

Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini on fiscal and budgetary issues.

He said therefore, participants were encouraged to come prepared to contribute to the discussions.

"The budget has to support growth, encourage socially optimal investment, increase employment opportunities, provide macroeconomic stability, support monetary policy, channel investment towards socially desirable channels and reduce income and wealth inequality; whether the budget has achieved this will be up to the participants and panellists," he said.

"This recognises the challenges faced by the nation in terms of slow growth, low investment and productivity as well as the drought," he said. He said in order for the country to reach a sustainable growth path, everyone must play their part including ensuring that the development path is the correct one.

"As expected the a lot of stakeholders will now be interested to raise questions with a view of confirming their development goals will be adequately met through the budget," he said.

## Swazi graduates to train in India courtesy of Standard Bank

By Manqoba Makhubu

**STANDARD Bank Group has afforded Swazi graduates amongst other African countries with an opportunity to train in one of the world's leading data-science and innovation centres.**

The bank has recently launched its Data Science and Analytics (DSA) graduate programme, with an inaugural intake of 13 graduates from six African markets.

According to a statement sent by the bank, the graduates will spend three months at Tech Mahindra's Infocity in Bangalore, India which boasts one of the world's leading data-science and innovation centres, training in advance data analytics tools and project implementation, including international certification.

Other graduates who will be eligible to apply are from Nigeria, Mozambique, Uganda, Zambia, Tanzania and South Africa.

### Qualifications

The bank said prospect applicants should hold qualifications in Computer Science, Applied Mathematics, IT, Statistics and Economics.

The programme is the latest addition to the bank's existing graduate programmes run across its African network, and aims to accelerate the deployment of data-science and analytics specialists in the banking industry.

"We know that these are the scarce skills that are so critical to Africa's growth and future competitiveness.

With innovative programmes such as the DSA, we and our partners hope that the potential to develop and enhance a new sector in Africa can be realised," said Head of Customer Insights for Africa Thula Ngonyama.

She said the bank's DSA graduate programme has the potential to establish key African markets as centres of excellence in advanced analytics.

"This has immediate implications for employment as well as profound implications for Africa's digital future," she added.

### Pipeline

She said by developing a broad and deep pipeline of data-science skills across the continent, the bank aims to be a key knowledge source and provider of data-analytics in Africa.

"While this supports Standard Bank's digitalisation and customer centric visions, it also demonstrates our commitment to leveraging human potential through the development of marketable business skills that actively transform a sector with the potential to drive Africa's growth," she said.

Ngonyama said additional learning via a rotation through various lines of businesses within Standard Bank South Africa and the graduates' home countries would cover training in industry and banking systems knowledge.

On completion of the programme, graduates would return to their home country to implement a specialised two-year data-science project at Standard Bank.

"These projects are designed to kick-start African data-science hubs which we plan to grow in coming years as our DSA graduate programme adds more countries and graduates," said Ngonyama.

## SWAZIBANK INTRODUCES 'STATE OF THE ART' DATA CENTRE

By Manqoba Makhubu

**SWAZIBANK will be introducing a state of the art Data Centre to provide increased security for the bank and its clients.**

As preparations for the transition, the bank has notified its customers that there will be a planned network outage from 9pm from tomorrow up until the same time on Sunday.

As a result, the bank announced that all Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) and debit cards will not be functional during this period. Also, the Gables branch (Ezulwini) will be closed on Sunday.

Asked about the specific reasons

behind the planned outage, SwaziBank Managing Director Zakhele Lukhele said this would result from the bank's commissioning of the new Data Centre. "The impact will be on better data management and security of information," he said responding on how the banks customers would benefit from the roll out of the new centre.

### Ability

"This will obviously lead to better services and ability to roll out new and advanced products and services for our customers," he further stated.

This is in line with the bank's commitment to use technology to drive change and measure up to best inter-

national practice.

This commitment was highlighted by the bank's Board Chairperson Sibongile Mdluli during the bank's end of year function held last December.

She said the bank would strive to deliver its strategy and keep up with global markets to remain competitive in the market.

"In order to deliver on our strategy in this competitive market, we need to keep up with global market trends by moving quickly into the digital and electronic banking, that is internet and mobile banking," she said.

The bank further made an undertaking to finalise the new service and products which hinged on three pil-



**TOP RANGE: SwaziBank Managing Director Zakhele Lukhele.**

lars; productivity, risk management and increasing revenue.



# Misreporting of biotechnology blamed for indecisiveness in policy making

By Manqoba Makhubu

**THE Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) says media coverage of the debate on biotechnology has contributed to confusion and indecisiveness in policy making on biosafety in the African region.**

COMESA Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy Advisor Dr. Getachew Belay said messages on biotechnology processes and genetically modified foods reaching policy makers and consumers were confusing, sensational and inaccurate.

Dr Belay was addressing journalists from COMESA member states attending a Communication Training Workshop for Media Practitioners on Biotechnology and Biosafety in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, held from Tuesday till yesterday.

Belay observed that in Africa, issues on biotechnology and biosafety that influence technology adoption were regularly misrepresented due to lack of proper communication with the media and packaging of the right message.

"Lack of improved communication



within the member states has contributed to lagging behind on the adoption of agricultural biotechnology, among other things lack of national biosafety laws and biotechnology policies, low investment in biotechnology research and development," said Belay.

COMESA said cognisant of the polarised debate about Genetically

Modified Organisms (GMOs) and in order to enhance the communication, it has come up with Biotechnology Implementation Plan (COMBIP) Programme which highlights the existence of biosafety systems and policies within the member states. It further seeks to strengthen public awareness and communication of biotechnology and biosafety.

As part of its implementation, COMESA through its specialised agency, the Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA) has undertaken to train the media practitioners in the region to enhance fact-based reporting on agri-biotech and biosafety in the region and support the progress in national efforts towards commercialisation of biotech

crops, mainly Bt cotton.

"As a regional body we would like to see the media conversant with scientific information and ask the right questions to both sides of the aisle, to convey a balanced message to policy makers and the public at large," said Belay.

"The training is very significant because it will dispel fears and improve media coverage of biotechnology and biosafety in COMESA member states," further stated the advisor.

The training is expected to acquaint journalists with crop biotechnology basics in the context of sustainable agriculture, biosafety, food security and trade. Journalists will be taken through a series of presentation on safety of GMO's and feed. They will also have practical sessions to allay fears and establish the myths and concerns on GMOs.

Thirty journalists drawn from Ethiopia, Egypt, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Sudan who have demonstrated interest in agri-biotechnology and biosafety reporting are participating in the training. The training was organised by COMESA-ACTESA in partnership with the ministry of environment and forest, of Ethiopia, International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA AfriCenter) in Kenya, and the Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology, Ethiopia Chapter to train the media in biotechnology and biosafety communication.

The second leg of the training will be targeted at journalists in southern region and is scheduled for May 2017 in Lilongwe, Malawi.

## Public companies urged to adopt King IV code

By Manqoba Makhubu

**PUBLIC** centre companies have been encouraged to adopt the King IV code principles of good governance.

Swaziland Institute of Accountants (SIA) Executive Director Barnabas Mhlongo said this was critical as these institutions remain key with regards to providing essential services all of which were needed to improve the quality of life for citizens.

He said corporate governance in King IV is defined as the exercise of ethical and effective leadership by the governing body towards the achievement of governance outcome.

"It is therefore important for these institutions to follow good corporate governance, if they are to be effective in fulfilling their responsibilities," he said. Mhlongo said it was impressive that some entities have already adopted and implemented the codes of good corporate governance and their results were testimony to that.

One of such entities is the Swaziland Sugar Association (SSA) whose latest integrated annual report won the first prize under Regional Company category last year. The awards offered an opportunity for a peer-on-peer comparison and measure of good governance and risk management in the various companies in the region. He further encouraged companies to read and understand King IV, "as members of governing bodies we must act in good faith and in the best interest of the entities be it government or private sector." He said this appealed even more to accountants as they were a major force for consistency and stability in world economies and they as well ensure that governments understand fiscal regulatory obligations. "Accountants could play a major role in ensuring that there is transparency and accountability in public finance management," he said. *Business Report*

## Pick n Pay's Zim partner rises on news of delisting

**HARARE** - Pick n Pay's Zimbabwean diversified conglomerate partner Meikles rose 7.58 per cent to 10.22 cents on the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) on Wednesday after the company announced that it would delist from the bourse.

Meikles advised its shareholders that it was engaged in discussions that related to a possible offer to minorities and the subsequent delisting from the Harare-based bourse.

The planned delisting of Meikles will see the struggling Southern African country lose one of the biggest conglomerates in the country.

Meikles runs hotels and an agro-processing unit that is involved in tea processing and macadamia farming. The company has also ventured

into mining. It was founded by Thomas Meikles in 1892 with the flagship Meikles Hotel in Victoria Falls before another hotel was opened in Harare.

"Gains in Econet and Meikles helped the equities market close positive today. By the close of trading the main Industrials Index was up 0.49 per cent to 135.78 points," said analysts at Lynton Edwards Stockbrokers in a market report.

The delisting plans come after Meikles chairperson John Moxon threatened in 2015 that it would consider delisting.

Moxon also warned at the time that plans to separately list the super-markets division had been jeopardised following its temporary suspension from the stock exchange.

Moxon said "the manner" in which

the ZSE suspended Meikles from trading was implemented unprofessionally.

The company even approached the Zimbabwean courts to sue for \$150 million (R1.95 billion) following the suspension allegedly for misrepresenting facts in its financials for the year.

The suspension, however, was later lifted after clarification - on the amount it was owed by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe - was provided.

The ZSE has recently also had disagreements with Econet Wireless, the biggest telecom in Zimbabwe and one of the top favourites for foreign investors after it proceeded with an offshore rights issue to raise capital to service a maturing debt facility.

The Zimbabwean bourse charged that the offshore capital raise disadvantaged minority and resident shareholders, but Econet made a deal with the central bank to allow local shareholders to participate through depositing funds into a local bank.

"The ZSE is going to lose Meikles and although we have not been privy to the actual reason, the fact that Meikles threatened to delist is sure to raise opinion against the stock exchange and how it handles issues.

"The other issue has been the debacle with Econet which says it has obtained all the required regulatory approvals despite the ZSE saying it had erred and asked it to postpone the capital raising programme," a market analyst said.

*Business Report*

## Emerging markets a high point in challenging year for Sanlam

**CAPE TOWN** - The Sanlam Group yesterday described its overall performance for the year to the end of December as "satisfactory ... in a challenging environment", but noted that its emerging markets business had beaten all targets for the year.

The diversified Pan-African financial services group that was established in 1918 as a life insurance company said it had seen double-digit growth in all key operational performance indicators in the year under review.

The company boosted its dividend by 9.4 per cent to 268 cents

per share on an increase of 6 per cent in headline earnings per share. Sanlam said new business volumes had increased by 11 per cent during the year under review to R233 billion. The new business performance contributed to net fund inflows of R41 billion compared to R19 billion in the year before.

Sanlam Emerging Markets increased its net result from financial services by 30 per cent, comprising organic growth of 18 per cent and a 12 per cent contribution from structural growth. Sanlam said all countries had delivered strong growth, apart from Malawi and Zambia.

The general insurance operations in Malawi experienced pressure on claims, while Zambia continued to be impacted by a difficult operating environment.

The Zimbabwean and Nigerian operations exceeded expectations. Net result from financial services increased by 10 per cent from R7.3 billion to R8 billion which, Sanlam said, was a particularly satisfactory performance. The newly established business cluster, Sanlam Corporate, which includes Sanlam Employee Benefits and Sanlam Health, grew net results from financial services by 36 per cent, includ-

ing a first-time contribution of R82 million by Afrocentric (14 per cent growth excluding Afrocentric).

Sanlam added that the benign claims environment of 2015 had reversed with higher claims experienced across most lines of business. The crop and property business lines were severely affected by drought-related and large corporate claims respectively.

Sanlam's chief executive officer, Ian Kirk, said the group expected the challenging operating environment and economic climate to persist in 2017.

*AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY*

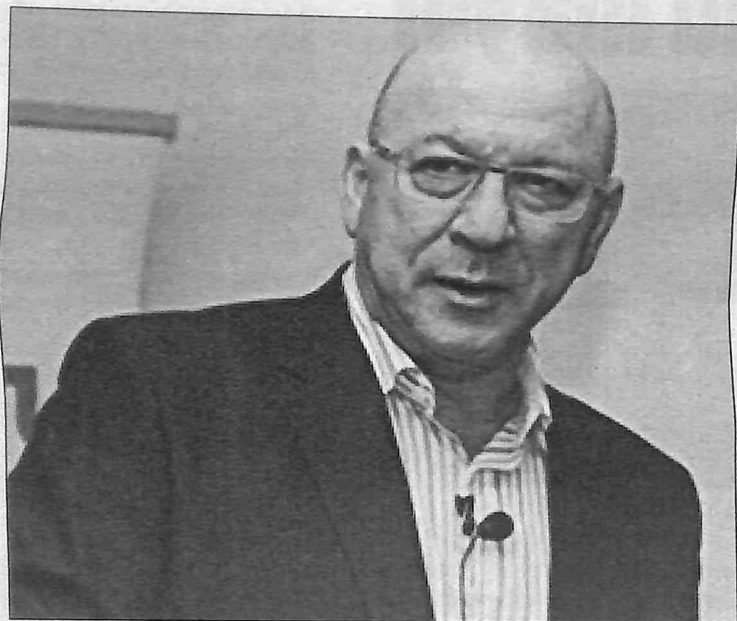


# Manuel replaces Hemphill as Old Mutual EM chairman

CAPE TOWN – Former Finance Minister Trevor Manuel has replaced Old Mutual CEO Bruce Hemphill as chairperson of Old Mutual Emerging Markets (OMEM) as part of the wider group's separation process.

Old Mutual announced the move yesterday, saying it is an important step in the business readiness process for OMEM under Old Mutual's managed separation strategy. Hemphill will remain on the OMEM board, it said in a statement.

Manuel, who has been on the board of OMEM since 2015, will oversee the establishment of the appropriate board and governance structures for an independently-listed OMEM and in line with the King IV Report on Corporate Governance which will come into effect on 1 April 2017. Old Mutual Group is embarking on a managed separation, which will entail separating its four businesses into standalone entities: OMEM, Nedbank, Old Mutual Wealth and OM Asset



**NEW MOVE:** Former Finance Minister Trevor Manuel.

Management. The separation is set to be complete by the end of 2018.

"It is a pleasure to announce Trevor as chairman of OMEM as his credentials reflect his extensive expe-

rience and leadership across business and the public sector," said Hemphill.

"In particular he embodies the values of Old Mutual and King IV in

aligning good corporate governance with good corporate citizenship."

Manuel said this is an important and exciting time to become chairperson of OMEM.

"The company has made a significant contribution to South Africa over many years and it will remain a priority that Old Mutual contributes to the prosperity of all South African citizens."

Meanwhile, Old Mutual yesterday posted a 1 per cent rise in operating profit to £1.7bn in its preliminary results for the 2016 financial year.

It furthermore declared a second interim dividend for the year ended December 31, 2016 of 3.39p (54c) per share.

"The second interim dividend, together with the first interim dividend of 2.67p (43c) per share paid in October 2016, equates to approximately 3.2 times the Company's adjusted operating profit earnings cover for the full year," it said in a statement. *Fin24*

## FirstRand bucks low economic growth trend

JOHANNESBURG – FirstRand group (JSE:FSR) reported growth in its earnings, despite a challenging global and local economic environment.

This is according to the group's unaudited interim financial results ending December 31, 2016, which was released yesterday. The group consists of First National Bank (FNB), Rand Merchant Bank (RMB), WesBank and Ashburton Investments, all of which grew their earnings. Overall, FirstRand's earnings grew 7 per cent to R11.6bn. Return on Equity was at 22.9 per cent, which is down from 23.4 per cent reported in 2015. A dividend of 119c was declared, up 10 per cent from the previous year. Retail and commercial bank, FNB's earnings grew 3 per cent to R6.4bn. Corporate and Investment bank RMB reported a growth of 2 per cent to R2.8bn, and finance business WesBank reported a 9 per cent growth to R1.9bn.

"The group continued its delivery of real growth in earnings and premium returns off a long track record of outperformance," said CEO Johan Burger.

Burger added that the outcomes were satisfactory and new growth initiatives are expected to deliver "outperformance" in the medium term.

"The group continues to exercise discipline in allocating capital and will not chase growth at the expense of returns," he added. *Fin24*

## FNB grows customers 6%

JOHANNESBURG – First National Bank – a unit of FirstRand – says its business and premium segments drove it to a six per cent increase in profits before tax.

In a statement issued yesterday, the bank says it saw good growth in deposits and continued traction in its save and invest strategies in the six months to December. Profits from the operations in the rest of Africa fell on the back of credit issues especially in Zambia and Mozambique due to difficult macro business conditions, it says.

"We are pleased with the 6 per cent growth in the overall domestic customer base, with some 12 percent growth in overall transactional volumes and especially with the pace at which our digital platforms continue being adopted with app volumes up a respectable 80% year-on-year," says FNB CEO Jacques Celliers.

FNB had standout performances in its business and premium

Segments as a result of customer base growth and further entrenchment and share of wallet across the respective segments with

Commercial producing a 16 per cent increase in profits, it says. FNB notes, however, growth in advances was deliberately slowed across all categories of lending in line with the bank's more conservative lending stance given the weaker macros with impairment results in line with expectations.

"Looking forward, we can see that improvements in the underlying economy and our vigorous efforts to contain costs for the bank will yield positive outcomes for our customers.

We remain committed to our operations in the rest of Africa and to our start-up business in Ghana," adds Celliers.

Meanwhile, FirstRand CEO, Johan Burger, says "the group continued its delivery of real growth in earnings and premium returns off a long track record



of outperformance".

FirstRand reported a 7 percent gain in diluted normalised earnings per share of 207.6c, while normalised earnings came in at R11.6 billion.

It declared a 119c a share dividend, 10 percent gain year-on-year. Burger says the growth was driven by solid operational performances from its franchises and "is a very satisfactory outcome given the level of ongoing investment in new growth initiatives, which is expected to deliver outperformance in the medium term and the level of conservatism applied to the balance sheet".

*Business Report Online*

## Revenue tumbles at SA's six big banks

JOHANNESBURG – In 2016, SA's six largest banks posted their weakest headline earnings growth since 2009, as returns fell on a higher cost of equity, increased operating expenses and negative loan growth in the rest of Africa.

Barclays Africa, Capitec, FirstRand, Investec, Nedbank and Standard Bank posted combined headline earnings growth of 6.6 per cent to R80bn for the 2016 financial year – much lower than the 16.5 per cent growth achieved in the prior year, said EY. "Revenue growth held up fairly

well [last year], but increased funding and equity costs were partly responsible for declining returns. Investors are wanting a higher return from their investments into banks," said Andy Bates, EY's Financial Services Africa leader.

Lower lending in the rest of Africa had also led to weaker earnings, Bates said. Banks had struggled in countries such as Nigeria – where a low oil price had caused significant economic distress – as well as in Kenya, where regulators had capped interest rates on loans, he said.

Banks' total combined advances grew 4.1 per cent in 2016 to R3.6-trillion, the weakest loan growth in five years and a function of loans in the rest of Africa declining nearly 11 per cent. Standard Bank, which derives 25 per cent of headline earnings from the rest of Africa, reported a 15 per cent decline in loans and advances from its Africa business.

The bank materially reduced its exposure to sectors such as oil and gas and mining and metals last year.

Overall, earnings from corporate and investment banking divisions

exceeded earnings from retail and business banking for the first time since the global financial crisis, as companies continued to invest despite the economic downturn.

Bates said while the macro environment had improved for banks in 2017, regulatory changes posed uncertainty. For example, the emergence of a conduct authority under Twin Peaks would increase banks' compliance costs and could result in fines, he said. Changes to financial reporting standards, whereby banks would have to take a view on lifetime expected losses from loans rather than actual losses, would lead to higher impairment charges, Bates said. *iNet Bridge*

## Digital publishing pays off for Axel Springer

BERLIN – German media group Axel Springer said yesterday its digital publishing empire would bring further increases in sales and profits in 2017, after meeting its forecasts last year.

The publisher achieved a net profit of 450 million euros (R6.3-billion) in 2016, up almost 50 per cent on the previous year's figure.

Operating, or underlying, profit increased 6.5 per cent to 595 million euros, on revenues around the same level as in 2015 at 3.3 billion. Axel Springer had lowered its own forecasts in October, blaming the financial effects of a joint venture with Switzerland's Ringier to bring the two groups' publications under one roof.

"Thanks to targeted investments in digital business models and complementary acquisitions, the group has consolidated its position as Europe's leading digital publisher," Springer said in a statement.

The Berlin-based group was among the first German publishers to make big bets on digital media, offering online subscriptions to tabloid Bild and conservative broadsheet Die Welt. It has also sold off a number of print titles and made big investments in digital-only publications such as Business insider. Digital offerings now account for 67 per cent of revenue and 72 per cent of profit at the publisher, founded just after the Second World War by journalist Axel Springer and a landmark in German public life. *AFP*



## Gauteng to spend R100m more to avoid another Esidimeni saga

JOHANNESBURG – The Gauteng Provincial Government is set to spend R100 million more on mental health patients from its R108-billion budget in the upcoming financial year.

The allocation for mental health patients is now R800 million, up from last financial year's R700 million.

Finance MEC Barbara Creecy made the budget announcement in the wake of the Esidimeni tragedy, which saw nearly 100 psychiatric patients dying after being moved to various non-government organisations from Life Esidimeni in a cost-cutting exercise. Health MEC Qedani Mahlangu, who made the decision, resigned. She's subsequently been charged with culpable homicide and contravening the National Health Act and Mental Health Care Act.

In his State of the Province speech last month, Gauteng Premier David Makhura promised to ensure better attention to the needs of the mentally ill in the province. Creecy said the allocation made towards mental healthcare was part of government's commitment to protecting the vulnerable and ensuring the implementation of the health ombud's recommendations. Creecy also said the province was the biggest contributor to the country's economy, at 35 per cent, and continued to grow at above the national average. She said 95 per cent of the budget came directly from national government while mostly of the province's own revenue was still generated from motor vehicle licences, gambling taxes, patient fees and interest earned on investments. *City press*



## Focus on SA scene

# ANC recalls Kannaland mayor to end coalition with DA

CAPE TOWN – The ANC in the Western Cape on Wednesday said it recalled the mayor and deputy mayor of Kannaland Local Municipality in an attempt to get the party out of its coalition agreement with the DA.

ANC and DA councillors brokered a coalition following the August 2016 local elections after none of the parties contesting the election achieved an outright majority in the municipality.

In a statement, ANC Provincial Secretary Faiez Jacobs said the provincial executive committee found the relationship with the DA unsustainable. “[We] are fundamentally in different political corners,” Jacobs said.

One of the councillors who recalled the deputy mayor, is also a ward councillor and by-elections are set to take place within the next 90 days to replace him, he said.

Jacobs said councillors entered into

an unauthorised agreement with the DA out of a mutual frustration with the municipality’s previous ruling party, ICOSA.

In August, DA Federal Council Chairperson James Selfe said DA Kannaland councillors faced disciplinary action over the coalition agreement with the ANC.

Western Cape DA spokesperson Anneke Scheepers could not confirm whether or not disciplinary processes around that matter had been concluded.

Asked why councillors are being punished for making a decision they believed was in the best interest of the municipality, Scheepers said a councillor is still required to act under the direction of party structures.

“People voted for them as councillors yes, but they were voted for underneath the DA banner and with that comes a certain set of values and procedures that



you have to adhere to,” she said.

A probe by the Western Cape government into the municipality’s finances in December revealed irregularities in the appointment of an acting municipal manager and a personal assistant.

It found that the municipality had serious cash flow problems. The municipality owed R37.6m by the end of April 2016, its primary account was overdrawn by R1.82m by the end of August, it had an overdraft facility of R4m and still owed Eskom R12m. **NEWS24**

## DA vows to defend ‘laughable’ R20m defamation suit from Eskom

CAPE TOWN – The Democratic Alliance has vowed to defend a “laughable” R20-million defamation suit leveled at it by Eskom over claims of corruption the party made against the energy parastatal.

Eskom announced on Wednesday that it had lodged papers in the Western Cape High Court against the DA, “for wrongful and defamatory actions by the party against the company and its Interim Group Chief Executive Matshela Koko”.

This was in response to an article published on the DA’s website on 30 January titled, “DA to PAIA R27 million Eskom report”.

The article relates to a report by global law firm Dentons the party believes contains damning information about corruption within Eskom.

A statement from Eskom quoted Interim Chief Executive of Eskom Matshela Koko as saying, “It has become a hobby of some organisations to publicly cast aspersions on people and throw wild accusations without facts, without any regard for people’s reputations”.

“We are fortunate that we live in a country where law still reigns supreme. We are therefore seeking the court’s protection from abuse of power, cheap politicking and public grandstanding that has



been at the centre of the Democratic Alliance’s public campaign against Eskom.

“Our position on the Dentons report is a matter of public record and we are open to engage political parties in Parliament as required by the law.” But DA MP and Shadow Minister of Public Enterprises, Natasha Mazzone, wasted no time in hitting back, saying the party had already filed its intention to defend the action.

“The fact that Mr Koko is seeking R20 million from the DA is laughable. The DA will not be intimidated and will not back down.” Mazzone added that the court action would “no doubt be funded by the South African taxpayer and therefore the DA will also be submitting parliamentary questions to expose how much this litigation will cost”.

She said the the party believed the comments it made were fair, “and made in relation to the Dentons report which is publically acknowledged to allegedly contain damning information on widespread corruption within the State-owned Entity”.

She said the DA has tried to access the full, uncensored version of the report and had submitted an application in terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) to gain access to the report, yet, to date, only redacted versions had been released.

“The report cost South Africans R27 million and we all deserve to know what the uncensored version contains. It is hoped that during this process, the full report, will be released.”

**TMG Digital**

## Countdown for Sassa, Dlamini to clarify actions

JOHANNESBURG – The South Africa Social Security Agency (Sassa) has until Monday to lodge papers explaining why it didn’t fulfil its legal obligations to report to the Constitutional Court.

The court also wants any new agreement with contractors to be monitored by an independent party. The Constitutional Court want-

ed answers from the social development minister and Sassa about the new social grants distribution agreement with Cash Paymaster Services.

### Information

Minister Bathabile Dlamini said she’s told her staff to work around the clock to supply the information needed by the court.

**eNCA**



SACKED: Popo Molefe.

## ‘PRASA board sacked to halt probe into corruption’

JOHANNESBURG – Fired Passenger Rail Agency of SA board Chairman Popo Molefe has accused Transport Minister Dipuo Peters of dissolving the board to kill its investigation into massive corruption.

Molefe, speaking on Cape Talk radio yesterday, said the board had refused to halt their investigations into corruption at Prasa.

Peters, he said, wrote to him last night ending his term as board chairman “because there was a public spat between the board and ... Mr Letswalo and she said that she is acting to restore good corporate governance.”

The board was dissolved after the Sunday Times revealed how former Prasa acting group CEO Collins Letsoalo had increased his salary by 350 per cent. The board said it had not approved the massive salary hike.

“It (the letter) says nothing. She does not tell us what this corporate governance that she is talking about is,” said Molefe. “The minister wants us to stop the investigation

which is a very important matter for this country on the wide ranging corruption that has taken place inside Prasa.

“We refused to stop those investigations when she wrote to us to do so. Clearly therefore the dissolution of the board is the easiest way of getting to that objective of ending the investigation.”

Peters was of the view that the investigation was a waste of money, he said. The probe involved billions of rands in irregular expenditure and irregular tenders and included issues raised in former Public Protector Thuli Madonsela’s 2015 Derailed report into Prasa.

Madonsela, among her findings, said that Prasa had improperly extended a tender worth nearly R2 billion to Siyangena Technologies.

“I do think that they are protecting someone. They are clearly protecting these people who are involved in this corruption,” said Molefe.

“In this country that is ravaged so much by corruption ... there should be a few people who stand up to attempt to stop this rot.” **TMG**

## Two cars involved in #ORTamboHeist recovered

JOHANNESBURG – The Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA) has heightened security in and around OR Tambo International Airport following a brazen robbery on Tuesday night.

Two vehicles involved in the robbery

were found in Mamelodi, east of Pretoria on Wednesday afternoon.

The cars, with police markings and sirens and blue lights activated, pulled up at a restricted access gate.

ACSA said when the armed perpetrators, clad in SAPS uniforms were

asked to show IDs, they forced security staff to lie on the ground.

They then removed an undisclosed amount of money from a sealed container.

“The team has been working around the clock in an effort to trace the rob-

bers. Thus far the two vehicles involved in the robbery have been recovered in Mamelodi, east of Pretoria. It was established that the bakkie had been made to look like an official police vehicle,” ACSA said in a statement.

“Management of Airports Company South Africa is deeply concerned by this robbery and the manner in which it took place. We are working closely

with law enforcement agencies to support both the investigation of this robbery and to establish what further measures will be taken.”

ACSA said the armed robbery happened at around 7.45pm on Tuesday night. No shots were fired and no injuries were reported. Some reports speculate the stolen money may have amounted to R24-million. **eNCA**



# Indian woman becomes a mother at seventy-three

● Daljinder Kaur, 73, from Amritsar, in Punjab, delivered her first child on April 19

● Her son, Armaan Singh, is now crawling, which is taking its toll on his mother

● Elderly mum stopped breastfeeding her son after three months and he is still tiny

● She is suffering from high blood pressure and weakening joints, but has no regrets

**INDIA** - A mother in India who had her first baby aged 72 has admitted her health has suffered since she gave birth.

Daljinder Kaur, 73, from Amritsar, in Punjab, northern India, delivered her first child on April 19, last year, but since the birth she has suffered with a high blood pressure and weakening joints.

Her son Armaan is now crawling, which is taking its toll on his elderly mother who stopped breastfeeding the youngster at three months.

She said: "My blood pressure has suffered and I get tired very easily now. I've seen several doctors but they just give me medicines and a diet plan.

...admits her body can't take it since giving birth and is struggling now that her 11-month-old daughter is crawling



**NO BIOLOGICAL CLOCK:** Mohinder Singh Gill, 80, posing with his wife Daljinder Kaur, 73, and their newly born baby boy, Armaan Singh.

"I'm worried for Armaan. I have to take care of my health but I have to care of Armaan too.

"Since he's been crawling I'm on my hands and knees and it's hard. My body can't take it. It's been harder than I thought."

Daljinder delivered her first child after

46 years of marriage.

Her husband Mohinder Singh Gill, 80, agreed to have IVF treatment following several failed attempts at having their own child.

Dr Anurag Bishnoi, 43, who runs the National Fertility Centre, in Hisar, India, decided to help the couple become a



**INCREDIBLE:** Daljinder Kaur, 73, with her newly born baby boy, Armaan Singh, outside her residence in Amritsar city of Punjab, India.

family.

Armaan Singh, who will be one next month, weighed just 3lbs 9oz at the time of birth but still only weighs 15lbs.

"He's still underweight," she said. "He's quite thin and even diapers of his age don't fit him.

"He could possibly be thin because I didn't feed him properly. I stopped breastfeeding him at three months as my milk wasn't developing well.

"We've asked doctors if there's any medicine we can give him to increase his weight but they said let him gain

weight naturally."

Daljinder feels that her age has made motherhood difficult.

She added: "I feel exhausted easily and the only time I get to rest is when he falls asleep.

"My husband and I fall ill frequently due to our age but we have to cope as we have to take care of our son.

"I do most of the work but his father contributes in whatever way he can.

"So, we collectively have taken the responsibility of raising our child in whatever way we can."

But Daljinder has no regrets.

"No matter where I am," she said, "he'll come crawling to me. I love him.

"He is a friendly child and smiles at everyone.

"This makes things very easy for me because I can be at ease when someone is around.

"I spend all day with him. We decided not to get any help. He loves his father a lot.

"He's always in his arms if I'm busy cooking or doing house work."

When Armaan turns one, on April 19, Daljinder and Mohinder plan to take him to the Golden Temple, in Amritsar, to seek blessings from God.

She said: "We do not want a party. He has been a blessing from God so we'll continue to respect that and take him to the Golden Temple for blessings for his good health and bright future.

"We also need blessings; we need as many good blessings as possible for our good health."

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## BRIEFS

## Investigators exhume remains of activist

**BANJUL** - The remains of a Gambian opposition activist, whose death last year sparked a series of protests that were once rare in this small west African country, have been exhumed by a team of investigators, police said. Solo Sandeng, the youth leader for the United Democratic Party, was arrested on April 14 for spearheading a peaceful demonstration demanding electoral reforms ahead of December elections. Sandeng was allegedly tortured by security forces and died after the arrest. His remains were exhumed on Saturday "by a team of investigators in the presence of his son Muhammed Sandeng and his brother Famara Sandeng", police spokesperson Foday Conta said. *AP*

## Smugglers kill 22 African migrants

**TRIPOLI** - People-smugglers have killed 22 African migrants on a beach in western Libya, a security source said. The migrants were set to embark from Sabrata beach, 70km west of Tripoli, in a perilous attempt to cross the Mediterranean, the source said. They were killed after refusing to board their boat due to bad weather, the source added. The Libyan Red Crescent confirmed the killings had taken place over the weekend, but was unable to provide further details. *AFP*

## NGO helps girls become money savvy

**LAGOS** - Junior Achievement Nigeria (JAN), an NGO, on Wednesday trained young pupils, especially girls, from four schools in Victoria Island, Lagos, on the importance of financial literacy. Simi Nwogugu, JAN Executive Director, told the News Agency of Nigeria, that the workshop was held to celebrate International Women's Day. The schools were the Federal Housing Primary School, Awoyaya Primary School, Ansarudeen Primary School and Victoria Island Primary School. *African News Agency*

## Emergency food rations airdropped

**LEER TOWN** - Emergency food aid was airdropped in famine-stricken areas of South Sudan on Monday, the World Food Programme (WFP) said, releasing video of the rations being distributed to locals. According to WFP, some 14 000 people had been registered and assisted by inter-agency rapid response mission teams deployed in Leer Town in Leer county. The locals were provided with 30-day rations including cereals, pulses and vegetable oil. Specialised nutritious fortified cereal (SSB++) was distributed to all children under the age of five to prevent and treat moderate acute malnutrition, WFP said. *Reuters*

## UN sanctions for Burundi officials

**NAIROBI** - Rights groups on Wednesday urged the UN Security Council to impose "targeted sanctions" on Burundian officials over alleged human rights violations there, in an open letter published online. The letter, penned by Human Rights Watch and Reporters Without Borders (RSF) among others, was published on the eve of a meeting of the UN's top decision-making body to discuss the crisis in the Great Lakes region. "We... write to urge the UN Security Council to impose targeted sanctions against individuals responsible for ongoing serious human rights violations in Burundi," the international and local rights group said. *Reuters*



## Sudan chemical warfare kills hundreds in Darfur

**KHARTOUM** - Human rights bodies and organisations advocating against the use of chemical weapons have called for an investigation into Sudan government forces for allegedly killing up to 250 civilians through such warfare.

Rights group Amnesty International said it had credible evidence of the repeated use of chemical weapons against civilians from January to August 2016 in the western Jebel Marra region of Darfur.

Amnesty called on the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), whose four-day executive council meeting began at The Hague on Tuesday to probe Sudan.

"These brutal attacks left an estimated 200 to 250 people



**INVESTIGATED:**  
Sudanese President  
Omar Al Bashir.

dead and scores more with horrific injuries, and the OPCW must fully and independently investigate them. Failure by member states to trigger the investigation would be a mon-

umental and shameful abdication of duty," said Michelle Kagari, Amnesty's Regional Director.

Kagari noted some states expressed concern at the use of chemical agents on civilians, but that was not enough. "They must ensure concrete steps are taken to determine the full nature and extent of Sudan's chemical weapons programme, and demand that Sudan fully cooperates."

Rights groups have called for the international community to also apply political pressure on Sudan to ensure it permits international peacekeepers and aid agencies access to Jebel Marra.

Some 300 000 civilians have been killed in the conflict in Darfur, which started in 2003.

*African News Agency*

## 'I was a 'clear' successor to Mugabe'

**LONDON** - Former Zimbabwean vice president Joice Mujuru has reportedly said that she was a "clear" successor to President Robert Mugabe just before she was expelled from both the ruling Zanu-PF and government in 2014.

Mujuru was kicked out after Mugabe's wife Grace, launched a campaign against her, accusing her of instigating factional fighting and plotting to topple the veteran leader.

Mujuru, however, denied the charges and formed her own party, along with other former Zanu-PF members.

According to New Zimbabwe, Mujuru said the "nation had fully endorsed my candidature" when Zanu-PF decided to expel her from government.

Mujuru said this during a presentation at the London School of Economics in the United Kingdom.

"When it became apparent that I was the clear successor to President Robert Mugabe, men seemed not ready for that although the nation had fully endorsed my candidature," Mujuru was quoted as saying.

A News Day report said Mujuru was, at the same event, bestowed with an Honorary Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her "positive contribution to society".

The award was presented to her by the Women Appreciating Women (WAW), an organisation founded by multi-award-winning entrepreneur, Kenyan-born UK-based billionaire Pauline Long.

*NEWS24*

## Nigeria shuts capital's airport for six weeks

**ABUJA** - Nigeria's capital was cut off by air on Wednesday, as Abuja airport closed for at least six weeks for repairs, forcing flights to divert and lengthening travel times for passengers.

Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport shut to all domestic and international flights from midnight (2300 GMT Tuesday), pending the start of long overdue work to resurface its potholed runway.

An Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 787 from Addis Ababa, which ordinarily would have landed in Abuja, instead touched down in Kaduna, some 190 kilometres to the north.

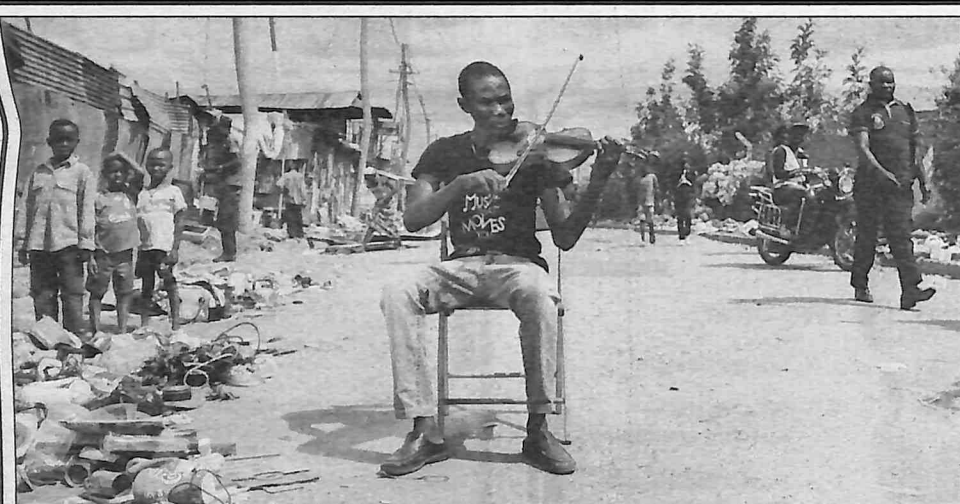
Fire service tenders gave a traditional water-cannon salute as it taxied to a standstill on the apron. Passengers said the landing was hitch-free.

Ethiopian Airlines is the only foreign carrier to switch routes to Kaduna. Others, including British Airways, Air France, Lufthansa, Turkish Airlines and South African Airways, have all declined to do so. Kaduna's ability to handle long-haul flights is understood to be behind the decision, as was safety for passengers and staff forced to travel by road between the two cities.

But Aviation Minister Hadi Sirika told reporters shortly after the first flight arrived: "There are quite a few doubting Thomases whether Kaduna can work. Kaduna is working."

The other airlines were now "probably regretting" their decision, he said, adding that he hoped they would change their minds.

An AFP reporter at Kaduna airport said security in and around the facility was tight, although work on parts of the new terminal building had not finished. *AFP*



**ENTERTAINMENT:** Julius 18, is playing in the streets of Korogocho. "making music keeps me busy. if I didn't play, I would probably be hanging out on the streets, he says"

## Cyclone kills at least five people

**ANTANANARIVO** - Cyclone Enawo, a massive tropical storm packing winds up to 300 km per hour (185 mph), killed at least five people when it slammed into the Indian Ocean island of Madagascar, officials said on Wednesday.

Enawo made landfall on the vanilla-producing northeastern coast on Tuesday morning, destroying roads and cutting off lines of communication to the Antalaha district that has a population of 230 000 people. By late Wednesday it had been downgraded from an intense tropical cyclone to a tropical storm with winds gusting up to 130 kph as it headed towards the capital Antananarivo.

Even as it was 100 km away from the city it was causing major disruption. The streets were deserted as people stayed indoors. Prime Minister Olivier Mahafaly ordered



**DISASTER:** Malagasy firefighters work to remove a fallen tree from a car caused by tropical cyclone Enawo in Antananarivo, Madagascar, on March 8, 2017. (AFP)

companies to let employees stay home to avoid the danger of rising water and landslides.

About 500 people took shelter in a sports hall after the Andriantany canal, which drains waste water from the city, overflowed.

As of 8pm (1700 GMT) five

people had been confirmed killed and seven injured, the national office of risk management said. An estimated 22 000 people were either displaced or had their property damaged by what was one of Madagascar's worst storms in years. *Reuters*



# World News

## Thousands of women rally for safety, rights in Latin America

**AMERICA** - Thousands of women across Latin America took to the streets Wednesday to demand an end to sexual harassment and violence, in a region where crime against women is rife and often steeped in traditional culture.

"March 8; If you stop a woman, you stop the world," said a banner over a rally in Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay, that attracted tens of thousands of protesters marking International Women's Day.

The gathering extended 1.5 kilometres (a mile) along 18 de Julio Avenue, with demonstrators calling for an end to violence against women and equal rights.

"Sorry to bother, but we're being killed," said one handwritten message on a cardboard placard.

Argentina has had a woman president yet "machismo" is prevalent in many areas of society.

Every 30 hours, a woman in Argentina is killed by her male partner or ex-partner.



**NO MORE:** Thousands of women across Latin America took to the streets on Wednesday to demand an end to sexual harassment and violence.

"Enough already! We want each other alive," read signs in purple lettering waved by the thousands who jammed the Plaza de Mayo in front of Argentina's presidential palace. Purple is the symbol of the movement against gender-based violence. Demonstrators largely were decked out in black to signify mourning.

Violence against women is part of long-held traditions in many of South America's Andean nations, with mixed Spanish-indigenous cultures. But it is also pervasive in countries such as Argentina and Uruguay where most people are of Italian descent. Even in better-off cities across the region, women who

go to police stations bruised and battered to report domestic violence are told to go home and make up.

Grimmer still; half of the 25 countries with the largest number of women killed are in Latin America, according to UN Women, a body that supports gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In Mexico's capital, thousands of women filled the vast Paseo de la Reforma.

"We don't want flowers. We want rights!" they chanted, as well as, "being a woman should not be a risk factor."

Mexican women say they are constantly beset by unwanted sexual talk on the streets, and often groped by strangers.

The region's only current woman President, Chile's Michele Bachelet, said on Twitter that "we renew our commitment to more rights, opportunities and an end to violence."

AFP

### Hollande decries decline in women's rights in US, Russia

**PARIS** - French President Francois Hollande on Wednesday spoke out against what he said was a decline in women's rights in the United States and Russia.

Speaking on International Women's Day, the French leader said that "threats of backtracking" on women's rights don't just come from "emerging nations or countries under dictatorships, but also in developed and rich countries".

"What about positions or intentions expressed by the new US administration?" he asked.

They would "reduce funding for family planning, as if this is the first cut to be made to allow an increase in military spending," he added.

Hollande also took aim at Moscow's policies, pointing out that a law that penalised violence against family members had recently been modified.

"Why would anyone change this text except to once again attack the freedom of women?" he complained. AFP

### Lebanon appoints new army chief ending deadlock

**BEIRUT** - Lebanon's Cabinet Wednesday appointed a new army chief General Joseph Aoun, ending a deadlock that twice forced an extension of the term of the military's sitting head.

The appointment of the successor to General Jean Kahwaji is the first by Lebanon's Cabinet since it was formed after President Michel Aoun's election in October.

A ministerial source told AFP the appointment had "the consensus of all the political forces", adding the new chief was "well-known and

removed from any political conflicts".

Michel Aoun, himself a former chief of Lebanon's army, is not related to Lebanon's president, although the two served together in the military.

Lebanon's already fractious political scene has faced tensions linked to the war in neighbouring Syria since March 2011.

A political stalemate left the country without a president for over two years until Michel Aoun was elected under a compromise deal in October 2016.

AFP



**BACK:** The Appleby, a former Royal Navy vessel used for training, is normally tied up in Padstow, North Cornwall, but last week the ship came loose and drifted across the River Camel and beached between Rock and Daymer Bay. For days, residents in the area had no idea how the ship ended up in north Cornwall, as it had no crew or captain, or where it came from. It wasn't until a week later that officials in Padstow came to retrieve the ship, which had floated north on its own. The boat has now been recovered from the shore and taken back to Padstow.

### CIA hacked - No more love for WikiLeaks from Trump

**WASHINGTON** - When WikiLeaks published the hacked emails of Hillary Clinton's campaign manager last year, then-candidate Donald Trump had one thing to say: "I love WikiLeaks."

But there wasn't a lot of love from the Trump administration on Wednesday, after WikiLeaks published thousands of documents described as secret files about CIA hacking tools. White House press Secretary Sean Spicer answered questions on the latest WikiLeaks disclosure by saying that leaks of national security or classified information should have everybody "out-

raged." "This is the kind of disclosure that undermines our country, our security and our well-being," he said. The hacking tools described in the documents published on Tuesday by WikiLeaks are used to break into computers, mobile phones and even smart TVs from companies like Apple, Google, Microsoft and Samsung.

The documents describe clandestine methods for bypassing or defeating encryption, antivirus tools and other protective security features intended to keep the private information of citizens and corporations safe from prying eyes. AP

### BRIEFS

#### FBI chief says he's going nowhere

**WASHINGTON** - FBI Director James Comey said on Wednesday he plans to hold his job until 2023, amid a political storm that has made him a target of both US political parties. Comey's leadership of the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been marked by controversy over its investigation into Hillary Clinton's email and President Donald Trump's unsubstantiated accusations that Barack Obama ordered the wiretapping of phones at Trump Tower. But Comey told a cyber security conference in Boston that he has no plans to step down, three years into his 10-year term at the helm of the powerful law enforcement agency. "You are stuck with me for another six-and-a-half years," he said. Any decision on whether Comey stays or goes, would not be his alone, however. AFP

#### Suspect killed his mother for no reason

**LOIUSBERG** - A man accused of decapitating his mother told authorities that he stabbed her numerous times because he "felt like it," according to newly released court documents. The suspect told a 911 dispatcher that he had stabbed his mother eight times and left the knife in her mouth, according to a copy of the search warrant filed on Tuesday afternoon with the court clerk. Asked why he killed her, he told the dispatcher "because I felt like it," according to the court document. When asked whether he had checked to see if his mother was still breathing, he responded: "She's dead." AP

#### Deaf Syrians learn the language of war

**DAMASCUS** - Twice raising the little finger represents "I" and placing a thumb on the index finger and the middle finger makes an "S" to signify ISIS, or the Islamic State jihadist group. At an NGO in Damascus, two young deaf Syrians, Bisher and Ryad, are working to create special sign language characters so thousands of Syrians like them can talk about the war that has ravaged their country for the past six years. They have created a way to sign both the English word for the IS group but also the acronym used for it in Arabic: Daesh. To indicate the government, two fingers are placed on the palm, recalling the two stars on Syria's national flag. AFP



#### 19 teenage girls die in Guatemala

**SAN JOSE PINULA** - At least 19 teenage girls died Wednesday in a fire in an overcrowded Guatemala shelter for children under government care, following an overnight rebellion against staff accused of sexual abuse. All those killed were aged between 14 and 17. "For the moment we have confirmation of 19 girls killed," the Secretary General of the public ministry, Mayra Veliz, told reporters. Seventeen of the bodies were charred. The condition of the other two victims was unknown. AFP

#### ISIS to hold onto scraps of 'caliphate'

**WASHINGTON** - The Islamic State group has lost most of the land it once held in Iraq and Syria but hopes to cling to scraps of a self-declared caliphate, a US official said. Since summer 2014, when ISIS was at its peak just ahead of the US-led war on the group, the jihadists have lost 65 per cent of the land they'd seized across much of northern Syria and large parts of Iraq, the US defence official said. ISIS now is looking beyond the seemingly inevitable loss of their strongholds of Mosul in Iraq and Raqqa in Syria. AFP





# Eswatini Entertainment

## STEPPING OUT..



NEWS  
REVIEWS  
STAR SIGNS  
CELEBRITY WATCH  
CARTOONS

TOMORROW

# 'MVASI' ON FLEEK

By Nomfundo Sifundza

THE University of Swaziland re-opens with a loud bang. hear it oh fun lovers.

Most of us are crying out for pay day already but who does not want to see a bunch and actually a large bunch of happy students?

DJ Tira, NaakMusiq will be in the mix, the Sotho Zagro DeeJays and how could we forget DJ Switch.

Here are the rest of the places to drown thy sorrows away this week-end.



HOT: Naakmusiq at Boleswa opening bash.

## TONIGHT

## MBABANE CAMPUS FRESHERS

Where: UNISWA MPH

Time: 7pm

Who is the drop dead gorgeous and freshest of them all in the capital city campus?

pus?

Find out tonight at UNISWA MPH.

Entrance is E30 and E50 for non students.

## HIP HOP vs HOUSE MUSIC

Where: Pub N Grill

Time: 8pm

Join DJs Calinda and MKay at an entrance fee of

E40.

The fun goes on even on Saturday, same time, same place, same spinners

## THE NEW SCHOOL vs THE OLD SCHOOL

Where: TC Pub N Rest

Time: 7pm

TC Pub N Rest presents The New School vs Old School Party with DJ 711 both tonight and tomorrow. For a wide variety of music genres.

## CROWDPULLER @ PRIMAVERA

Where: Primavera (Ngwenya)

Time: 5pm

Beyond Imagination Events under DJ DD Cool's leadership presents CrowdPuller with DJs Deboneng, Vuckzin and artists; Mellz, Tokcik and King T Cash.

## BOLESWA OPENING BASH

Where: Prince of Wales

Time: 12mid day until late

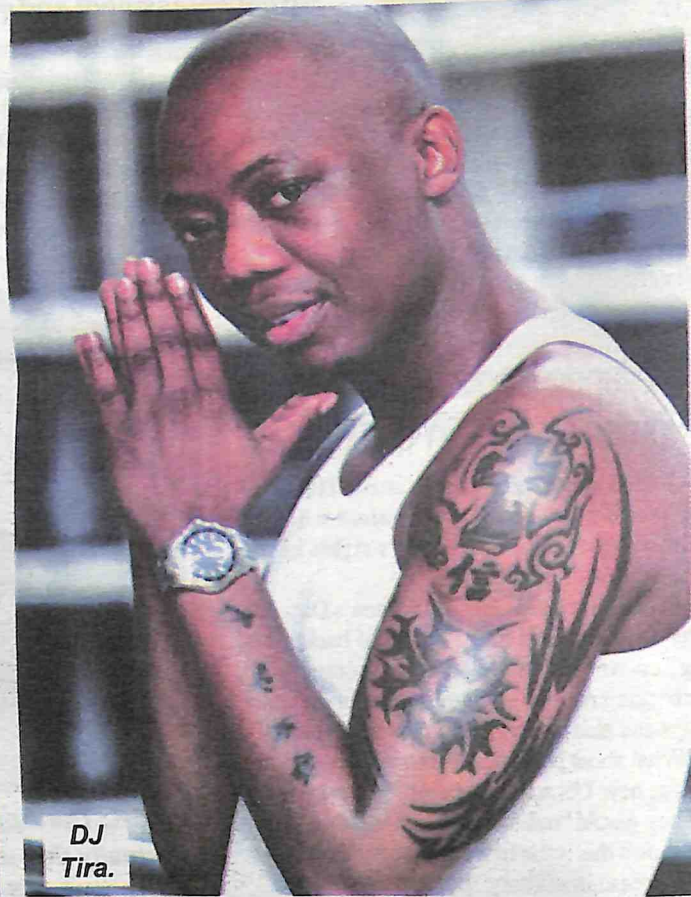
Yes ofcourse this is part of the intervarsity games and guess what 'sohamba ngo seven' as DJ Tira will be 'daah.' The hot Naakmusiq will also be in the mix.

## SWAZIBOY KASI TOUR

Where: Kwaluseni Supermarket

Time: 1pm-5pm

One of the country's biggest entertainment stables is on a search for some real talent. If you are between age 16 - 30 do make your way to Kwaluseni Supermarket to showcase what you are made of.



DJ Tira.

## Trippy King ditches Ginoh for Blaque Creations

By Nomfundo Sifundza

PROMISING hip hop star Trippy King 20 has parted ways with his long-time serving friend and manager Ginoh Kash.

Barely a week after Ginoh helped the rapper produce his video featuring Nigerian hip hop artist Ice Prince, Trippy King 20 confirmed yesterday that their work relationship with Ginoh had come to an end owing to a failure to agree on certain terms stipulated in a contract Ginoh offered.

"My mom was not happy about the contract that Ginoh offered, nor was my girlfriend so I decided to go to the other direction because we were now seeing things differently," he said.

Ginoh Kash, having been alerted by a friend that he might be losing the only artist he was managing then took it upon

himself to find out if the news were true, to his surprise Trippy was indeed in talks with Blaque Creations Management and it looked as though they were going to sign him.

Blaque Creations founder Sipho Makhanya also confirmed that they were in talks with the artist but made it clear that they were not promising raining cash every day but they simply wanted to add value into the rapper's work.

"Look, we do not have any artists signed as of now but evaluating the terms of managing Trippy King looks like a good move but we are still on the table discussing it," Makhanya said.

Ginoh Kash and Trippy King 20 have worked together for the longest time even before the rapper was visible in the face of the entertainment scene.

Ginoh referred himself to as 'Trippys talent developer' and wished him the best of luck in his new endeavour.



GREENER PASTURES: Trippy King.

The two had been Bonnie and Clyde for the past two years. Ginoh said he was the one that got the rapper deals like the Ice Prince feature, Buffalo Souljah, Zamani and a number of international acts were in the pipeline for his debut album.

## BUSHFIRE EARLY BIRD TICKETS SOLD OUT

By Ayanda Dlamini

THE early birds tickets to the prestigious and Africa's greatest festival, MTN Bush fire 2017 are sold out.

This was confirmed by MTN Bushfire Communications Officer Noncedo Dlamini.

MTN Bushfire launched the physical tickets last Friday, 3 March. "The public is now informed that physical early bird tickets are sold out!

However, they can still purchase tickets at standard prices," Dlamini said.

Dlamini mentioned that the response in physical ticket buying is overwhelming. "MTN Bushfire 2017 ticket sales have increased compared to the same

period in 2016.

This means that people are purchasing tickets at a faster rate and people are encouraged to get their tickets while stocks last to avoid missing out on the festival," she said.

## Commenced

According to Dlamini, ticket sales commenced with an early bird promotion that allowed buyers to purchase tickets at discounted prices.

Dlamini mentioned that standard tickets are still available at MTN Service Centres at Corporate Place in Mbabane and Riverstone Mall in Manzini as well as All Out Africa in Malkerns.

"The physical ticket option is currently only available for fans in Swaziland," she said.



# MAGAYA RETURNS WITH 'ABANGANI'

By Phumelele Mkhonta

AFTER going dormant for almost a year, Swaziland's current hot kwaito star, 'Magaya', has made a return into the entertainment industry with his single 'Abangani'.

The track, which is already proving to be a hit, was dropped February, 22 after being at the music laboratory from last year November.

According to the kwaito artist, the song was recorded at Ekasi Records, a professional recording studio under universal music and it was produced by Weybur Smith who also mixed and mastered it.

"This track is a huge step in my career hence I took ample time to craft it. I have not dropped such a bombshell in a while now and I am loving the response

I am getting from my fans. My fans are giving me a pat on the back and I am proud of this track," commented Magaya.

The 'Money Talks' hitmaker added his management team is working on having 'Abangani' on iTunes and Google Play before the end of the week, while on the other hand, the link is available on social media.

"I want to believe this is a pretty good song which is educational to most males but I certainly would not want to blow my own horn. I just encourage music lovers to get their hands on it," he added.

**BOUNCES BACK:**  
Kwaito artist Magaya.



## Intervarsity opening bash venue changed

By Phumelele Mkhonta

FOLLOWING the big hype created around this event and a high number of students expected from the University of Lesotho, the BOLESWA opening bash venue has been changed from Lidvuba Lodge (Matsapha) to the Prince of Wales, Mbabane.

According to the Minister on Internal Affairs Sandile 'Gazelle' Gama they are expecting at least 1 500 students from Lesotho.

The intervarsity games will however not have students from Botswana as they have had to cancel.

"We cannot really account as to why Tswana students will not make it in this year's Intersvarsity games, but the numbers of the local stu-

dents added and fun lovers will be massive and the event will be hosted at Prince of Wales," Gama explained. The BOLESWA Intersvarsity Opening bash is hosted by Rock the City which is a South African based record label company.

"We would like to assure fun lovers that the venue change will not disrupt any arrangements made,

The BOLESWA Intersvarsity Opening bash is hosted by Rock the City which is a South African based record label company

and also, we will enact a tent big enough to cover students and fun lovers in case it pours," added Gama.

Students and fun lovers will be partying with DJ Tira, Naak Musiq, DJ SK, DJ Switch, DJ Mfundo, DJ Vesta, Lyrical Busta and The Scientists and other talented entertainers.

## CHILDREN ROCK FASHION

By Nomfundo Sifundza

THE Gables situated in Ezulwini was set ablaze with childrens fashion in dashing outfits on Saturday.

The Gables Party Shop had set the day apart for a fashion show for children and those who made

it made sure to steal the runway promising to be the next kings and queens of the ramp.

The Party Shops Lindiwe Dlamini said she was impressed by the confidence the children exuded as they paraded for onlookers drawing them close the the ramp.

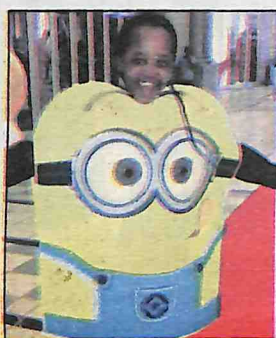
Here are a few snaps from the ramp;



**CHEESE:** Muku Mtsetfwa in a traditional Canadian outfit at the Kids Fashion which was held at The Gables in Ezulwini on Saturday. **RIGHT - PHAROAH:** Thubelihle Dlamini dashing a Pharoah outfit. (courtesy pics)



1. **SWEET OWL:** Siviwe Dlamini stole the show with her untainted confidence in an owl outfit. 2. **MINI:** Little Oscar threw onlookers in stitches as he paraded in a minion outfit. 3. **DANGER:** Mcebisi Dlamini in a Rey Mesterio outfit. 4. **BAD GIRL:** Sena Shabalala in a ninja outfit.



1. **LIL ONE:** Mono Malinga looking innocent in a barbie costume. 2. **PEACE:** Muku Mtsetfwa came back in an Elsa Frozen outfit. 3. **HAPPY MINION:** Sena Shabalala in a minion costume. 4. **BLUE AS THE SKY:** Tamara Thindwa in a Anna Frozen costume.

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# ★ Celebrity ★ Watch ★

## Eva's two reasons for red carpet disappearance

**LOS ANGELES** - Eva Mendes was MIA during this past award season and did not accompany Ryan Gosling to the Oscars and other ceremonies. And it appears there are two reasons why.

"What people don't know about me is that I love being home," Mendes told *Shape* magazine, which features her on its April 2017 cover. "Instead of hitting the red carpet, I'd rather be with our girls."

The actress and her longtime partner are parents of Esmeralda, two, and Amada, 11 months.

In her interview with *Shape*, Mendes talked about how motherhood has taken a bit of a toll on



**INDOORS PERSON: Eva Mendes.**

her fitness regimen.

"I have two babies now, two girls, and before I had them, I actually ran a lot more," Mendes told *Shape*. "I used to really love to run." *TMZ*

## Harry Potter actor in horrific 'head on' car crash

**CALIFORNIA** - Harry Potter actor is fighting to recover in intensive care after being involved in a horrific 'head on' car crash on Monday.

Jim Tavaré, who appeared in the movie 'Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban', suffered a punctured lung, a broken neck, 15 broken ribs and multiple other injuries in the accident.

The 54-year-old actor and comedian, who played Tom the Innkeeper in the hit 2004 film, managed to raise a thumbs up sign in a picture shared on social media by his wife, Laura.

The British thespian, who moved to Los Angeles in 2008



**NEAR DEATH: Jim Tavaré.**

after his successful appearance on reality show 'Last Comic Standing', has also undergone two blood transfusions and requires surgery. *DailyMail*

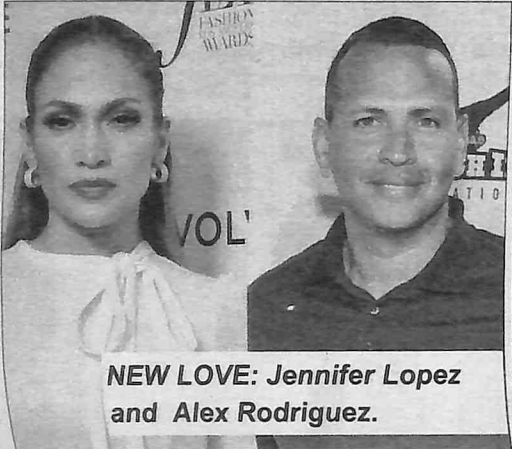
## J.Lo and Alex Rodriguez are dating

**LOS ANGELES** - Jennifer Lopez appears to be ready to live it up with a handsome new man.

E! News can confirm the music superstar is dating former New York Yankees baseball player Alex Rodriguez.

"This is very, very new," a source shared with E! News. "It's not serious at all. J. Lo is just dating."

"Jennifer and Alex are both not looking for a relationship, just a



**NEW LOVE: Jennifer Lopez and Alex Rodriguez.**

good light-hearted time," our insider added. "They are on the exact same page." *Eonline*

## LeBron James is coming under fire

**NEW YORK** - LeBron James was asked which celebrity women he had a crush on, and here was his answer.

By the way, Eva Mendes is one of my favourite women of all time. My wife knows it. ...

There's three Jennifers, I love Jennifers. I'm a Jennifer Aniston guy, a Jennifer Lawrence guy ... Jennifer Lopez, those are my three Jennifers that I love and then it's Scarlett Johansson and it's Eva Mendes." "Jessica Biel is unbelievable.

Now LeBron is coming under fire because he didn't mention any Black women on the list. Is this



**IN HOT WATER: LeBron James and his wife.**

fair? He does have a Black wife, you know??? *MTO*

## Kwesta: Best kid on the block

**JOHANNESBURG** - Kwesta may have been snubbed at the Metro FM Music Awards last weekend, but he definitely deserves the Song of the Year accolade.

He revolutionised the Mzansi hip-hop scene with his track 'Ngud', featuring Cassper Nyovest, last year.

He continues to break boundaries with his latest offering, 'Ngiyaz'fela Ngawe', featuring a cast of his closest friends and family.

In the music video, which includes his daughter Khai and long-time girlfriend Yolanda, Kwesta gives fans a glimpse of his personal life.



**THE BEST: Kwesta.**

He says the music video represents how love always triumphs over adversities. *SundayWorld*

## Lerato Kganyago doubted the drive time slot

**JOHANNESBURG** - Lerato Kganyago shares how her insecurities caused by lack of experience on radio made her question if she could handle taking over the 3pm drive time show on Metro FM.

In an interview with *Drum*, the presenter shared how she wasn't sure she was ready for the responsibility of running a drive show on one of the biggest radio stations in South Africa.

"I didn't think I was ready for it - I had only been in radio for maybe a year and a half and felt I couldn't handle it," she said.

She admitted that she actually thought it was a joke when she



**INSECURE: Lerato Kganyago.**

and Mo Flava were called into a meeting where the news was announced.

*Sowetan*

## Prince Kaybee on sick leave

**JOHANNESBURG** - Award-winning DJ Prince Kaybee has taken a break from music to recover from painful chest surgery.

The Charlotte hitmaker was wheeled into theatre this week to have fat tissue removed from his chest. He posted a selfie from his hospital bed on Wednesday to reassure fans that he was well and recovering from the procedure. He revealed that he has lived his whole life with the condition and that it had often made him feel self-conscious.

"I have been battling with this since I was a kid, was very uncomfortable when taking off my clothes in front of other kids. I also start-



**TAKING A BREAK: DJ Prince Kaybee.**

ed going to the gym last year, but it was very hard for me because I couldn't burn the fat tissue so my doctor advised I do this operation. I'm grateful all went well, I'm healthy and I must exercise soon," he wrote.

*Timeslive*

## He beat me to a pulp - Shoki

**JOHANNESBURG** - Celebrity power couple Sello and Shoki Sebotsane seemed to have it all - looks, success, two gorgeous kids and fairytale romance.

But it seems all that glitters isn't gold as *DRUM* exclusively sat down with Shoki who revealed that the couple's 10 year marriage was very far from perfect.

"I fought so hard to be idolised (by the public) I had to give us a false life just because I wanted the world to see us in a certain way,"

the Skeem Saam actress tell *DRUM* in an exclusive interview.



**SOUR MARRIAGE: Shoki Sebotsane.**

Shoki reveals that from day one there was tension in their marriage. She relates of a point when the couple slept in separate bedrooms and she took to sleeping with a

*Drum*

## WEEKLY SOAPIE DIGEST

### ISIBAYA

TODAY

Iris' attempt to help the Zungus places her in real danger, whilst Mehlemamba is in turmoil about Mpiyakhe's decision. Zama makes a risky move as the Zungu children put their plan into action.



**RISKING: Zama.**

### ISIDINGO

TODAY

Nikiwe is determined to stop Barker from getting his hands on SG. Kamogelo goes into mourning with Nina. Zukisa is asked to come home by Uncle Stweni.



**DETERMINED: Nikiwe.**

### Muvhango

TODAY

KK and Azwindini come to blows. Rendani's surprise for Kat turns out to be quite unexpected... Mulondo invites Dee out on date.



**BLOWS: KK.**

### RHYTHM CITY

TODAY

Bash's murder charges hang on a thread. Kwela dangles a desirable opportunity before Reneilwe. Toolkit is stung by Niki's choice of Suffocate over him. Fats gets Sis Bee to encourage Cuba to back away from Kop



**AT RISK: Bash.**



PICTURE OF THE DAY

# WHEN YOU SEE YOUR EX

AFRICANGIRLSKILLINGIT



WITH THE GUY SHE TOLD YOU NOT TO WORRY ABOUT

## TODAY'S HOROSCOPE

**Capricorn**  
December 22 – January 19  
You always come off well in a group and manage to get your ideas across to others. Today however, you may just want some time away from the routine. You could be teaching a hobby or religion or giving a presentation to those that travel through your area. A game of golf or a shopping expedition sounds mighty nice. Keeping on your toes to do your best is the better avenue to take for now as you may find a person will enter your life and will become a benefit to your future in some way.



**Aquarius**  
January 20 – February 18  
You are entering into a new time in your life that will compliment your education or past experiences with the business world. You have much to offer and it is time to step up and make yourself known as the natural leader or professional that you have become. A family member may show appreciation for your determination to work and move forward with your goals. You are reminded of some simple pleasures this afternoon as you sip coffee and visit with a friend.



**Pisces**  
February 19 – March 20  
Your mind runs to domestic issues—home and family are on your mind. This happens often and could work against your career interests, especially if your job requires managerial and organisational skills as you make sales presentations out of town. Perhaps you will want to think about creating a home business. There is a yearning to broaden your horizons now and this may take center stage in your life. This may involve some form of law, politics, education, travel or religion.



**Aries**  
March 21 – April 19  
Coordinator of events is where you shine best. Whatever you do or plan to see, the outcome will be successful and this is where much of your energies and enthusiasm is spent. Perhaps this event is a company picnic or sales show that needs your coordinated efforts. You can find the best place, time and atmosphere for successful results. You put a lot of thought and time into being different, avoiding the commonplace with great determination. Your drive to invent and find new ways to use things is very clever.



**Taurus**  
April 20 – May 20  
Others may find you especially witty and eccentric at times. This is an outgoing and very expressive cycle. The only thing to be careful about is to know your facts before you express what you think are the facts. Now more than ever, you want to be admired and appreciated by others, to do and create things that stir their hearts. Good things and the support you need always seem to come to you and that is the case now.



**Gemini**  
May 21 – June 21  
Work with the unexpected today. Good things happen when you least expect them to happen. A move, a trip or a new piece of equipment will be welcomed around your place. This could mean the old equipment at work has become available to purchase and could be your new equipment at home. Updating equipment around the workplace is always fun and you are sure to point out the reasons to spend a little extra time for the learning curve. This afternoon and evening you may be running errands, cooking and bringing people together.



**Cancer**  
June 22 – July 22  
Career moves may depend upon your cutting through some of the fluff and really taking care of business, getting down to your most practical. Know what you want and get rid of anything that clutters your path, within reason of course. Today may be the day you think and plan. Talk with a co-worker friend or plan to seek an advisor from a junior college in your hometown. Many times the educational arena helps the public by offering placement testing in the job field. It would be good to see what they might recommend.



**Leo**  
July 23 – August 22  
There is a need to be the center of attention today—perhaps you have worked particularly hard on a project and no one has noticed—patience. If this is some accomplishment that only you would know and care about, you might want to make it known that you want to celebrate your survival or success. You will have people join with you to celebrate. You cannot expect others to know what you want if you do not ask. Later today you may enjoy some tourist attraction or a bookstore for some new acquisition.



**Virgo**  
August 23 – September 22  
A yearning to learn more about lots of different things may find you in a bookstore or museum, or attending a lecture. Some subject matter may remind you of one or two people in your family and you may decide to spend time with these people through phone conversations or visiting. If these are elderly people, make a list of things you can do to make their life more comfortable.



**Libra**  
September 23 – October 23  
Your attitude toward change is positive and interestingly the changes at this time are viewed as an adventure. You may see life as boring if you move through your days, weeks and months without much of a change. Transportation to a nearby city may be experienced today by a somewhat different mode of transit than the customary one. At home you may decide on creating a mural for your wall where you do your personal work or where you eat. Very likely a new colour scheme will match or lift the mood.



**Scorpio**  
October 24 – November 21  
You should be able to get your ideas across with ease. There are energies in the works, making this day a bright and witty one. Your communication skills are at a high-water mark. You show patience with others and you are able to respond to the world and to build upon what is already present, accentuating the positive. You are willing to listen to others, take cues and then reflect and build upon that information.



**Sagittarius**  
November 22 – December 21  
You know just what to do and can act without any hesitation. This could involve matters regarding public relations. You respond quickly to the opportunity to speak and express your concerns for a community or organisation. Your presentation will gain the attention of others and you must be ready for a question and answer period. You and others will come up with new solutions to old problems.



## BABY BLUES



## BUCKLES



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



## Home Wordsearch

# PUZZLE CHOICE

**WRITINGS**  
Can you find the hidden words? They may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forwards or backwards.

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

ASSAIL, ATTACK, BATTLE, CHALLENGE, CHAMPION, CLASH, COMBAT, COMPETITION, CONFLICT, CONQUEST, CONTENDER, CONTEST, DEFEAT, DEFEND, DRAW, ENEMY, FIGHT, GAME, MATCH, OFFEN-

SIVE, OPPOSITION, OUTDO, OUTFLANK, OVERCOME, OVERPOWER, PARRY, PLAYER, PROTECT, REPEL, RESIST, RIVAL, SPORT, STRUGGLE, TRIUMPH, VANQUISH, VICTORY, WARRIOR, WITHSTAND.

## She don't cook

I take my wife everywhere, but she keeps finding her way back. I asked my wife, "Where do you want to go for our anniversary?"



She said, "Somewhere I have never been!" I told her, "How about the kitchen?"

## No more spark

I've been in love with the same woman for 49 years. If my wife ever finds out, she'll kill me! My wife and I have the

secret to making a marriage last. Two times a week, we go to a nice restaurant, a little wine, good food. She goes Tuesdays, I go Fridays.

## USELESS FACTS

1. Mr. Rogers was an ordained minister.
2. The average person falls asleep in seven minutes.
3. There are 336 dimples on a regulation golf ball.
4. Stewardesses" is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand.
5. A rat can last longer without water than a camel.

## BRAINTEASERS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Yesterday's brain-teasers

1. You're running a race and pass the person in 2nd place. What place are you in now?  
**Answer:** You're in second place. You didn't pass the person in first.
2. Imagine you are in a dark room. How do you get out?  
**Answer:** Stop imagin-

ing.

### Today's brainteasers

1. Who makes it, but has no need of it. Who buys it, but has no use for it. Who uses it but can neither see nor feel it. What is it?
2. You answer me, but I never ask you a question. What am I?





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## HIGHLIGHTS

### THE TRANSPORTER



#### The Transporter

**Tonight 18:25 M-Net 106**  
Frank Martin delivers whatever you pay him

to. But he's a man with strange principles, who sticks to the rules no matter what.



#### Love, Wedding, Marriage

**Tomorrow 20:00 | Universal Channel (117)**  
Mandy Moore turns this romcom into delightful viewing. A

marriage counsellor's world is upended when her parents' happy marriage unexpectedly heads for divorce.



#### Black Sails

**Sunday 21:10 | HISTORY (186)**  
Set in the brutal and

cut-throat golden age of eighteenth-century piracy.

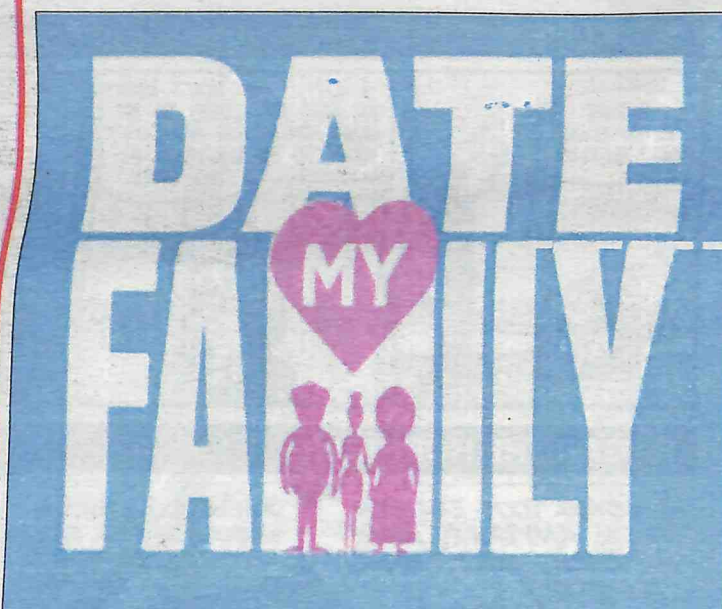


#### The revolution won't be televised

**Sunday 18:00 | BET (129)**  
Thiat and Kilifeu, Senegalese activists and underground hip-hop singers, lead this one-year revolution against President Wade, until his fall in 2012. But what is beyond a revolution? Will the

two friends succeed in their 17 year long quest for recognition as musicians? By highlighting an emerging African urban youth movement, the revolution won't be televised, but it will be documented.

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## OLIVIA POPE- THE FIXER

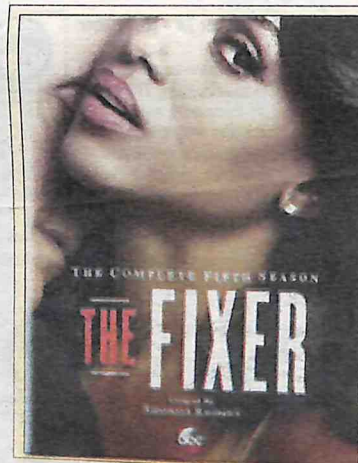
Everyone has secrets and Olivia Pope has dedicated her life to protecting and defending the public images of the elite by keeping those secrets under wraps.

**\*Kerry Washington's acting career\***

Making her acting debut in the ABC telefilm "Magical Make-Over" in 1994, Kerry Washington has since appeared in numerous other features both on TV and big screen. In 2004, she secured the part of musician Ray Charles' wife, Della Bea Robinson, in the biographical film "Ray". The role, indeed, became her stepping stone to explore a wider range of characters through various film gen-

res. Several of the notable films she has starred in among others were "Mr. & Mrs. Smith" (2005), "The Last King of Scotland" (2006), and "Django Unchained" (2012). Besides, she was also well known for portraying the role of Alicia Masters in "Fantastic Four" (2005) and its sequel "Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer" (2007).

On the small screen, Washington had guest starring roles on such series, as "NYPD Blue", "Law & Order", "The Guardian", "Boston Legal", and "Black Panther". By 2012, she was billed to star as Olivia Pope, one of the lead roles on ABC's political thriller series "Scandal". Her character, who is



Kerry Washington.

a crisis management expert to the President, won her recognition from public worldwide while at the same time also earned her a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a

Drama Series, Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Drama Series, and a Golden Globe Award for Best Actress in a Television series.



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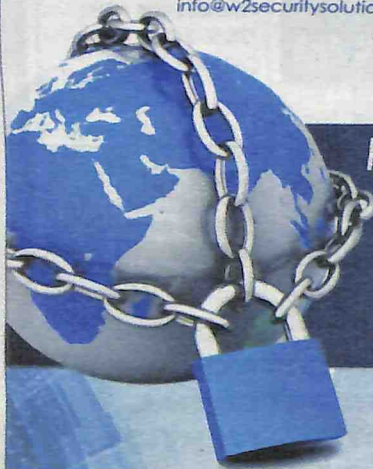
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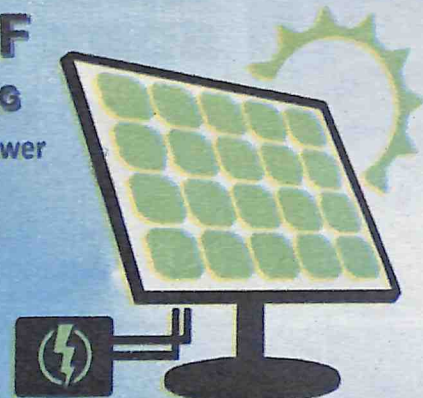
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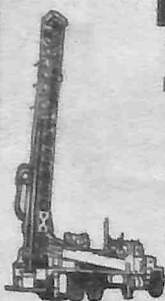
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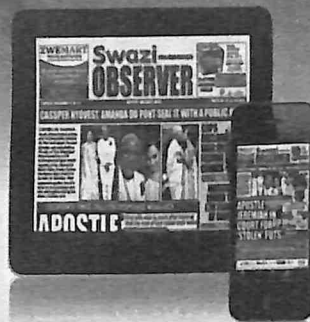
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## 15 DEATHS



Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani ba **Paulos Lucky Maziya** kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Kwatiswa basekhakhe ka Nhleko nalabo labanebantfwana naye kanye neba kagogo wakhe entlasifane nebaka Maziya eNsangwini. Ufihlwa ngeMgcibelo. Simemetelo sikhokhwa nguMandla Wilson Maziya egameni lemndeni.



**Delinah dlamini (nee matsebula)** has passed on to be with the Lord. Memorial service will be held at Fairview FEA Manzini on 11/03/2017 Saturday. Funeral on Sunday 0430 am after a night vigil at Bushayankhomo - Mbekelweni Magwaza Station.



Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani ba **Zodwa Todwa Dlamini** lobekatiwa ngekutsi (nguMavuso), lebekatalwa ngu Phindile Mhlanga kuMaliyaduma embeka kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Umlindzelo ngalesihlanu 10/03/2017 ufihlwa ngeMgcibelo ekhaya kubo kuMaliyaduma (Mbeka). Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumnakabo Muzi Dlamini egameni lemndeni.



Kwatiswa tihlobo nemndeni wa **Mbidlana Nxumalo** kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Kwatiswa benguni eBulandzeni neMaLangeni ekufukeni (bekhakhakhe). Ufihlwa eMaphalaleni ngeMgcibelo mhlaka 11/03/2017 emuvakwemlindzelo. Ufihlwa ngeliso leMaLangeni. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngu Macebo nxumalo egameni lemndeni.



Relatives and friends of **Margret Shabalala** known as Make Mbambo are notified of her demise. She will be laid to rest on Saturday 11th March after a night vigil on Friday 10th at her home at Mbekelweni High School. Then proceed to Dups for cremation. Announcement by her son Lucky Mbambo on behalf of the family.



Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani ba **Babe Mtsakatsi Luke Tsabedze** kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Ufihlwa ngeliso mhlaka 12 March 2017 emva kwemlindzelo ekhaya lakhe eNgculwini. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngu Mbongiseni Tsabedze egameni lemndeni.



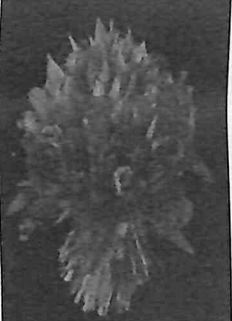
Kwatiswa tihlobo nemndeni wa **Thomas Gule** lobekalisotja eMbuluzi kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Kwatiswa bekhakhakhe kaMabuza nebaka Zikalala. Ufihlwa ngemgcibelo mhlaka 11 march 2017 emva kwemlindzelo ngelwesihlanu kaHhohho. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngu Sakheni Gule egameni lemndeni.

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## Our Deepest Condolences

Death is only a bridge towards eternal life with God. Certainly Heaven is rejoicing for another soul has finally reached his true home.



Relatives and friends of **Gloria Nomsa Anderson** are notified that she is late. There will be a memorial service at Cathedral Mandzini at 2pm on Friday 11/03/2017. She will be laid to rest at her parental home ka-khoza Mhobodleni on Saturday 11/03/2017 after a night vigil. Announcement by family.



Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani ba **Mabutseka Isaiah Tsabedze** lotalwa ngu Chief Mswelantfo kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Utawufihlwa ngeMgcibelo 11/03/2017 emva kwemlindzelo ngalesihlanu; inkondzo yesikhumbuto ngalesihlanu nga 2.00 pm Emseni Methodist ngase Filling station. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumndeni wakhe.



Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani ba **Phazamisa Po Dlamini** kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Kwatiswa bakubo kaVelezizweni, bekhakhakhe ka fakudze eMacetjeni kanye nalabo bekasebenta nabo emasotjeni eNsingizini ka - Hhohho. Utawufihlwa ngelisonfto 12/03/2017 emvakwemlindzelo. Simemetelo sikhishwa MaLangeni ka Velezizweni.



Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani ba **Lindiwe Nelly Sifundza (nee Mthethwa)** kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Utawufihlwa ngeMgcibelo 11/03/2017 ekhakhakhe kuBoyane kaNdlela ngemuva kwemlindzelo. Kwatiswa nebakubo kaLanga eNgcamini kanye nalabase Nkambeni. Simemetelo sikhishwa ngumyeni wakhe Elliot Sifundza egameni lemndeni.



Friends and relatives of **Bongekile (Sdie) Mavimbela** are notified of her demise. Funeral on Saturday 11/03/2017 6am after a night vigil on Friday at her parental home Makhokhoko Sidwashini Cemetery. Announcement by family.



Kwatiswa tihlobo nebangani ba **Mcoshwa Samuel Mkhathshwa** kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Ufihlwa ekhaya lakhe eMacetjeni ngeliso mhlaka 12 March 2017 emva kwemlindzelo ngemgcibelo mhlaka 11 march 2017. Kwatiswa bekaya kubo eLwandle, bekhakhakhe kaShongwe kanye nebasemsebentini wakhe ka Black-Mamba Cemetery. Imemetelo sikhishwa nguyise Bishop Jobe Mkhathshwa.



Kwatiswa bantfwabengkosi nesive kutsi umntfwanenkosi **Mdumiseni Raymond Dlamini** lobekasemasotjeni wase Thunzini kuLudzeludze kutsi akasekho emhlabeni. Utawuphumela eThunzini ngeliso mhlaka 12 March 2017 ngelisiko lemalangeni emva kwemlindzelo. Simemetelo sikhishwa yindvuna yeThunzini

JOB 13:15

Though He slay me,  
yet will I hope in him  
I will surely  
defend my ways to  
his face.



Friends and relatives are informed of the death of **Lucky Jele**. Funeral on Saturday 11 March 2017 at 5am at eThandweni Enhlulweni Mankayane after a night vigil on Friday.

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BARCELONA - Neymar described his two-goal display as the "best game" of his career as he inspired the greatest comeback in Champions League history when Barcelona thrashed Paris Saint-Germain 6-1.

The Catalans became the first side to come back from a 4-0 first leg deficit as Neymar scored twice in the final two minutes and then teed up a 95th-minute winner by Sergi Roberto to reach the quarter-finals 6-5 on aggregate.

"This is the best game I have ever played. For what it meant, for what we experienced and because I am in great form," the Brazilian told BeIN Sports. Luis Suarez's early opener, a Layvin Kurzawa own goal and Lionel Messi's penalty put Barca 3-0 up inside 50 minutes.

However, the Spanish champions looked down and out when Edison Cavani volleyed home what seemed to be the clinching away goal for PSG. "Before... we believed and now even more," Neymar added on Barca's chances winning a sixth Champions League.

"When they scored the goal we had a little dip but then there was the fourth and the penalty. We concentrated and Sergi's goal came.

"I know that we have made history. A team like this can do anything.



**HISTOVIC:** It was definitely the greatest ever comeback – it might even have been the greatest game ever. Barcelona were given a mission impossible and they delivered with 30 seconds to spare – just enough time to get their entire bench of celebrating substitutes and coaching staff off the pitch – and for a hearbroken Paris Saint-Germain to take the restart.



The game was lost and we went out to play without pressure and with joy, throwing everything forward."

Barca boss Luis Enrique announced last week that he will leave the club at the end of the season after

he was heavily criticised following their 4-0 humiliation in Paris three weeks ago.

And Enrique took the chance to round on his critics as he thanked the "faith" of the Barca players and fans. "First we had the mourning and that was especially hard on one person," he said. **AFP**



**HATTRICK:** Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

Aubameyang hat-trick  
fires Dortmund into quarters

DORTMUND, Germany - A hat-trick by Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and teenager Christian Pulisic's dazzling display fired Borussia Dortmund into the Champions League quarter-finals with a 4-0 thrashing of Benfica on Wednesday.

The result saw Dortmund win the round-of-16 tie 4-1 on aggregate after Aubameyang's early goal cancelled out Borussia's 1-0 defeat in Lisbon last month.

The Gabon hot-shot has now scored seven times in his last three games and has seven Champions League goals in as many matches this season, underlining his status as one of the most feared predators on the planet.

It was redemption for the strik-

er, who had a night to forget in the first leg, missing four clear chances including a penalty in Portugal.

"That was the perfect time for 'Auba' to get his hat-trick," purred Dortmund coach Thomas Tuchel.

"It was a sensational performance. I love goals like his first one because they need such good timing and Auba is always there with his nose for goal." Red-hot Aubameyang has now hit 28 goals for the season as Dortmund reached the last eight in Europe for the first time since 2013/14.

But it fell to US international Pulisic, who only turns 19 in September, to net the Germans' crucial second on 59 minutes, which put Dortmund ahead for the first time on aggregate. **AFP**

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## ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP



WANTS TO LEAVE: Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain.

## Frustrated Ox wants out of Arsenal

**LONDON** - Arsenal forward Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain wants to leave Arsenal at the end of the season, according to press reports.

The 23-year-old is growing increasingly frustrated at the Emirates and wants to join the expected exodus of top players including Alexis Sanchez and Mesut Ozil to make a fresh start at another club, Sky Sports say.

With just 15 months left on his current contract, Oxlade-Chamberlain has not begun negotiations on a new deal, and despite appearing more in the starting XI in recent weeks the forward believes that he needs a new challenge.

The England international was one of the few players to come out of the Gunners' 5-1 Champions League mauling by Bayern Munich with any credit and has been linked with a number of clubs including Liverpool, Manchester City and United.

He has scored two goals and has provided four assists this season in 22 Premier League appearances, many of them coming from the bench.

The Gunners next face champions Leicester City tomorrow in an English Premiership clash at the Emirates Stadium and will be looking to move forward from recent bad results.

Sport24

## Man United's Guardiola refuses to concede title despite stalemate

**MANCHESTER** - Pep Guardiola has refused to concede the Premier League title to Chelsea despite a disappointing 0-0 home draw with Stoke City which left Antonio Conte's league leaders with a 10-point lead at the top of the table.

The Manchester City manager gambled by resting key players John Stones, David Silva and Raheem Sterling ahead of this weekend's FA Cup quarter-final at Middlesbrough and next week's Champions League last 16 second leg trip to Monaco.

The tactic backfired with City only looking like breaking down Stoke after Guardiola threw on Spanish international Silva as a substitute with just under an hour gone.

"I have said before, we take it game by game," said Guardiola of the lead held by Chelsea. "The lead is 10 points and we now have one less game."

"We're going to see what happens in the next game and then take it game by game. When a gap is like this, you have to focus like that; not on big targets."

Guardiola insisted that he had no regrets over his gamble to rest key players and, with City look-

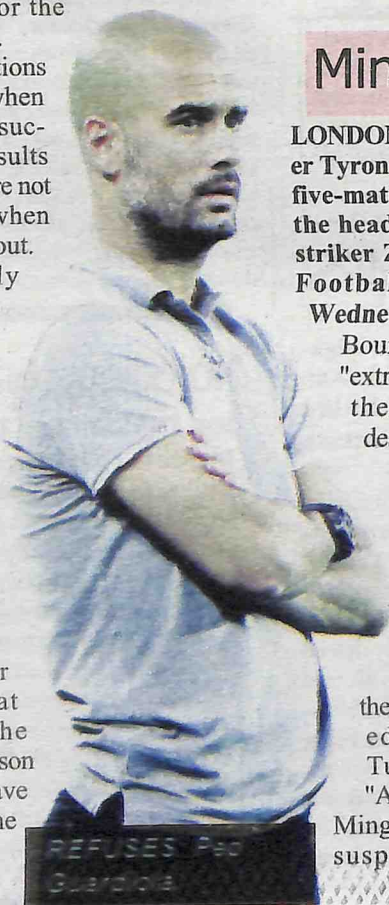
ing impressive in the FA Cup and Champions League, there was logic behind his selection.

"The priority is the next game," said Guardiola. "And we play for the next game."

"The rotations are good when you have successful results and they are not brilliant when you miss out."

"We only have two days now and we have another (FA Cup) game - and another one away because we have never played at home in the cup this season - and we have to use all the players."

AFP



REFUSES PEP GUARDIOLA



**LONDON** - Wenger is coming under increasing pressure to leave the Gunners at the end of the season.

The north Londoners were humiliated yet again by Bayern Munich earlier this week, crashing out of the Champions League after losing 10-2 on aggregate. A group of Arsenal fans

held demonstrations during their defeat to Bayern, telling the Frenchman to call time on his Arsenal career this summer. Asked if the fans' unrest will have an affect on his future, Wenger said; "It will influence. It won't be the most important factor."

He added; "I've worked hard for 20 years to make fans happy. When you

lose, I understand they are not.

"I don't want to judge that and will give my commitment to my work. "I don't work for my image. I work for this club. After, how I will be judged, is not my problem."

"I have shown since I have been here that I love this club and I am loyal to this club. "I have made the best decisions for this club and I will continue to do that." Questioned if he had made up his mind about his future, Wenger said; "My decision is to focus on the next game and to make sure we respond. "I don't focus on my future. Football games are important." Wenger also insists their defeat to Bayern will have no bearing on his future at the club.

He said; "That won't decide."

"At that level, it can be very quick and go one way or the other."

"I looked at the Champions League history. In the last seven years, we played against Barca and Bayern."

"At that level, you can be punished. The teams that aren't there can't be punished." **DailyStar**

## BORO MUST FOCUS ON FORM - GIBSON

**LONDON** - Defender Ben Gibson has urged Middlesbrough to focus on improving their form rather than banking on relegation rivals dropping points after last Saturday's loss at Stoke City extended the club's winless Premier League run to 10 games.

Middlesbrough are the league's lowest scorers with 19 goals and, despite a respectable defensive record, their profligacy in front of goal this season has seen them drop to 18th, three points adrift of safety with 11 games remaining.

"It's about us, if we aren't getting our results and doing our jobs, we can't look to other people to not be doing theirs. If we do our job we'll get out of the relegation zone," Gibson

CONCERNED: Ben Gibson.



told the club's website. ([www.mfc.co.uk](http://www.mfc.co.uk))

"...We're running out of opportunities but we aren't going to give up without a fight. Middlesbrough host

Manchester City in the FA Cup quarterfinal tomorrow before facing sixth-placed Manchester United on March 19. **Reuters**

## Mings gets five-game ban for Ibrahimovic stamp

**LONDON** - Bournemouth defender Tyrone Mings has been given a five-match ban for stamping on the head of Manchester United striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic, the Football Association said on Wednesday.

Bournemouth said they were "extremely disappointed" with the decision, which they described as "extraordinary".

Mings, 23, trod on Ibrahimovic's head during the first half of Bournemouth's 1-1 draw at United in the Premier League last Saturday.

Ibrahimovic retaliated by elbowing Mings in the head, for which he accepted a three-game ban on Tuesday.

"AFC Bournemouth's Tyrone Mings will serve a five-match suspension, following an



IT'S A FIGHT: Bournemouth defender Tyrone Mings and Manchester United striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

Independent Regulatory Commission hearing today," the FA said in a Twitter post.

"Mings was charged with violent-

conduct in relation to an incident in or around the 44th minute of the game against Manchester United."

AFP



# BAFANA BAFANA SQUAD ANNOUNCED

**JOHANNESBURG** - The South African Football Association have announced the Bafana Bafana squad for the upcoming friendly internationals.

South Africa, who remain 62nd in the FIFA World Rankings and 13th in Africa, will do battle with Guinea Bissau and Angola later this month as they prepare for their 2018 World Cup qualifying campaign in August.

And, Owen da Gama - who has been tasked by SAFA with overseeing the

team while they prepare to name a new full-time head coach - has since confirmed the squad.

Bafana will report for camp on March 19, before they fly to Durban on the 20th. There are returns to the squad for Kermit Erasmus and Kamohelo Mokotjo, while South Africa Under-20 and Bidvest Wits star Phakamani Mhlambi and Luther Singh got their call-ups to the national first team.

A gaping exclusion in the squad sees not a single Orlando Pirates player

named, following the Buccaneers' faltering performances this season.

**Full Bafana Bafana squad:**

**Goalkeepers:** Khune, Keet, Walters.

**Defenders:** Mphahlele, Coetzee, Hlatshwayo, Mathoho, Gordinho, Thopola, Langerman

**Midfielders:** Kekana, Mnyamane, Dolly, Jali, Mokotjo, Mabunda, Furman, Zwane, Serero

**Forwards:** Tau, Manyama, Mhlambi, Veldwijk, Erasmus, Singh.

**kickoff**

## Owen Da Gama explains Bafana Bafana recalls

**JOHANNESBURG** - Bafana Bafana interim coach Owen Da Gama has explained some of the selections into the squad for the two upcoming friendlies later this month.

Da Gama named a strong 25-man squad for clashes against Guinea-Bissau in Durban on March 25 as well as Angola at a venue yet to be confirmed on March 28.

The national under-23 mentor will take charge for the rest of the month in place of Shakes Mashaba, who was sacked late last year, after negotiations with a potential permanent replacement fell through last week.

With Da Gama stepping up from his role as assistant, the former Orlando Pirates coach handed recalls to numerous players, including Kermit Erasmus and Kamohelo Mokotjo who knowingly had broken relationship with Mashaba.

"We've been following players all over the world, and we've seen now that Kermit Erasmus has started playing quite regularly," explained ODG. "Mokotjo has always been playing and is doing very, very well for his specific team."

"[Calling up] Luther Singh and Phakamani Mhlambi will encourage a lot of youngsters to work harder, and it's a step in the right direction to give hope to the youngsters. "We tried to look at the Senegal squad, and we didn't want to change too much there. We had to take that into consideration as well. We want to take that Senegal squad and try and strengthen it as best as possible."



**MAKING CHANGES:** Bafana Bafana interim coach Owen Da Gama has explained some of the selections into the squad for the two upcoming friendlies later this month.

Meanwhile, Dutch-born Lars Veldwijk is also up for reassessment despite his unconvincing showing in his maiden national team spell in November last year. "Questions might be asked about a player like Lars Veldwijk, I mean, in all honesty, he didn't have a good start [after] he set foot in South Africa for the first time in his life," continued Da Gama.

"But we don't just bring in a player and cast him aside if he doesn't start well. I remember myself, when I went to play in Belgium, after my first match I thought they would send me home, but a week later I scored a hat-trick."

"You can't just [discard someone]. You've got to show confidence in play-

ers; you've got to allow them to settle and I think this allows us to do that, and encourage players by saying, 'you might have an off time but we still believe in you'."

The 55-year-old tactician, who is a former striker himself, has rallied support for the players amid the coaching crisis the association currently find themselves in.

"I appeal to the journalists; headlines about who the [new] coach is are good, but let's boost our players; let's give them that encouragement because at the end of the day they are the ones who go onto the field and make it happen for us," he urged. **Kickoff**

## Maluleka warns Chiefs to guard against upset

**JOHANNESBURG** - Kaizer Chiefs midfielder George Maluleka said the club are not taking anything for granted ahead of tomorrow's Nedbank Cup Round of 32 clash with National First Division outfit FC Stellenbosch.

The side from the NFD are fourth in their table and are chasing a promotion spot to the Premiership.

In addition, the Cape Town-based side have the coaching pedigree of the experienced Sammy Troughton and Steve Barker in their ranks.

As such, Maluleka has made it clear that Chiefs are ready for the challenge faced to avoid an upset.

"We are going into this game with a serious mindset, forget which league they are playing in, and we want to make sure that we get a positive result, we don't want any surpris-

es," he told the club's official website. "They are fourth on the NFD log for a reason and that is because of coach Steve and Sammy, very intelligent coaches who have been in this game for a long time and know what it takes to cause an upset." The Glamour Boys go into the game with a full strength squad as there are no injuries or suspensions. tomorrow's action gets underway from 20:15 at Athlone Stadium in the Mother City.

**Sport24**



**WARNING:** Kaizer Chiefs midfielder George Maluleka.

## Polokwane too strong for Amazozo in cup action

**POLOKWANE** - Top flight outfit Polokwane City outplayed ABC Motsepe League (Gauteng) side African All Stars 3-1 in a Nedbank Cup last 32 round match played at the Old Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane on Wednesday evening.

The sides met in the first round of the same cup competition back in March last year, with two goals from striker Puleng Tlolané having been enough to secure a 2-0 score-line for the men from Limpopo. This time, Tlolané, added more pain for the Brakpan-based side, as he opened the scoring in the 24th minute of the first half. The second half goals for City came in the 72nd minute when Zambian defender Salulani Phiri blasted the ball home from around 30 metres out, and four minutes before the end of the match, when Zimbabwean striker Walter Musona, brother of former Kaizer Chiefs striker Knowledge Musona, scored. All Stars managed to pull a goal back, albeit from the penalty spot in the 90th minute, with Mohau Motaung slotting home the

spot kick.

The All Stars side, nicknamed 'Amazozo', gave a good account of themselves against their professional club opponents, and certainly did not look like a side that is languishing in 10th place on the ABC Motsepe League (Gauteng) log with 30 points from 26 matches.

Likewise, City, who have earned the tag of the draw kings of the Absa Premiership, having produced a stalemate result in 11 of their 20 matches played this season, will have been happy to taste victory for the first time in 2017. The "Rise and Shine" team, as City are known, have drawn all five of their league matches played this year with the last four having been with 1-all score-lines.

Going into the cup match without injured leading goal-scorer Rodney Ramalagela, gave Tlolané an opportunity to show his worth with his first half strike being his first goal since getting on the score-sheet in the 3-2 league loss to Kaizer Chiefs back on December 18. **African News Agency**

## FRASER-PRYCE PREGNANT TO MISS WORLD CHAMPS



**BUN IN THE OVEN:** Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce of Jamaica reacting after winning the women's 100m event during the 15th IAAF World Championships at the National Stadium in Beijing, China.

**KINGSTON** - Jamaican sprinter and reigning 100 metres world champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce announced on Wednesday that she is pregnant and will miss the world championships in London this August.

The two-times Olympic 100m gold medallist and three-times world 100m champion said she will return to competition in 2018.

"All my focus heading into training for my 2017 season was on getting healthy and putting myself in the best possible fitness to successfully defend my title in London 2017." Fraser-Pryce, 30, said on Facebook. "But life is filled with many blessings with God. So here I am thinking about being the greatest mother I can be with my biggest blessing and the promise God made me. "Moving forward on this journey, I look forward to seeing you all in 2018 when I return to competitions on the tracks and around the World." **Reuters**

## Norodien, Nyauza injuries not serious

**JOHANNESBURG** - Orlando Pirates confirmed that Ntsikelelo Nyauza and Riyaad Norodien's injuries are not as serious as initially feared.

Norodien was a notable omission for the Soweto giants during their 1-1 draw against title-chasing SuperSport United, while Nyauza was substituted in the 45th minute with a suspected hamstring problem.

However, the Sea Robbers have since revealed that the duo will return to training immi-

nently, after undergoing scans on their respective knocks.

"Norodien injured his toe during a training session and was unable to play without feeling any pain or discomfort. Like Nyauza, he too will be reassessed on Friday (today)," read a statement on the club's official website.

The pair may return in time for the Nedbank Cup Round of 32 fixture against EC Bees at the Sisa Dukashe Stadium on Sunday. **Sport**



# Weekend Sports Fixtures

Compiled by Sibusiso Dlamini

<b>MTN League</b>			
<b>Tomorrow at Mavuso Sports Centre</b>			
Manzini Sundowns	vs	Manzini Wanderers	3pm
<b>Tomorrow at Mayaluka Stadium</b>			
Tambuti FC	vs	Mbabane Highlanders	3pm
<b>Tomorrow at Somhlolo National Stadium</b>			
Red Lions	vs	Royal Leopards	2pm
Midas City	vs	Young Buffaloes	4pm
<b>Sunday at Somhlolo National Stadium</b>			
Green Mamba	vs	Sea Birds	3:30pm

<b>National First Division</b>			
<b>Tomorrow at Mavuso Sports Centre</b>			
Hub Sundowns	vs	Vovovo	8pm
<b>Saturday at Prince of Wales Ground</b>			
Mbabane Citizens	vs	Amalanda	3pm
<b>Sunday at Somhlolo National Stadium</b>			
Ludzeludze Brothers	vs	Madlenya	1:30pm
<b>Sunday at Mavuso Sports Centre</b>			
Bad Boys	vs	Matsapha United	3pm
<b>Sunday at Mayaluka Stadium</b>			
City Warriors	vs	Hlatikulu Tycoons	1:30pm
Sikhalo Se-Africa	vs	Malanti Chiefs	3:30pm
<b>Sunday at the Manzini Club Sports Ground</b>			
Royal Leopards	vs	Manzini Sea Birds	9am
Young Buffaloes	vs	Red Lions	11am
Manzini Wanderers	vs	Tambuti	1pm
Mbabane Swallows	vs	Manzini Sundowns	3pm

<b>Mandla Mahewu Mbabane Juniors League</b>			
<b>Tomorrow at Msunduzi Sports Ground</b>			
Humane	vs	M. Fighters	8:30am (U20)
Junior Stars	vs	M. Classic	9:30am (U17)
Amawele	vs	SOS	10:30am (U20)
Supersport	vs	Phalafala	11:30am (U20)
<b>Police sports</b>			
Mangwaneni	vs	Citizens	8:30am (U20)
Humane	vs	Supersport	9:30am (U17)
Humane	vs	Thembellile	10:30am (U15)
Free State	vs	Mpolojeni	11:30am (U20)
<b>United sports</b>			
Amawele	vs	Sidwashini	8am (U13)
Imbumbi	vs	White City	9am (U15)
Wizards	vs	Mangwaneni	10am (U13)
Swallows	vs	Mphalati	11am (U15)
Superstars	vs	Fighters	12pm (U15)
Swallows	vs	Mphalati	1pm (U13)

<b>Swazi Trac Hhoiho Super League</b>			
<b>Southern zone</b>			
<b>Tomorrow at Prince of Wales</b>			
PMT	vs	Gordon Stars	1pm
<b>Veni sports</b>			
Umbelebele	vs	Sibovini	1:30pm
<b>Ntsetse sports</b>			
Burning Spear	vs	Wizards	3:30pm
<b>Vusweni sports</b>			
V. Killers	vs	Tinyosi	3:30pm
<b>Sunday at Maphaleni Sports Ground</b>			
Billy Ocean	vs	M. Invaders	3pm
<b>Casino sports</b>			
Swazi Sun	vs	Sibuyeni	3pm

<b>Northern zone</b>			
<b>Tomorrow at Prison Sports Ground</b>			
Pachanga	vs	Nkonjaneni	1:30pm
N. Galaxy	vs	Mvuma	3:30pm
<b>Buhleni Sports Ground</b>			
N. Swallows	vs	19 Celtics	3:30pm
<b>Ndialambi Sports Ground</b>			
Ndialambi	vs	Horo spinners	3:30pm
<b>Ntfontini Sports Ground</b>			
Vultures	vs	M. Arsenal	3:30pm
<b>Sunday at Prison Sports Ground</b>			
B. Swallows	vs	Manchester	3pm

<b>Mandla Mahewu Mbabane League</b>			
<b>Promotion</b>			
<b>Tomorrow at Msunduzi Sports Ground</b>			
Amawele	vs	Mb. Celtics	1:30pm
Corporation	vs	Pine Valley	3:30pm
<b>Veni sports</b>			
Sandia	vs	FC Vaal	3:30pm
<b>Sunday at Msunduzi Sports Ground</b>			
Thembellile	vs	White City	9am
Pot O Gold	vs	Imbumbi	11am
Mbabane Arsenal	vs	Veni Cosmos	1pm
Double Action	vs	Flying stars	3pm
<b>Sidwashini sports</b>			
Manzana	vs	Real Tec	3pm

<b>B. Division</b>			
<b>Tomorrow at Sidwashini Sports Ground</b>			
Mpolojeni	vs	Walters	1:30pm
National Rangers	vs	Mb. United	3:30pm
<b>Sunday at Police Sports Ground</b>			
Mphalati	vs	Classic	11am
Movers	vs	Mangwaneni	1pm
Freestyle	vs	Junction	3pm
<b>Sidwashini</b>			
Junior Aces	vs	Mantholo	9am
Lusoli	vs	Darkies	11am
Interstars	vs	Supersport	1pm

## Bekharayise Mabulala & Menzi Dlamini Maphaleni League

<b>Eastern Stream</b>			
<b>Tomorrow at Maphaleni</b>			
Professionals	vs	XI Experience	1pm
Thuluzobona	vs	Young Lovers	3pm
<b>Bizza</b>			
Luvinielo	vs	Rangers	1pm
Umkhokha	vs	Junior Stars	3pm
<b>Sunday at Maphaleni</b>			
Khulungwane	vs	Killers	1pm
Barcelona	vs	Manchester	3pm
<b>Bizza</b>			
Blue Birds	vs	Young Stars	1pm
Liselesile	vs	Hot Spurs	3pm

## Western stream

Tomorrow at Jubukweni

Top Classic	vs	Hill Stars	11am
Love & Peace	vs	Happy Fighters	1pm
Lunkanka	vs	Early Sunset	3pm
<b>Sunday at Jubukweni</b>			
Jubukweni	vs	Mighty Birds	11am
Siphambanweni	vs	Rollers	1pm
Sunrise	vs	Academy	3pm

<b>Pots Construction Sigangeni League</b>			
<b>Tomorrow at Sigangeni</b>			
Young Fighters	vs	Ntsetse Flyers	1:30pm
Sigangeni	vs	L. Nationals	3:30pm
<b>Magilane sports</b>			
Young Heroes	vs	M. Celtics	3:30pm
<b>Mhlambanyatsi</b>			
Community	vs	Kupheleni	2:30pm
<b>Ntsetse</b>			
SD Civils Men U	vs	Cannibals	1:30pm
Burning Spear	vs	Wizards	3:30pm
<b>Sibovini sports</b>			
Villa sport	vs	Real Touch	2:30pm
<b>Sunday at Kupheleni</b>			
Kupheleni	vs	Villa Sport	3pm
<b>Magilane</b>			
Express	vs	Mighty Chiefs	3pm
<b>Ntsetse</b>			
Total XI	vs	Real Touch	3pm
<b>Mhlambanyatsi</b>			
Community	vs	Kangaroo	2:30pm
<b>Sigangeni</b>			
Fighters	vs	Cannibals	1pm
Sigangeni	vs	Maz Celtics	3pm
<b>Londumduma</b>			
Real United	vs	U. Eagles	2:30pm

<b>Tee &amp; Jay Lobamba KO</b>			
<b>Tomorrow at Embo</b>			
Fast Reaction	vs	Ezulwini Aces	1pm
Emajukukulu	vs	L. Sunrise	3pm
<b>Sunday at Elangeni</b>			
City Stars	vs	Emaselesele	1pm
Vutha	vs	Lob. Blizzards	3pm

<b>Ematombeni Mzimba League</b>			
<b>Tomorrow at Hhukwini</b>			
Rangers	vs	Sundowns	1:30pm
Green Sea	vs	Rebels	3:30pm
<b>Nsukumbili</b>			
Cosmos	vs	Rhumba	1:30pm
Timbungulu	vs	Rhinos	3:30pm
<b>Sunday at Hhukwini</b>			
Arsenal	vs	Top Centre	1:30pm
B. Mashaba	vs	Kasiko	3:30pm
<b>Nsukumbili</b>			
Chiefs	vs	Monaco	1:30pm
Swallows	vs	All Stars	3:30pm

<b>Futis Nkhaba Regional League</b>			
<b>Tomorrow at Majotini</b>			
Superstars	vs	atletico	1:30pm
M. Celtics	vs	Ngwenya	3:30pm
<b>Motshane</b>			
Nkoyoyo	vs	Manyisa	3pm
<b>Sunday at Majotini</b>			
Shooting stars	vs	Marisburg	1pm
Majotini	vs	Crocodiles	3pm
<b>Motshane</b>			
Barcelona	vs	Motshane	1pm
Bafana	vs	Dribbling stars	3pm

<b>Nkhaba U20 Juniors League</b>			
<b>Tomorrow at Majotini</b>			
Atletico	vs	Super Stars	9:30am
Majotini	vs	Dribbling Stars	10:30am
Celtics	vs	Shooting Stars	11:30am
<b>Motshane</b>			
Crocodile	vs	Barcelona	9:30am
Nkoyoyo	vs	Motshane	10:30am
Barcelona	vs	Manyisa	11:30am
<b>Ngwenya</b>			
Bafana	vs	Marisburg	9:30am
Ngwenya	vs	Bafana	10:30am
Marisburg	vs	Bafana	11:30am

<b>Sikhumbuto Timpisini League</b>			
<b>Tomorrow at LFTC</b>			
Combustion	vs	Juventus	11am
All Stars	vs	Ellegence	1pm
Mshweni	vs	Stone	3pm
<b>Ngonini</b>			
Kudweleni	vs	Mv All United	1pm
Choppers	vs	Star Wanderers	3pm
<b>Ndialambi</b>			
Blue Birds	vs	H. Pirates	1pm
<b>Sunday at LFTC</b>			
Young Tigers	vs	JB Arsenal	9am
Vusweni	vs	Sikhaleni	11am
Mb. Swallows	vs	Zamalek	1pm
Njakeni	vs	Matsamo	3pm
<b>Ndialambi</b>			
Ludzibini	vs	Mb Y Swallows	1pm
Golden arrows	vs	Red Lions	3pm

<b>Sharks Mhlangatane League</b>			
<b>Tomorrow at Makhweya</b>			
Wizards	vs	N. Castle	1pm
H. defenders	vs	Rovers	3pm
<b>Machibini sports</b>			
Real Aces	vs	M. United	3pm
<b>Sunday at Makhweya</b>			
Cosmos	vs	Tigers	1pm
Makhweya	vs	M. Bombers	3pm
<b>Machibini</b>			
Seven Stars	vs	XiMen	1pm
Swallows	vs	Liverpool	3pm
<b>Western stream</b>			
Zinyane	vs	Fast Movers	1pm
Celtics	vs	Hot Fighters	3pm
<b>Ntsinini</b>			
Manchester	vs	Lonhlanane	1pm

City Stars	vs	Arsenal	3pm
<b>Sunday at Ntsinini</b>			
M. Professionals	vs	Silver City	1pm
Democracy	vs	Mpofu Aces	3pm
<b>Mthonjeni</b>			
Thuluzobona	vs	Weirna	3pm

<b>Ntabezimpisi Football League</b>			
<b>Tomorrow at Ntampakuphila</b>			
City Stars	vs	Mduez	1pm
Young Lions	vs	Special Killers	3pm
<b>Buhleni</b>			
City Cosmos	vs	Golden Arrows	1pm
Sigodo	vs	Y. Professionals	3pm
<b>Sunday at Buhleni</b>			
Skom Boyz	vs	Kappa Kappa	1pm
Buhleni Aces	vs	Super Stars	3pm
<b>Mkhuzweni</b>			
R. Bombers	vs	M. Sundowns	1pm
Manchester	vs	M. Arsenal	3pm
<b>Fontotje</b>			
Seven Stars	vs	Fontotje	3pm

<b>MP J Ndwandwe Ndzigeni League</b>			
<b>Eastern stream</b>			
<b>Tomorrow at Bulandzeni</b>			
Winners park	vs	K. Celtics	11am
Arsenal	vs	Young Chiefs	1pm
Supersport	vs	B. Rebels	3pm
<b>Sunday at Bulandzeni</b>			
White City	vs	Sweet Banana	11am
Professionals	vs	Young stars	1pm
Mpumalanga Aces	vs	Liverpool	3pm

<b>Western Stream</b>			
<b>Tomorrow at Mvuma</b>			
Happiness	vs	Lozaza	11am
Red Sea	vs	KK Ajax	1pm
FC Academy	vs	Mphondia	3pm
<b>Sunday at Mvuma</b>			
Gebhulas	vs	D. Darkies	1pm
Blue Birds	vs	Super Aces	3pm

<b>FA Rainbow Stationery Manzini Super League</b>			
<b>Saturday at Ludzeludze Sports Ground</b>			
Sacrament	vs	Ludzeludze Killers	1:30pm
Boyan Young Aces	vs	Malkems	3:15pm
<b>Saturday at Godlen Sports Ground</b>			
Stumbo's XI	vs	Luyengo Foxes	3:15pm
<b>Saturday at TB Centre Sports Ground</b>			
Milling Hotspurs	vs	Dwaleni Star Point	3:15pm
<b>Saturday at Nkhundleni Sports Ground</b>			
Luve Cosmos	vs	Gcoveni Trompies	3:15pm
<b>Saturday at Mankayane Sports Ground</b>			
Young Warriors	vs	Nyakeni Heroes	3:15pm
<b>Saturday at Zakhele Sports Ground</b>			
Fainview Cosmos	vs	Seven Dreams	3:15pm
<b>Sunday at Ludzeludze Sports Ground</b>			
CNB Rovers	vs	Sisonkhe	1pm
Sacrament	vs	Stumbo's XI	3pm
<b>Sunday at Mankayane Sports Ground</b>			
Young Warriors	vs	Malkems	3pm
<b>Riverview Manzini Promotion League</b>			
<b>Saturday at Zakhele 1 Sports Ground</b>			
Fainview Chiefs	vs	New Generations	1:30pm
Home Sparrows	vs	Nkonkwanne Callies	3:15pm
<b>Saturday at Zakhele 2 Sports Ground</b>			
FC North	vs	Kholwane F. Birds	1:30pm
<b>Sunday at Zakhele 1 Sports Ground</b>			
Wise Kids	vs	Young Tigers	11am
Two Sticks Comr.	vs	Combines Tars	1pm
SibonisoSelwandle	vs	Lwandle Classic	3pm
<b>Sunday at Zakhele 2 Sports Ground</b>			
Mhleleni United	vs	Superstars	1pm
African Chiefs	vs	Villa Stars	3pm

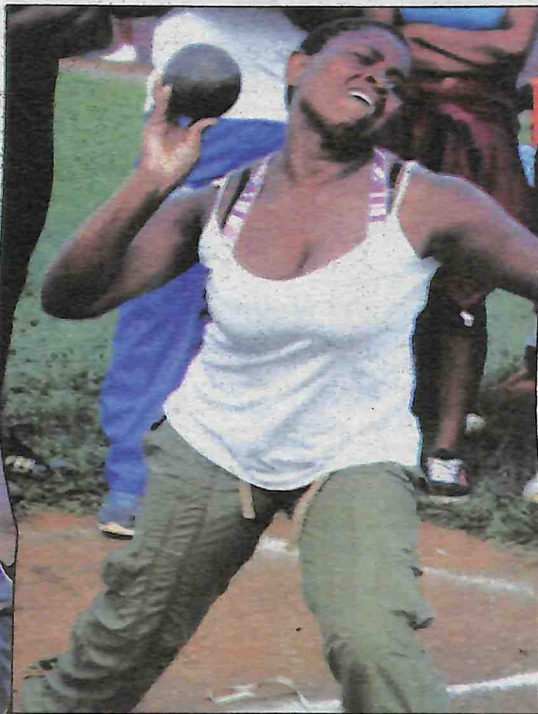




**IN NUMBERS:** A section of the pupils who came to witness the Swaziland Schools Sports Association (SSSA) athletics competitions at Somhlolo National Stadium yesterday. (Pics: Sabelo Majola)



**KUMATIMA:** Mangaliso Maziya from Lobamba National High School doing the shot-put.



**GIRL POWER:** Thandeka Mabuza from Nsukumbili.



**JOYFUL:** Elangeni High School pupils dancing in song.

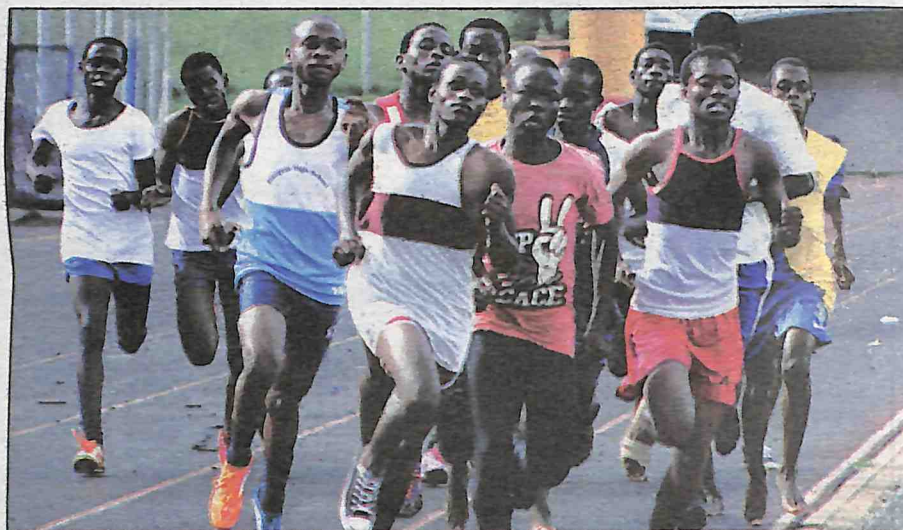
## SSSA athletics



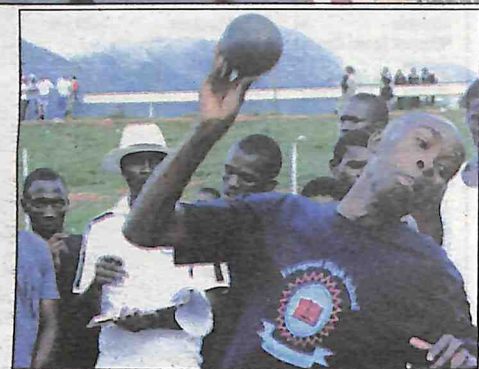
**BARE FOOT:** Bandzile Dlamini (in black) of Lobamba National triumphed in the 800m Under-17.



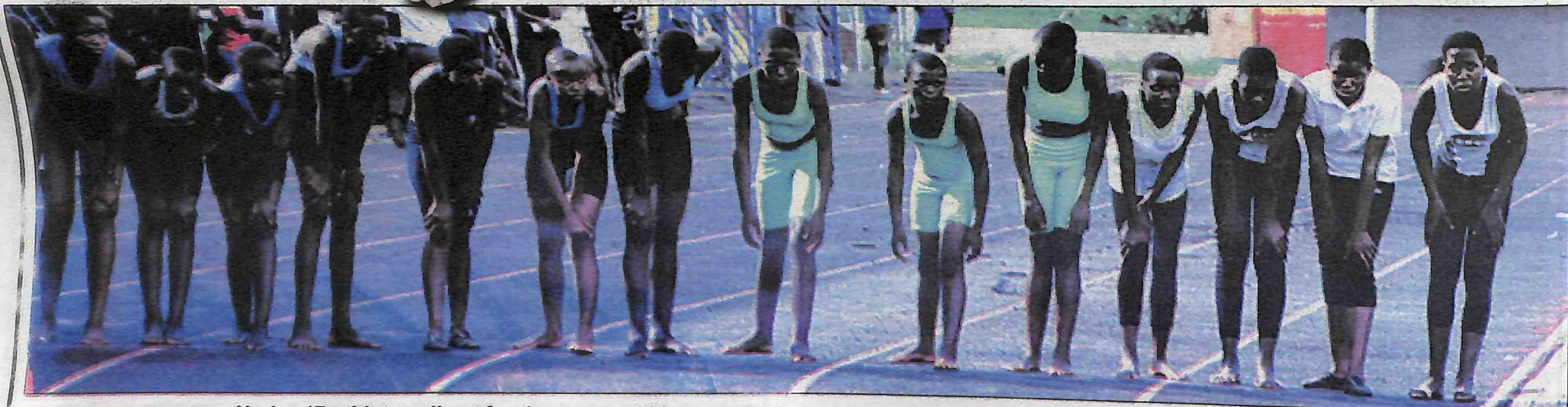
**VICTORIOUS:** Xolani Mbingo from Elangeni reacting after crossing the finish line in the 200m open.



**SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST:** 800m Under-17 athletes on the track.



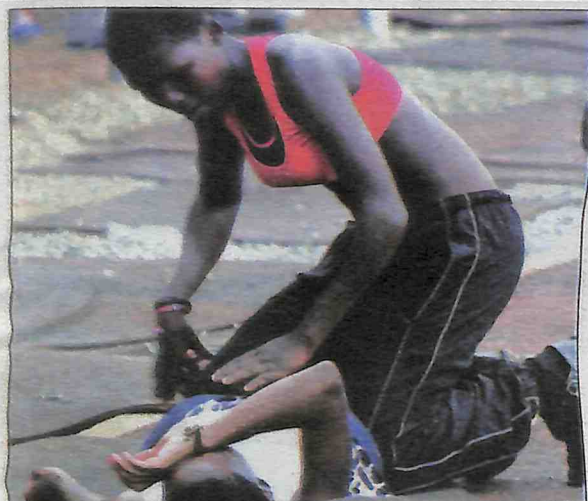
**GIVING HIS ALL:** Sizwe Msibi from Elangeni participating in the shot-put.



**ON YOUR MARKS:** Under-17 athletes all set for the women 800m race.



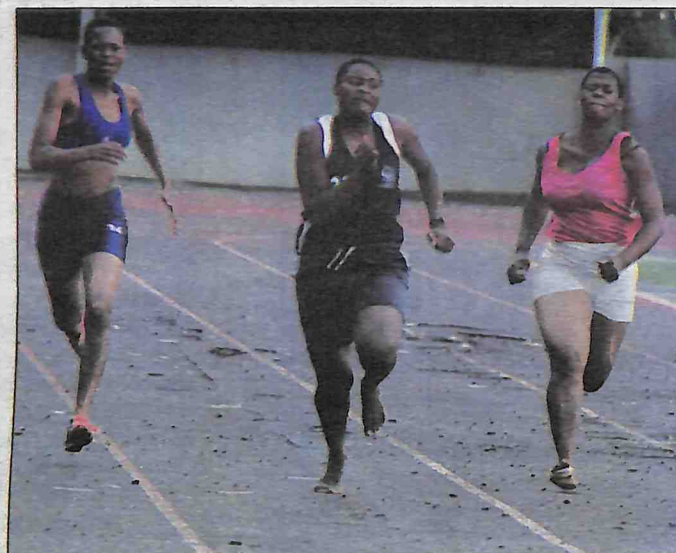
# competitions @ Somhlolo



**FIRST AID:** Lobamba National High pupil attending to a schoolmate who needed first aid attention.



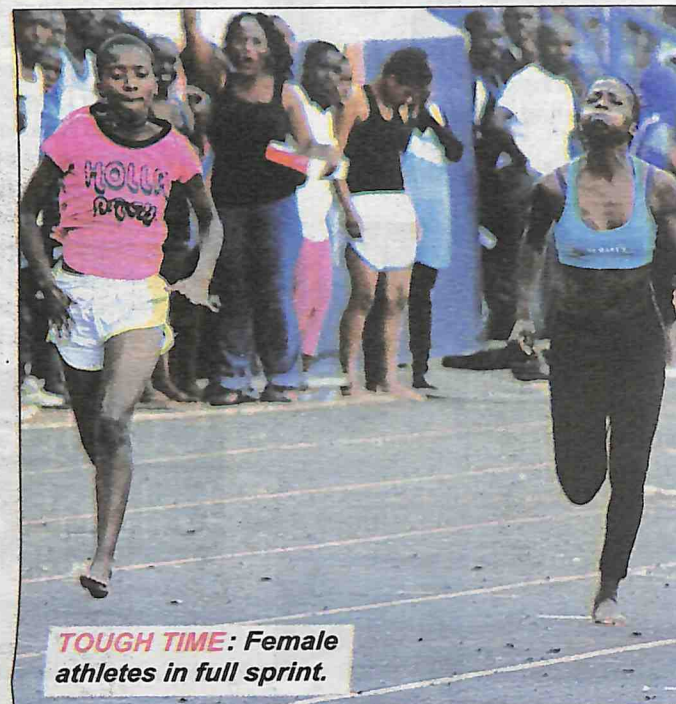
**KODAK MOMENT:** Enhlanganisweni sports teacher Mr Khumalo with some of his athletes.



**SPRINTERS:** 800m athletes in full swing.

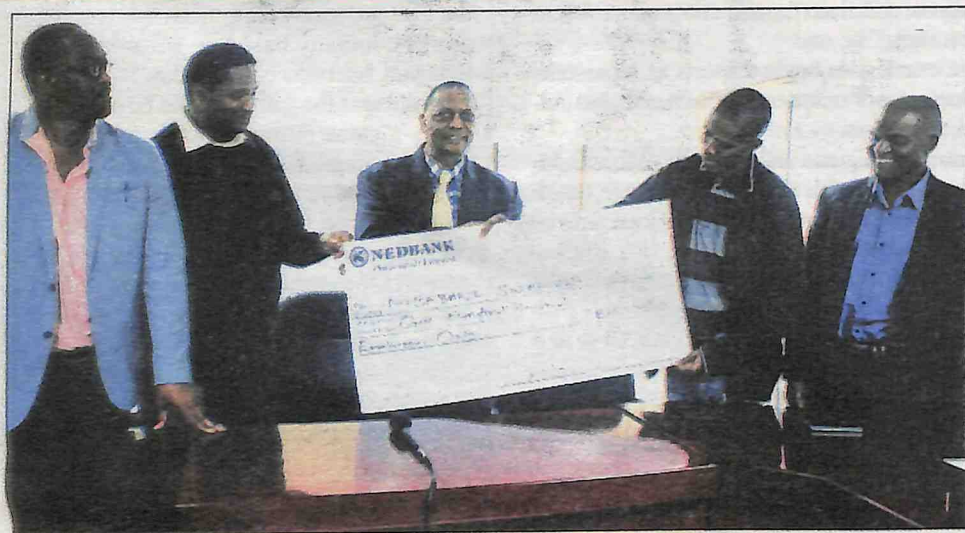


**LADIES:** 800m Under-17 pupils captured shortly after the starting point.



**TOUGH TIME:** Female athletes in full sprint.

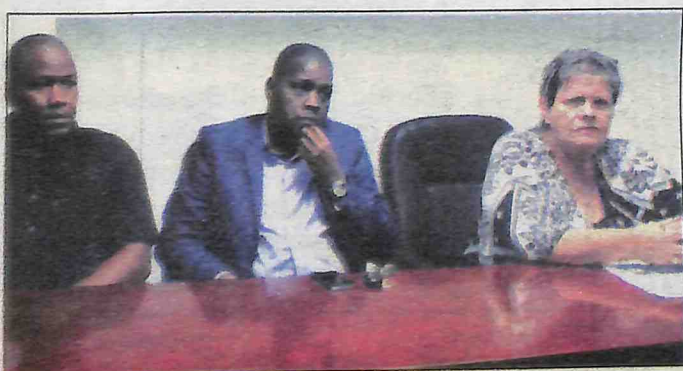
## SNSRC presents Mbabane Swallows with E100 000



**SUPPORT:** Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala handing a E100 000 cheque to Mbabane Swallows CEO Sibusiso Manana. This was during the handover of the cheque yesterday at the sports ministry offices. (Pics: Sibusiso Dlamini)



**SPORTSMEN:** SNSRC media officer Dumsani Ntiwane, SNSRC Business Development Manager Zama Hlophe and an official closely following the proceedings.



**ATTENTIVE:** Mbabane Swallows officials Samkeliso Mdluli and Emma Seyama with SOGCA CEO Muriel Hofner, all following proceedings.



**KUBO MAJAJA:** Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala making his remarks whilst PS Prince Mlayeto and NFAS CEO Frederick Mngomezulu watch on.



**ALSO PRESENT:** SNSRC CEO Darius Dloomo making his remarks whilst appointed Principal Secretary at the Ministry of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Prince Mlayeto watches on.



## football talk

all your latest world football news

### Arsenal offer Ozil sweet contract

Arsenal have offered Mesut Ozil a £280 000-a-week contract to stay at the club, but fellow midfielder Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain looks increasingly likely to leave in the summer - with Manchester City and Manchester United interested. (*Daily Mirror*)



### Man City target Aubameyang

Manchester City will target Borussia Dortmund striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, 27, if Sergio Aguero leaves the Etihad at the end of the season. (*Sun*)



### Monaco want £52m for Bakayoko

Monaco want £52m for 22-year-old midfielder Tiemoue Bakayoko, who is a reported target for Arsenal, Chelsea, Manchester City and Manchester United. (*France Football, via Sun*)



### Ibrahimovic wanted by US clubs

Manchester United striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic, 35, thought to earn around £11m a year at Old Trafford, is wanted by several clubs in the USA, with LA Galaxy seeking to make the Swede the highest paid player in MLS history. (*Times*)

### Blues confident Conte will stay

Chelsea are confident Manager Antonio Conte will sign an improved deal extending his contract past 2019 - but the Blues will delay an announcement until after this season's Premier League title is secured. (*Daily Telegraph*)



### Dybala frustrated with contract talks

Manchester United and Real Madrid target Paulo Dybala, 23, is frustrated with ongoing contract talks at Juventus and the Argentine is said to be disgusted at boss Massimiliano Allegri's recent decisions. (*TuttoSport, via Sun*)



# DANISH KEEPER COACH AVAILABLE

By Sibusiso Dlamini

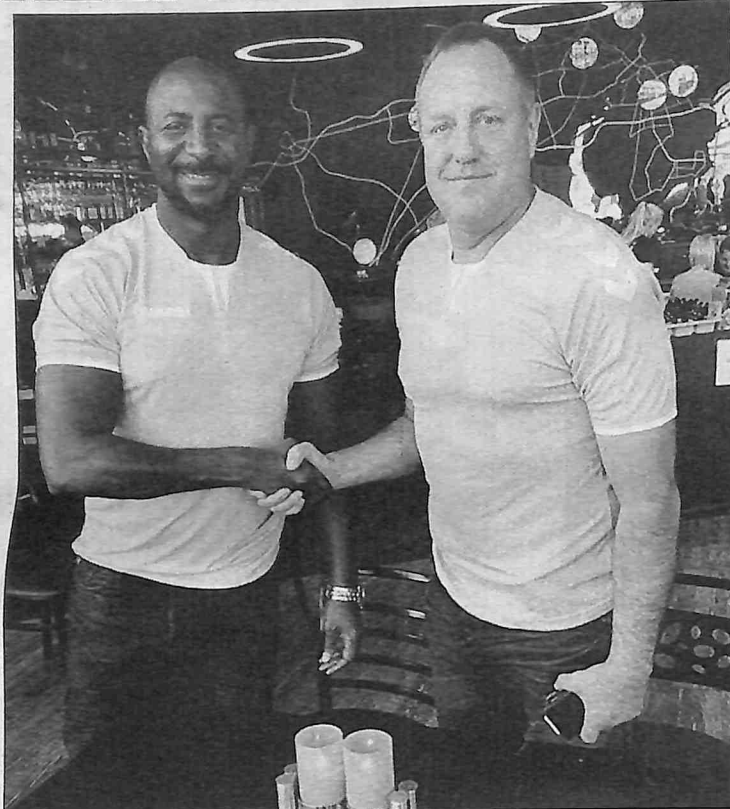
**SOCCER - HIGHLY** qualified Danish goalkeeper coach Frank Peterson is offering his services to local teams.

Peterson is a professional Danish goalkeeper coach, who has amassed experience from working in Denmark and Holland.

The goalkeeper coach is not new to Swazi soccer as he once facilitated trials for local players Menzi Mamba, Nhlanhla Mahlalela, and Emeka Atteze who plied their trade with the now defunct RSSC United. This was after watching them in action against capital city giants Mbabane Highlanders during an MTN Premier League encounter at the Somhlolo National Stadium.

At the time, the team (RSSC) was under the close mentorship of Manuel Moiane, who was optimistic that the trio were good enough for European football.

The 48-year-old currently resides in Mozambique and is itching to



work with a club or federation in Africa. The coach can be contacted on +45 40850686 or by email - [frank@ungekonsulenten.nu](mailto:frank@ungekonsulenten.nu).



## Companies urged to explore talent at Inter-Varsity games

By Sabelo Majola

**SOCCER - THE** Inter-Varsity games committee has urged corporate sectors and companies to utilise the platform presented by the sports event to scout for talent and help enhance the nurturing of the future stars.

The Inter-Varsity games will kick-off with the BOLESWA opening bash slated for Prince of Wales tomorrow with entertainment headlined by South Africa's DJ Tira and NaakMusiq. UNISWA Marketing Officer Tengetile Nxumalo highlighted the significance of having companies grace such events to scout for talent and provide sponsorship so that there could be assurance of continuity in local sports.

"UNISWA has been known for producing the finest in different sporting codes but the norm has seen a decline over recent years because there is no enthusiasm from companies and corporate sectors who wish to spot the talent and help in nurturing it," she said.

UNISWA SRC President Sibusiso Siyaya

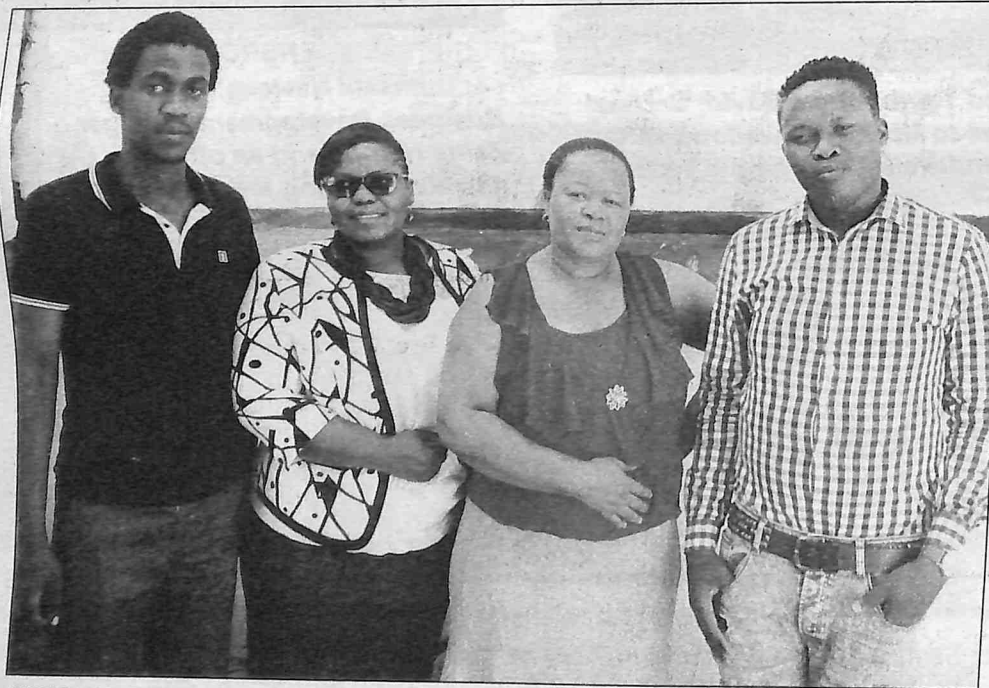
pleaded with the students to maintain a high level of respect and responsible behaviour in the duration of the games.

"Safety and security is a priority but it is compromised once people start drinking irresponsibly and abusing drugs hence we urge the students to be on their best behaviour so that the institution's name isn't dragged in the mud. The aim is to promote healthy lifestyles, culture celebrations, and clean fun and also produce future sports stars," he said.

The event goes beyond sports as it presents business opportunities as well as health and cultural awareness.

Lisango Neliguma will be there to educate students on responsible drinking, abstinence, health issues, testing and counseling. Non-Governmental Organisations like FLAS, NERCHA, PSI and Dreams on Wheels will also be offering their services.

Games to be played include soccer, table tennis, Taekwondo, squash, chess, basketball, badminton, tennis, darts, karate, netball, pool, volleyball, rugby, cricket and swimming.



UNISWA SRC president Sibusiso Maziya, Marketing officer Tengetile Nxumalo, Thuli Mamba and Sandile Gama.

## All set for Tee and Jay top eight grand opening

By Qondile Ntiwane

**SOCCER - IT'S** all set for the Tee and Jay E30 000 top eight grand opening games tomorrow.

The games will be played at the Embo Sports Ground starting at 1pm.

The knockout tournament forms part of the E80 000 sponsorship from the woodworks company based at Mlindazwe, Ezulwini. Interviewed yesterday, Mduduzi Dlamini said the games would be preceded by a game pitting officials from the Hhohho Regional Football Association (HRFA) and Lobamba Football League against Tee and Jay staff members at 11am. "It's all systems go for the grand opening games of the tournament this weekend. We have included the social game just to spice up the events," he said.

The first game of the day will see Fast Recreation take on Ezulwini Aces at 1pm while Emajukujuku have a date with Lobamba Sunrise at 3pm. On Sunday, the games will be played at Elangeni Sports Ground. City Stars will be first to take to the pitch against Emaselesele at 1pm while Vutha will lock horns with Lobamba Blizzards at 3pm.

The winners of this tournament will take home E7 000 while the runners and third place finishers will receive E4 000 and E3 000, respectively.

"It's all systems go for the grand opening games of the tournament this weekend. We have included the social game just to spice up the events"

### THE FIXTURE

#### TOMORROW AT EMBO SPORTS GROUND

Fast Reaction	vs	Ezulwini Aces	1pm
Emajukujuku	vs	Lobamba Sunrise	3pm

#### SUNDAY AT ELANGENI SPORTS GROUND

City Stars	vs	Emaselesele	1pm
Vutha	vs	Lobamba Blizzards	3pm



# SWAZIBANK CUP TO CONTINUE NEXT MONTH

Stories by Qondile Ntiwane

## SOCCER - THE #Yelele edition of the SwaziBank Cup quarterfinals will be staged next month.

This is according to the calendar of activities released by the Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) yesterday.

The quarterfinals will take place on the weekend of April 1-2.

The semi-finals of the tournament will then take place the following weekend.

PLS Chief Operations Officer (COO) Pat Vilakati said the finals of the tournament would be stage at a date still to be confirmed.

"These are the proposed dates for the SwaziBank Cup going forward. We will announce the date of the finals soon," he said. Vilakati said teams would also be informed on the dates of the draw soon. "We know people

are eager to know when the draw will be conducted. We are still tying up a few loose ends and will announce the date early next week," he added. On another note, Vilakati noted that the National First Division games would continue next weekend. "The weekend of March 18-19 will be CAF Confederations Cup return leg where Swallows will host Azam FC



of Tanzania. The game will be played on the 19th so the 18th will be reserved for the National First Division. This will also make it easier for the office because we need to make sure that first division finishes earlier than the Premier League," he

said.

The league games will also continue this weekend with the excep-

## PSL GAMES ON EASTER MONDAY

SOCCER - The Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) is looking to fixture MTN League games on Easter Monday.

PLS Chief Operations Officer (COO) Pat Vilakati said yesterday that staging the games on April 17, would help the organisation ensure they were on track in as far as the league games were concerned.

He said the games would also be staged on the weekend of March 25-26 with the possibility of being a 'Y'ello Sunday'.

"We are considering staging games on the Easter Monday so that we are on track. But before the holidays, the league will continue after the CAF weekend. We have proposed the 'Y'ello Sunday' on the 26th but we are finalising a few logistics," he said.

tion of the encounter pitting Mbabane Swallows against Moneni Pirates, which will be played at a later stage.

## Sihlangu unmoved in FIFA rankings

By Sabelo Majola

### SOCCER - THE national team, Sihlangu Semnikati remains unmoved from the 98th position in the latest FIFA World Rankings.

The rankings were released yesterday by the world football governing body through its website. Despite missing out on the Africa Cup of Nations hosted by Gabon in January, Sihlangu continues to shine in the rankings and have maintained their historic 98th position.

Sihlangu were ranked 100th in December last year but moved one place up in January before occupying what was their best

ranking last month, which they have since maintained.

Sihlangu's last assignment was in the AFCON qualifiers where they were looking to qualify as best runners-up but their 1-0 away loss to Malawi in September last year shattered that possibility.

The team has been without a head coach since the sacking of Harries 'Madze' Bulunga last year November but the FA has since been appointed Dutch mentor De Pieter De Jongh as the new head coach for the nation's pride.

De Jongh, who is yet to arrive in the country, will have his first Sihlangu assignment in the 2019 AFCON qualifiers where the national team will take on Niger, Egypt and Tunisia.

## 'BIRDS' LEAVE TOMORROW FOR TANZANIA

By Qondile Ntiwane

### SOCCER - THE country's Total CAF Confederations Cup envoys Mbabane Swallows will depart for Tanzania tomorrow.

The 'Beautiful Birds' will face Azam FC in the first leg of the first round encounter slated for the Azam Sports Centre on Sunday night.

The red and white glamour outfit is expected to leave for South Africa by road before connecting via the OR Tambo International Airport to Tanzania in the afternoon. Mbabane Swallows CEO Sibusiso Manana said they would leave early tomorrow.

"We are leaving tomorrow morning for South African and then connect to Tanzania at around 1pm. One of the reasons we are not leaving early is to cut expenses. We are, however, hopeful our players will get enough rest ahead of the game," he said. He added that the



WE CAN FLY: Mbabane Swallows players posing for a group photo.

players were training hard in preparation for the clash to kick off at 7:15pm.

"Training is still in progress and the players are determined to get positive results from this game. We do also urge our supporters to support the boys as

they prepare for this very important clash," he said.

The Mbabane giants will host Azam FC in the second leg encounter slated for the Somhlolo National Stadium on March 12.

## 'BULL'S VUKILE DOING LIGHT TRAINING

By Sabelo Majola

### SOCCER - MBABANE Highlanders left back Vukile Khumalo's road to recovery is orderly as the player is currently doing light training.

Khumalo suffered a career-threatening ankle injury four months back during a league game against Manzini Sundowns after a reckless tackle by Sundowns' front man Salam Atitola and was ruled out for the rest of the season.

The player missed out on the richest cup tournament in local football in the Ingwenyama Cup that kicked-off in December last year.

Khumalo, however, has a chance to make a comeback in the 14th edition of the SwaziBank Cup where Highlanders are waiting to find out who they will be facing in the quarterfinals after a suc-

cessful start in the competition.

It will, however, depend if the player fully recovers before April 1-2 when the quarterfinals will be played. The teams PRO Mpumelelo Mnisi confirmed Khumalo's return to training and added that his recovery would give them options at the back.

"He is an experienced player, who got injured at the peak of his form and his return would give us more depth," he said.

Another 'Landers defender who is back at training after being on ice for two months following a misunderstanding with the team's new management, is Sibusiso Dlamini.

The player recently won his matter against the team where he had taken them to the National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) Players Status Committee, demanding that they pay him about E18 000 in salaries.

## E17 500 FOR MTN BASKETBALL LEAGUE CHAMPS

By Sabelo Majola

### BASKETBALL - THE MTN sponsored Basketball League will see champions walking away with E17 500 in the Elite Men's league.

The prize breakdown was outlined by the sponsor yesterday after the recent E250 000 sponsorship package launch for the Basketball League.

Runners-up will pocket E10 000 while third and fourth finishers will

get E2 500 each. The most valuable player will get E3 000 while the best coach's reward is E2 000.

The National Women's League champions will get E13 500 while the Men's Promotional League winners will get E9 000. The prize breakdown was announced by MTN Brand and Sponsorship Manager Fisiwe Vilane. "From our end, we would just like to invite all basketball fans to come and attend opening games. Entrance is free. There will be lots of

activities even for MTN customers to win prizes," she said. The league's tip-off will be played at Mavuso Sports Centre and is expected to be attended by MTN's top officials as well as representatives from Swaziland National Sports and Recreational Council (SNSRC) and the ministry of sports.

This is the first time MTN has sponsored the league. Games will be played both Saturday and Sunday, but the main event is Saturday, with the games set to commence at 9am.

#### The full prize breakdown:

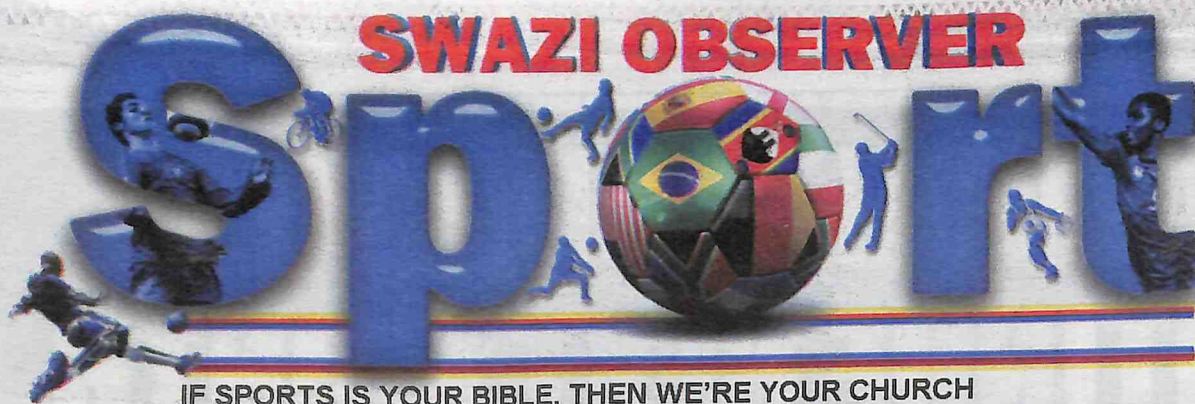
Elite Men's League			
Champions	E17 500		
Runner's up	E10 000		
3rd place Playoff spot	E2 500		
4th place Playoff spot	E2 500		
MVP EML	E3 000		
Best Coach	E2 000		
National Women's League			
Champions	E13 500		

Runner's up	E7 500
MVP EML	E2 000
Best Coach	E1 000
Men's Promotional League	
Champions	E9 000
Runner's up	E5 000
MVP EML	E1 500
Best Coach	E1 000



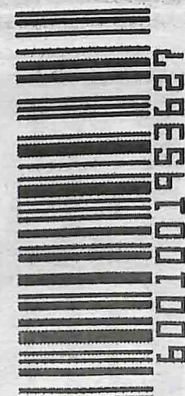


FC København 2 - 1 Ajax  
APOEL Nicosia 0 - 1 Anderlecht  
FC Rostov 1 - 1 Manchester United



IF SPORTS IS YOUR BIBLE, THEN WE'RE YOUR CHURCH

Friday March 10, 2017



## Tambuti's Ugo, Roy suspended for 'Landers' clash

By Qondile Ntiwane

**SOCCKER - TAMBUTI** will miss two of their key players in Ugochukwu Ohakwe and Roy Mamba this weekend.

The Lubombo based outfit will lock horns with Mbabane Highlanders in what has been termed a relegation battle at the Mayaluka Stadium tomorrow afternoon. The two players have been nabbed by the yellow card rule.

Also nabbed by the cards is Moneni Pirates winger Sihle Ndaba. The player will, however, not serve the suspension this weekend as their opponents Mbabane Swallows will be away in Tanzania for the CAF Confederations Cup clash against Azam FC.

In the National first Division, the duo of Malanti Chiefs' Thembumenzi Mayisela and Sifiso Makhubu will also miss their game against Mayaluka Stadium on Sunday.

Other players, who have been ruled out of the weekend action, are Sikhalo's Sifiso Shabangu and Amalanda's Sandile Simelane.

Premier League of Swaziland (PLS) Chief Operations Officer (COO) Pat Vilakati confirmed the suspensions yesterday.

He invited supporters of the game to go and rally behind their respective teams during the games. "Supporters should go and support their teams and accept whatever result on the day. They are also urged to be at the best behaviour and avoid being violent," he said.

### The suspended players:

Roy Mamba	Tambuti
Ugochukwu Ohakwe	Tambuti
Sihle Ndaba	Moneni Pirates
Thembumenzi Simelane	Malanti Chiefs
Sifiso Makhubu	Malanti Chiefs
Sifiso Shabangu	Sikhalo Se Africa
Sandile Simelane	Amalanda

**NABBED:**  
Ugochukwu Ohakwe.



# E100 000 A ONCE OFF FOR 'BIRDS' - 'CRUISER'

...minister announces there will be no more assistance for 'Birds' if they progress in the CAF Confederations Cup as government is cash strapped.

By Qondile Ntiwane

**SOCCKER - IN** the event they proceed to the next stage of the CAF Confederations Cup, Mbabane Swallows will receive no assistance from government.

This was said by Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala during the presentation of E100 000 to the team yesterday.

Addressing the gathering at the ministry's conference room, the minister said the E100 000 was a once off and that government would not be able to assist any further.

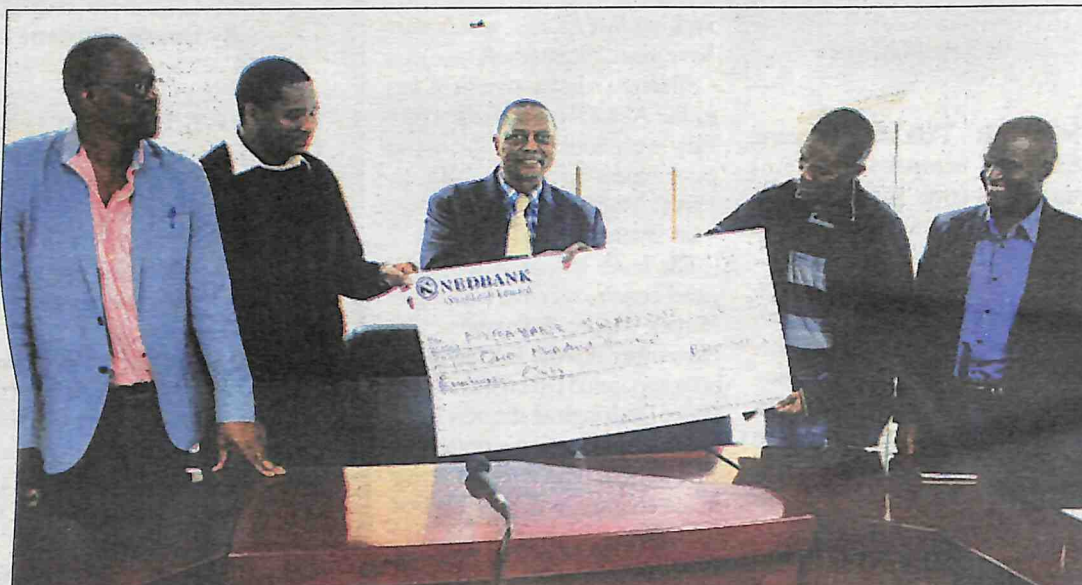
He, however, said they would engage companies to come on board and assist the local giants.

"Mbabane Swallows have done us proud as a country and we wish them the best as they travel to Tanzania.

We had promised to assist the team at this stage of the tournament hence the reason we are here today. We would have loved to continue assisting but government has no money and that is why this will be a once off," he said.

### Advance

The minister said they were confident Swallows would advance to the next stage of the African tournament and further go on to the finals.



**SUPPORT:** Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs David 'Cruiser' Ngcamphalala handing a E100 000 cheque to Mbabane Swallows CEO Sibusiso Manana. This was during the handover of the cheque yesterday at the sports ministry offices. (Pics: Sibusiso Dlamini)

"I believe Swallows will play in the finals of this tournament. I heard they stand to win a lot of money at this stage of the tournament, which could be good for us a country as they can even build their own stadium.

"Not only can they build the Mbabane Swallows stadium but they can maybe lend us money as government," he said.

The minister then wished the team the best of luck going to the game. "We really do appreciate

the good spirit from the team despite having suffered a setback recently. They have been mature and we do encourage them to continue on that note," he said

### Towards

Meanwhile, Swaziland National Sports and Recreation Council (SNSRC) CEO Darius Dlomo said the money would go towards the purchasing of air tickets for the team. "The minister had stated that government would assist the team and as Council, an organ of gov-

ernment, are now responding to that call. This money will be in kind as we will buy air tickets for the team to Tanzania," he said.

Also present during the presentation were Principal Secretary Henry Zeeman, National Football Association of Swaziland (NFAS) CEO Frederick Mngomezulu and Swaziland Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association (SOCGA) CEO Muriel Hofer, amongst others.

## ...Swallows promise positive results in Tanzania

**SOCCKER - MBABANE Swallows** have promised to continue lifting country's flag high when they take on Azam United of Tanzania on Sunday.

Making his remarks during the presentation of E100 000 to the team by the Swaziland National Sports and Recreation Council (SNSRC) yesterday, the team's CEO Sibusiso Manana said they were grateful to government for the support.

He said the money would go a

long way in enhancing the team's performance during the game slated for the Azam Sports Centre, starting at 7.15pm.

"As Swallows, we are grateful to the ministry for their continued support.

These games come with a lot of expenses and this money will go a long way in making it easier for the team," he said.

The Mbabane giants will leave the country tomorrow

to honour the first leg of the first round clash.

They will leave for South Africa by road before connecting to Tanzania via the OR Tambo International Airport.

### GRATEFUL:

Mbabane Swallows CEO Sibusiso Manana.

